

History of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry

Part 1: National associations and societies of dentistry for children

S. GELBIER

*Department of Dental Public Health and Community Dental Education,
King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry (University of London), England*

This is the first of a series of articles that will be published in successive issues of the Journal

PREFACE

In 1970, Samuel D. Harris [1] wrote a history of the American Society of Dentistry for Children in which he traced the growth of American pedodontics from 1925 until 1968. Between 1986 and 1988, Gelbier [2] similarly traced the evolution of the British Paedodontic Society (BPS). Although many miles separate the countries in which dentists belonging to these two great societies have worked, there are many common threads. Gelbier described how Harris motivated his British colleagues to form an organization in their country, but this was but one of his many influences world-wide. From the seeds sown by writing to his friends and colleagues in other countries also grew the idea of an international association.

A few years ago Sam Harris offered to make available to me his wonderful archival material. Much of it provides the basis on which this series is founded. It is dedicated to him.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

At the end of 1993 associations or societies of dentistry for children in the following countries were members of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry (IAPD) which, before 1991, was known as the International Association of Dentistry for Children (IADC): Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain,

Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Yugoslavia.

In addition, organizations have been formed in the following South American countries: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, and also in Romania and Vietnam. Many of the South American organizations were members of the Pan-American Council on Children's Dentistry (PAC) and were founded as a result of letters written by Sam Harris to dental colleagues in those countries; he even prepared a draft constitution which could be used or modified by newly-formed groups.

Because of changing circumstances in several countries the information given below is not necessarily up-to-date nor comprehensive. Nevertheless, it is a remarkable testament to those men and women who, over the years, have worked hard to found organizations for children's dentists to meet and improve their knowledge and skills, so that better care can be provided for their young patients. The membership figures were supplied by the national associations in 1992.

Algeria

Société Algérienne de Pédodontie
Joined IADC 1983

Argentina

Sociedad Argentina de Odontopediatria (SAO)
Founded June 1949

A founder member of the Pan-American Council on Children's Dentistry (PAC)

The SAO was founded by Professor Luis A. Ben-gochea and was based in the University of Buenos Aires.

Asociacion Argentina de Odontologia para Niños (AAON)

Founded 1955

This second group was founded by 50 dentists who attended a national meeting of the Argentina Dental Association. By 1959, President Samuel Leyt reported that the AAON was incorporated as part of the Argentina Dental Association.

Both the Sociedad and Asociacion paid dues to the PAC and sent delegates. Although attempts were made to combine them, there were deep rifts for many years. Even in July 1979, 4 years after Argentina had joined the IADC, there was still a problem. The IADC wrote to the two groups to determine which would represent the country. Eventually, at the invitation of the AAON, delegates of 14 paedodontic groups incorporated as part of primary dental societies in the different provinces came together at the 11th national meeting of the AAON on 20 November 1980. A coordinating committee met in April 1981 in San Tiega del Estero and worked out a constitution for an Argentine Association of Dentistry for Children (AADC). Samuel Leyt was elected President.

After 4 years of effort by the AAON, 14 delegates signed an agreement in Mendoza on 25 May 1981 to work as a committee to schedule scientific activities at the national level and to promote new paedodontic services and preventive activities. Its by-laws were approved in December 1982. The first President was Mercedes Bayez (Mendoza), with Maria L. Palomo (Salta) Vice-President, Carlos del Cid, Secretary and Alejandro Colomer (Mendoza), Treasurer.

There are a number of regional groups of the ADC: the *Rosarian Association of Dentistry for Children*, which covers the Rosario Province of Santa Fey, was inaugurated in October 1982; the *Society of Dentistry for Children in Catamarca* (SDCC) held its first meeting in May 1984 under the Presidency of Edith Jalil de Bella; and on 12–15 October 1960, 150 teachers created an association of teachers (*Asociacion de Docentes de Odonto-pediatria de la Republica Argentina*).

In 1982, the 4th meeting on Prevention and Education for Health took place in Buenos Aires. Delegates came from Chile, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay.

Australia

Australian Society of Dentistry for Children

Founded July 1973

Joined IADC 1975

In 1953 Robert Harris, Head of the Department of Preventive Dentistry at the United Dental Hospital in Sydney, responded to Sam Harris. He agreed to explore the possibility of an Australian society of dentistry for children and to support the idea of an international association. However, the Australian Society of Dentistry for Children was not founded until July 1973. Roger Hall was its first President. By 1981 there were branches in each of the six Australian states.

In 1989 the society combined with its New Zealand equivalent to form the *Australian and New Zealand Society of Paediatric Dentistry*, which now has 241 members.

Austria

Jugenzahnklinik der Stadt Wien

Founded 1921

Joined IADC 1971

Belgium

Cercle Belge de Péododontie

Joined IADC 1969

Bolivia

A Bolivian society was represented in the PAC.

