

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

May 2014

Dr. Sam Dorn, Chair

Our project in Nigeria has been completed. Dr. Collins Okwen completed his one year preceptorship at the University of Texas at Houston and started the first department of endodontics in Central Africa at the University of Benin.

All of the officials at the University of Benin were in full support of the project and the necessary documentation required to complete the application packet for a new department was approved. A curriculum was designed by Dr. Okwen and approved by the Department of Conservative Dentistry for the pre-doctoral endodontics, and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital provided about eleven hundred square feet of space for the department clinic. Many individuals contributed supplies and equipment including a surgical microscope.

The launch date for the Department of Endodontics and Regenerative Dentistry was August 1, 2012.

In March, 2013 the Dean of the University of Benin Dental School visited our dental school in Houston on a trip to the USA. Professor Alice Umweni met with Dean of the University of Texas at Houston and with Dr. Dorn to thank the school and IFEA for starting this department in her institution. Dr. Okwen will give a presentation on Friday, May 2 in Maryland 4 at 3:30pm which will explain some of the details of this project and also the difficulties involved in doing a project such as this. A new dental school has opened in Camaroon and we have been in touch with the organizers of this school.

IFEA has presented a donation of \$US 4,000.00 for the purchase of some Endodontic equipment and materials for the new Masters program in Endodontics at the International University in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. I am now pleased to report that the funds have been spent to purchase equipment and Dr. Paul Abbott spent a week in Cambodia at the University in August 2013 in order to commence the teaching program in this course.

The IFEA funds were used to buy a range of instruments and equipment from a dental supply company in Cambodia (Unident Co. Ltd) and from several suppliers in Australia. Although prices were cheaper in Cambodia, there were problems with the quality of instruments and therefore critical instruments were bought in Australia and Dr. Abbott took them in his luggage to save transportation costs.

IFEA has made important progress in Fiji, Nigeria and Cambodia. We still have a long way to go in order to educate dentists and the population on the value of saving natural teeth. If you have any interest in similar projects, please contact myself or the new chair of this committee.