



IADT Life Member

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My interest in Dental Traumatology was nurtured early in my dental education career when I was an endodontic resident. It was the direct result of the strong influence of Dr. Leif Tronstad, the Chair of the Endodontic Department at the University of Pennsylvania (USA). He insisted that all his residents understand both the biology and all other aspects of dental trauma, including the use and actions of calcium hydroxide, forwards and backwards!

In 1984, during my first year of endodontic residency training, I had the privilege of attending the first Oral Trauma Conference in Dallas, Texas (USA). Dr. Tronstad was invited to lecture on “Pulp reactions in traumatized teeth” at this meeting. The conference was tremendously exciting, especially the opportunity for me to meet many of the authors and lecturers who had written articles on dental traumatology that were required reading in the residency program.

In 1989, I had the privilege of attending both the Scandinavian Mini-symposium Cruise and subsequently the 2nd International Conference on Oral Traumatology in September during which the IADT was formed. With both pride and awe, I witnessed Dr. Tronstad elected as an IADT director and Dr. Jens Ove Andreasen, the “Father of Dental Traumatology” as IADT’s first president. I have been a member of IADT since its beginning.

As a clinician and educator, it has been important that IADT provided, and continues to provide in easily accessible forms, the wealth of information necessary to keep current on management protocols for all dental traumatic injuries. In addition, it has helped immeasurably for parents of young dentally traumatized patients to understand the diagnostic and treatment procedures their child experiences after a dental traumatic injury.

In my many years as an endodontic specialist, I consider my main achievements and the source of greatest satisfaction, the opportunity to teach and pass on my many experiences to postdoctoral students during their endodontic residency training. In addition, it has been gratifying to encourage and assist them after graduation to become board certified in their chosen specialty.

Although there were many professionals who inspired me during my early years in dentistry and cultivated my interest in dental traumatology, I mention the following, realizing that the list could be much longer.

- Dr Benjamin W. Meiman, who spent countless hours discussing endodontics when I was practicing general dentistry.
- Dr Seymour Oliet, with whom I spent years debating the different aspects of endodontics using literature and authors to support our views.
- Dr Leif Tronstad, the Endodontic Department Chair, The University of Pennsylvania
- Dr Fred Barnett, my Graduate Program Director
- Dr Martin Trope, the Predoctoral Director at The University of Pennsylvania.

Each of these special mentors and colleagues provided a unique piece of my education. I can never thank them enough!

My professional development following my formal dental and specialty education never became clear until I began to give back to my profession. Only then was I able to recognize how far I had progressed in both my profession and in the field of dental traumatology. This was the primary reason I associated with several educational programs and institutions throughout my career. They included the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University in Philadelphia (USA) and Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in southern Florida (USA). I had the privilege of lecturing extensively on dental trauma, surgery, resorptions, and treatment of non-vital teeth. In 1996, I accepted a faculty position at NSU in the graduate endodontic program and soon after earned board certification. In 2011, after incurring serious eye damage that necessitated ending my private practice career, I was honored to be offered the position of Director of the Advanced Endodontic Program at NSU, a position which I held for almost 10 years.

Without the many educational and life experiences within and without the more formal educational environments, none of the opportunities to grow and to provide needed services and education to deserving patients and students, respectively, would have been possible. But most importantly, I want to thank Sandra, my wife of 31 years, who supported and encouraged me all along the way and is the wonderful mother to our 27 year old twins, Brittany and Brandon.