Brazil

Associacao Paulista de Odonto-Pediatria

Joined IADC 1977

By 1956 there were local societies in Sao Paulo and Pernambuco, but no national organization. The *Associacao* was founded later.

Bulgaria

Bulgarian Pedodontic Society

Founded 16 April 1986

Joined IADC 1986

51 members

The first national scientific meeting of paedodontists and kindergarden teachers came in 1989. In particular they discussed a scheme implemented jointly by the Ministries of Public Health and Social Welfare, Public Education and the Faculty of Stomatology in Sofia. For 20 years, nursery and kindergarden

children have been given fluoride tablets or naturally-fluoridated mineral water each day. A special preventive programme was added 5 years ago consisting of fluorides, oral hygiene instruction and dietary advice. The changing political state of the country presents new conditions for oral health care, with the building of a system of social insurance and the privatization of dentistry.

Canada

Canadian Society of Dentistry for Children
Founded 1963

An earlier group was a founder member of the PAC.

Canadian Academy of Dentistry for Children
Founded 1966
Joined IADC 1973

Chile

Sociedad Chilena Odontopediatria
Founded September 1952

The society was formed in response to Harris's draft constitution.

Colombia

Sociedad Colombiana de Odontopediatria
Founded 1949 (as *Sociedad Colombiana de Odontologia Infantil*)
Member of PAC

The change of the name of the society took place in 1956. The society became one of the strongest units in the PAC and arranged its 3rd Council meeting and the first PAC Congress in Bogota in 1960.

Costa Rica

Asociacion de Odontologia Infantil de Costa Rica
Founded 1977
Joined IADC 1980, but withdrew in 1991

Cuba

Sociedad Cubana de Odontologia Infantil
Founded 1946
Founder member of PAC

The society was the first of its kind in Latin America. It considered membership of the IADC in 1979 but did not join.

Czechoslovakia

The Czechoslovak Pedodontic Society considered membership of the IADC in 1983 but, like Cuba, did not join.

Denmark

Danish Section of the Nordic Pedodontic Society
Founded 1952
Founder member IADC

A Danish society of dentistry for children was inaugurated as early as 1917. All members of the Dentists' New Association, an organization of dentists engaged in the municipal dental services, have collective membership of the Danish Section of the Nordic Pedodontic Society, which boasts its membership to 1,000.

Dominican Republic

Dominican Society of Dentistry for Children
Founded 15 May 1951
An early member of PAC

Dr F. Garcia Godoy was its first President.

Ecuador

Ecuadorian Society of Pediatric Stomatology
Founded 1958

The society enquired about membership of the IADC in 1983 but did not join.

El Salvador

Sociedad Salvadoreña de Odontologia Infantil
Founded February 1956

The society was an early member of the PAC.

Finland

Suomen Hammaslääkariseuran Pedodontian Jaosto
Founded November 1980
Joined IADC 1975

The society is also the Finnish section of the Nordic Pedodontic Society.

France

Société Française de Pedodontie
Founded November 1966
Founder member of IADC

In 1902, Professor Lebrun created the first French department of operative dentistry for children. Professor André Boucher later became its Head and Michel Schouker was a member of the department.

Following a visit by Schouker to the USA in 1964, during which he received encouragement from Frank Tuma, Executive Secretary of the American Society of Dentistry for Children, the Société Française de Pédiodontie (SFP) was founded in Paris, with Boucher as President and Schouker as Secretary. After providing an important input to the IADC in the early days, it did not renew its membership. However, by the autumn of 1990 the IADC received an application for re-admittance which was considered in Kyoto in 1993 and has now been ratified.

Professor André Boucher later became its Head and Michel Schouker was a member of the department.

Germany

Gesellschaft für Kinderstomatologie der DDR (East Germany)

Founded November 1969

Joined IADC 1977

Professor Walter Künzel was President for the first three terms.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinderzahnheilkunde und Prophylaxie in der DGZMK (West Germany)

Founded March 1982

Joined IADC 1985

The group is part of the German Association of General Dentistry.

Following the re-unification of East and West Germany on 3 October 1990 a merger of the two societies will take place in October 1994, when the society will be named the *Gesellschaft für Kinderzahnheilkunde und Primärprophylaxe in der GGZMK*

Greece

Helliniki Paedodontiki Eteria

Founded January 1961

Joined IADC 1971

The society was founded by Professor John Alianos, Professor of Operative Dentistry. It has 300 members, about 50 of whom specialize in paediatric dentistry.

Guatemala

The Study Club on Children's Dentistry of Guatemala

Founded November 1952

Joined PAC 1957

Haiti

The Children's Dentistry Study Club

Founded April 1954

An early member of the PAC.

