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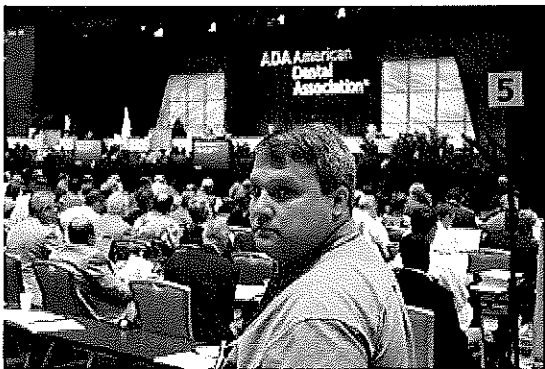
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ASDA's President on ADA Annual Session

by [Jim Heidenreich \(http://www.asdablog.com/author/jimheiden/\)](http://www.asdablog.com/author/jimheiden/) | October 27, 2010 | 0 Comments

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ASDA News met up with Corwyn Hopke, president of this year's ASDA delegation to the ADA. Corwyn spoke on the highlights of this year's ADA Annual Session, held in Orlando, Florida, October 7th through 13th. Look for your issue of November *ASDA News* for more highlights of the meeting!

ASDA News: What were the most important issues discussed in this year's ADA House of Delegates?

Corwyn: This was a really big year for ASDA, so it would be hard to pick just one. Probably the most exciting for us was Resolution 31B, which we introduced. It was actually the first time in a while that ASDA submitted a resolution on the House floor. We had overwhelming support from all over the place...AGD, the Austin Group, CND, several states...we just kept working hard and getting a lot of people on board. In the end, I believe the vote was unanimous. When the vote was called, I didn't see any cards on the no-vote. So that was definitely exciting.

ASDA News: What exactly does Resolution 31B entail, and what does it mean for dental students?

Corwyn: Resolution 31 establishes new policy for the ADA regarding dental mission trips. There is some history behind this resolution. There are some for-profit organizations that provide opportunities for individuals, mostly pre-dental students, to go out to third-world countries. And when they get down there, they are allowed to perform irreversible procedures. These are undergraduate students who have no dental experience in any shape, going down and performing extractions, administering anesthesia, and sometimes even doing some simple operative, with barely any training. We're opposed to allowing this for people with two years of training, let alone 5 minutes of training. So we sponsored this resolution to promote the principles we uphold, that anyone providing irreversible dental procedures be adequately trained. The ADA will be working to notify dental schools, pre-dental programs and other dental outreach programs of these practices and reinforcing its position on the matter. The idea is to try to encourage these programs to not participate in these practices. We're hopeful that this will help students be aware of the ethical problem and to make the right decision.

ASDA News: Tell us about the workforce debate. How did ASDA represent their position, and what good came out of the House relating to the issue of non-dentist providers?

Corwyn: ASDA did testify both in reference committee and on the House floor promoting our C-1 policy, making sure there was no question on our position there. It was very obviously well received. During the workforce debate, there was a lot of contention, and people were holding their applause. But we got an ovation during our testimony. They were definitely interested in hearing what students thought about the future of our profession. It was obviously a very contentious issue. There was a lot of emotion going on, but it was a debate that needed to be had. There has been a lot of uncertainty among the profession on what is happening with these non-dental provider models. The ADA needed to reaffirm its position, squelch the uncertainty, and let its members know that it still supports the dentist's role in the delivery of oral health care.

ASDA News: Were there any other resolutions of special interest to ASDA this year?

Corwyn: Another really exciting one was Resolution 42RC. We've been talking about getting a national licensing exam that moves away from high stakes, one shot kind of exam that pretty much everyone has now. Very little progress has been made over the years. Finally, last year, the House created a work-group to start looking into a model. What they came up with resulted in 42RC, which initiates a Request for Proposals (RFP) from all communities of interest in the US to develop a portfolio-style national exam with third-party evaluation. Another exciting thing about this is that they are giving students a voice. One of the seats on the committee that will develop this RFP will go to ASDA. So I think they are doing the right thing. We'll see what comes out of it. At the very least, it will bring a committee of educators, examiners, the ADA and students together to sit down and discuss our common values and figure out where we can compromise on our few differences.

ASDA News: What is a portfolio-style exam?

Corwyn: A portfolio is similar to competencies. You will still have a third party evaluation, but you would be doing in on your own patients of record. So instead of having to do, for example, a class II prep on a posterior tooth in February, on the one day that the examiners come to my school, as soon as I found a patient that met all the criteria, I would go ahead and do it in the proper treatment plan sequence. Then it would become part of my portfolio. There is a lot of disagreement on the best way to have a third-party evaluation component. But that is what the committee will try to figure out.

ASDA News: This year you were the president of the student delegation. How did they do representing the

17,000 members of ASDA at the ADA Annual Session?

Corwyn: We had a fabulous crew going down there. It was a lot of work. I think that there were around 140 resolutions. A lot of them were very long. We had to read over all of them, be informed on all of them. Every one of the delegation was always on time, professional, and very willing to go and speak. All 11 of us were constantly running around, talking to anyone that was willing to listen. Explaining to them our positions on the resolutions that were important to us. Establishing connections and gaining allies. I think it definitely showed in Resolution 31B, with how much support we gained. I had so many comments from others on how well informed and passionate our delegation was. They were essentially saying, 'We trust the students. They've shown they know what they are talking about. We want to back them.'

ASDA News: What do you feel was the best moment of the Annual Session?

Corwyn: The best part of Orlando was watching the vote totals come in. At some point, almost all of our key resolutions were considered lost causes — guaranteed to be referred or outright defeated. The ASDA delegation worked hard and worked *smart*. By Wednesday, our lost causes turned into landslide victories.

~Dr. Jim Heidenreich, 2009-10 Editor-in-Chief

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