International Academy for Sports Dentistry

The International Academy for Sports Dentistry has continued to prove to be an active and dynamic force in the dental community despite our relatively small numbers. The 2003-2004 year has been characterized by the increased number of cooperative activities which have taken place between our organization and others. Our small but enthusiastic membership has made independent projects difficult to achieve but we have consistently offered our resources to other organizations such as the ADA and Special Olympics to aid them in their goals and projects.

The Journal Dental Traumatology which we co sponsor with the International Association for Dental Traumatology has been a wonderful collaboration and has given Sports Dentistry an avenue to support and publish articles in our field. After initially having few good articles dealing with sports the journal's editor in chief, Martin Trope, told me that many sports related articles were being submitted. This has been very obvious recently with articles being included from all over the world. This journal is available to our members as a member benefit but also is available to AAPD members at a reduced fee.

Dr. Regan Moore from the University of Kentucky Lexington's Department of Periodontics joined our board of directors at our last meeting in June of 2003 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is an energetic and intelligent addition to our board and his primary focus is the development of Student Chapters of the IASD. These student chapters will allow dental students to learn about a small but useful area of dentistry in which they receive very little education in during dental school. It will be an important source of new members for our group. Pediatric Dentistry Departments are the perfect groups to sponsor these chapters. We will continue to try to target pediatric groups for education and interest in this area.

The Annual Session of the AAPD for 2005 in Orlando will include a Sports Dentistry presentation. This will be a panel presentation made up of four pediatric dentists (all members of IASD) for a half day presentation. We are excited about this and feel that it is an important area to keep before pediatric dentists. Sports Dentistry is moving toward a more scientific and evidence based approach to our field than ever before. Many dentists think that they know about sports and mouthguards, but there is more to this than common sense. Pediatric dentists need to be able to intelligently, answer questions from athletes, parents, coaches, trainers and patients with this knowledge.

The Annual Symposium on Sports Dentistry, the annual session of the IASD, will be held on June 24-26 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The program is varied and informative, there will be several great social events and it will be well represented by pediatric dentists and others. The 2005 Annual Session is planned to be held in Miami, Florida in June although the exact dates are not known at this time.

For the first time in many years the board of the IASD does not contain a single pediatric dentist. We will continue to try to interest pediatric dentists in becoming involved in
this organization. Anyone interested should contact us because we are always looking for individuals seeking to become active in our group. We look forward to another year of growth and activity. Collaborations such as our input into the ADA's new mouthguard brochure, input into the Joint Commission on Sports Medicine, cooperation with other international sports dentistry groups, and our connection with Special Olympics International continue to energize us and keep us moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Mills, DDS
Liaison from the International Academy for Sports Dentistry to the AAPD