Holland

Nederlands e Vereniging Voor Kindertandheelk

Founded 1970

Joined IADC 1973

210 members

Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Society of Paediatric Dentistry

Founded January 1991

Joined IADC 1991

32 members

Hungary

Magyar Gyermekfogorvos Tõrsasõg

Founded 1972

Joined IADC 1977

200 members

Iceland

Félag Islenskra Barnatannlaekna

Founded 1990

Joined IADC 1993

4 members

India

Indian Society of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry

Founded 1979

Joined IADC 1982

200 members

Indonesia

Ikatan Docter Gigi Anak Indonesia

Founded 1979

Joined IADC 1991

100 members

Ireland

The Irish Society of Dentistry for Children

Founded 1971

Joined IADC 1973

50 members

The society was originally named the Irish Paedodontic Society, with Professor Denis O'Mullane as its first President.

Israel

Israeli Society of Dentistry for Children (ISDC)
 Founded 1969
 Joined IADC 1971

A study club was founded in Tel Aviv in 1955 by Dr Agatha Spitz. However, after Maury Massler of the USA visited in 1960, he informed Sam Harris that no formal society existed. With encouragement from the Americans a further study group was founded on 14 October 1960, this time in Jerusalem. The first President of the ISDC was Haim Sarnat and its membership soon rose to 65. The Society is an integral part of the Israel Dental Association and is represented on its major committees. The ISDC is also affiliated to the International Association of Dentistry for the Handicapped.

In 1978 dentistry for children was recognized by the Ministry of Health as a speciality and there are currently some 47 specialists in paediatric dentistry. However, non-specialists can also join the ISDC, and its membership is now 125.

Italy

Societa Italiana di Odontoiatria Infantile
 Founded 1953
 Founder member of IADC

Japan

The Japanese Society of Pediatric Dentistry
 Founded 1963
 Joined IADC 1973
 3915 members

Korea

The Korean Society of Dentistry for Children
 Joined IADC 1981

Lebanon

The Lebanese society had 16 members in 1991.

Mexico

Sociedad Mexicana de Odontologia Infantil
 Founded 1954
 Joined IADC 1973

Dr Fragosa was the first President of the Sociedad, which hosted the first meeting of the PAC.

New Zealand

The New Zealand Society of Dentistry for Children
 Founded 9 January 1953
 Joined IADC 1973

In 1989 the society combined with its Australian equivalent to form the *Australian and New Zealand Society of Paediatric Dentistry*.

Nicaragua

Sociedad Nicaraguense de Odontologia Infantil

Founded initially as a study club in May 1955.

Norway

Nordisk Forening for Pedodonti, Norsk Seksion
 Founded 22 September 1951
 Founder member of IADC
 185 members

Nordic Pedodontic Society

Nordisk Forening for Pedodonti was founded in Gothenburg, Sweden on 22 September 1951. The initiative was taken by Professors Guttorm Toverud (of Oslo, Norway), Arvid Syrrist (of Malmö, Sweden), Erik Kisling (of Copenhagen, Denmark) and Erik Welander (of Stockholm, Sweden). Toverud was President for 2 years, followed by Syrrist. Every second year the Society arranges a Nordic Pedodontic Congress open to members of the five national sections (Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Norway). Each section has its own Executive Committee which arranges national meetings and seminars.

Panama

Sociedad Panamena de Odontologia Infantil
 Founded May 1954

Dr A. I. Illueca was its first President, and R. Minutto its Secretary-Treasurer.

Peru

Sociedad Peruana de Odontopediatria
 Founded 7 July 1953

Poland

Sekcja Stomatologii Dziecięcej

Founded 4 June 1970

Joined IADC 1973

49 members

This is one of seven sections functioning within the Polish Stomatological Society, which was founded in 1952. In 1969 the Executive Board entrusted Professor Kazimierz Dominik from Cracow with the task of organising a section for children's dentistry

Romania

Romanian Society of Dentistry for Children

Joined IADC 1973

Spain

Sociedad Española de Odontopediatria

Founded 11 September 1974

Joined IADC 1975

The society was formed following conversations between Maria Louisa Gozalvo (who became its first President) and Michel Schouker of France.

Sweden

Svenska Pedodonti-Sällskapet

Founded 22 September 1951

Founder member of IADC

This is a section of the Nordic Pedodontic Society, which was formed at the same time.

Switzerland

Schweizerische Vereinigung für Kinderzahnmedizin/

Association Swiss de Pédiodontie

Founded 4 April 1925

Joined IADC 1973

310 members

Its Scientific Committee draws representatives from the regions of the four Swiss dental schools. The official languages are French and German.

Turkey

Türk Pedodonti Derneği

Founded 1977

Joined IADC 1977

75 members

United Kingdom

British Society of Paediatric Dentistry

Founded May 1962 (as British Paedodontic Society)

Founder member IADC

850 members (1993)

An early arrival on the scene was the School Dentists' Society, founded in July 1898. However, the British Paedodontic Society (BPS) took its origins from the London Study Club in Children's Dentistry, which began in November 1952 and became the BPS in May 1962 (Gelbier, 1986), being re-named the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry in 1991.

United States of America

American Society of Dentistry for Children (ASDC)

Founded 26 October 1926 (as American Society for the Promotion of Children's Dentistry)

Founder member of IADC and PAC

7700 members

The society was founded in Detroit, Michigan, at a convention of the American Dental Association. Founded as the American Society for the Promotion of Children's Dentistry, it became the ASDC in 1940 (Harris, 1970).

Uruguay

Uruguay Society of Dentistry for Children

Founded 1952

The society was formed by Maria Navarra, Head of the Children's Dental Department in the University, who later became President of the PAC.

Venezuela

The Venezuelan Society of Children's Dentistry

Founded 13 March 1957

Joined IADC 1983

Vietnam

A study club was organized in 1953 by Dr N. My.

Yugoslavia

Yugoslav Association of Children's and Preventive Dentistry

Joined IADC 1987

About 100 members (1992)

Supporting members of the IAPD

In addition to the national associations and societies that are members of the IAPD, there are also 355 individual Supporting Members in the following countries (M. Hector, personal communication, 1994): Argentina (4 members), Australia (13), Austria (1), Belgium (2), Bosnia-Herzegovina (1), Brazil (1), Canada (40), China (2), Colombia (1), Cyprus (1), Finland (1), France (11), Germany (5), Greece (3), Hong Kong (4), Hungary (1), Iceland (1), India (2), Indonesia (10), Iran (1), Israel (13), Italy (4), Japan (76), Lebanon (7), Luxembourg (1), Mexico (3), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (2), Nigeria (1), Norway (5), Pakistan (1), Poland (1), Romania (2), Saudi Arabia (6), Singapore (3), South Africa (1), South Korea (5), Spain (3), Sweden (19), Switzerland

(4), Taiwan (1), Thailand (1), Turkey (3), UK (39), USA (45) and Venezuela (1).

References

- 1 Harris SD *American Society of Dentistry for Children. A History: 1925-1968*. American Society of Dentistry for Children, 1970.
- 2 Gelbier S. A history of the BPS. *Journal of Paediatric Dentistry*. Part I. The London Study Group in Children's Dentistry 1952-1958, 1986; **2**: 25-32; Part II. The London Society for the Study of Dentistry for Children. 1986; **2**: 95-106; Part III. The Midland Society for the Study of Children's Dentistry. 1987; **3**: 33-39; Part IV. Towards a national society. 1987; **3**: 93-100; Part V. Proceedings and other periodicals 1988; **4**: 45-50. Part VI. The British contribution to the international scene, 1988; **4**: 117-125.

**THE 15TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY,
GÖTEBURG, SWEDEN, 8-11 JUNE 1995**



The fifteenth congress of the IJPd will be held in the beautiful city of Göteborg on the west coast of Sweden. The meeting promises to be exciting both scientifically and socially. The Chairman of the organizing committee and his co-workers have made great efforts to put together a programme which will encompass all the different interests of paediatric dentists.

The scientific programme will include sessions on traumatic injuries of the teeth, occlusal development, ethics, oral complications of malignant disease, and oral health in children throughout the world. These sessions will be presented by speakers of international renown, including Jens O. Andreasen, David Barmes, Paul Casamassimo, Göran Elinder, Yoshida Sadahiro and Göran Dahllof.

The scientific programme will be supplemented by several sponsored symposia which will include an evaluation of restorative materials led by Professor F. J. M. Roeters; sugar substitutes, with Professor K. K. Makinen; and implants in children, where Professor P.-I. Brånemark will be the keynote speaker.

For those who still thirst after continuing education, several courses have been planned to follow the congress; these will be held in Stockholm, Göteborg and Copenhagen. Several topics of special interest to the paediatric dentist will be studied in depth.

Much of the success of previous congresses has been the family atmosphere created by the many participants who have brought spouses' and children. The Organizing Committee have attempted to perpetuate this tradition when designing their social and spouses' programmes, and the post-congress tours will include one to Lapland and a 4-day canal cruise from Göteborg to Stockholm. There will also be a deep-sea fishing trip and tour of the archipelago on a three-masted schooner for intrepid paediatric sailors. The social programme will include an opening reception, the banquet, and a visit to the Göteborg Opera.

The wealth of information and the professional value of attending the 15th congress cannot be adequately summarized. Register early, and attend and enjoy an experience in Sweden which you and your family will always treasure.

Enrolment and Reservation form:

15th Congress International Association of Paediatric Dentistry,
Nyman & Schultz, Odinsgatan 11 S-411 03 Göteborg, Sweden.
Telephone: (46)-31-80 40 40. Fax: (46)-31-15 59 35.