



# PROGRESS NEWSLETTER

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FACS, FACD, FRCS(Ed)*

## AACMFS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AACMFS Fellows, Colleagues and Friends:

The American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery embraces much more than oncologic and reconstructive surgery, but pardon me if I dwell on this facet of our organization because history will be made in San Francisco this October. First, let's back up a bit.

In July 2009, a group led by Bryan Bell met at Timberline Lodge on Mt Hood in Oregon (altitude at summit 11,245 ft.) for a two-day conclave which laid the groundwork for what is now the AACMFS. What brought us together was our interest in major, mostly hospital-based surgery and although the majority of us were oncologic surgeons, all areas of major surgical emphasis within our specialty were represented and discussed. AAOMS sent a delegation to that meeting including Associate Executive Director "the Heart of AAOMS" Randi Andresen, officers Eric Geist, Hank Windell, and Paul Lambert, all of whom paid careful attention to our viewpoints as they breathed the thin and pure Mt. Hood air. Following the Mt. Hood Summit, an "Oregon Report" was sent to then AAOMS President R. Lynn White with the signatures of 40 Mt. Hood attendees.

AAOMS listened to us, digested the report and took action. They promptly instituted a number of measures, the most visible of which was the implementation of our recommendation to create a Maxillofacial Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery (MORS) pre-conference on the day before the annual AAOMS meeting. The first separately-ticketed MORS pre-conference was held the following year, preceding the 2010 AAOMS meeting in Chicago. The AAOMS Board invested significantly in this first MORS event and invited French oral and maxillofacial surgeon Bernard Devauchelle as a keynote speaker on the topic of his pioneering facial transplant work. It was a huge success. A series of six highly successful annual MORS pre-conferences ensued – until this year. 2017 marks the incorporation of the MORS day into the main body of the AAOMS meeting.

The significance of this is monumental. This historic action by AAOMS officially stitches major oncologic and related surgery into the permanent fabric of American Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Oncologic surgery is no longer "expanded scope," it is "scope." Prior to Timberline, oncologic surgery was an outlier within American OMFS. American OMFS now falls into alignment with the specialty as it is practiced in Europe, Asia and around the world. If you have oral cancer and if you live on planet Earth you are more likely than not to be treated by a surgeon with the letters DDS or its equivalent after his or her name. There may be other letters and other qualifications, but internationally, dentally qualified surgeons lead in oral cancer. The American specialty of OMFS is now officially a part of that continuum.

Does this mean "job done" for AACMFS? Not at all. The AACMFS annual meeting has become The Meeting to Attend (TMTA) for all major surgery – oriented OMFS in North America. From pediatric craniofacial surgery and orthognathic to trauma, our common bond of major surgery, hospitals and academic environments advances us all. It's the kind of meeting where almost as much education occurs in discussions in the exhibit area during the breaks as in the lectures, an event where opportunities for idea swapping, networking and mentoring are unparalleled.

Please join us in Portland next May 4-5, 2018 to participate!

Eric Dierks, MD, DMD, FACS, FACD, FRCS(Ed)

President

July 2017

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*John F. Helfrick, DDS, MS  
Executive Director*



*Julie Kneedler, RN, EdD  
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## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held May 19-20 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Bernard J. Costello, MD, DMD, President, presided over the Scientific Session as well as the Business Meeting. In his opening remarks, he provided a status report of the Academy. His report included the following:

- Approval of a new AACFMS Logo
- Awarded John Helfrick, DDS, MS the Distinguished Award for Service to the specialty and Academy
- Appointed Brent Ward, DDS, MD as Assistant Executive Director
- With the announced retirement of Julie Kneedler and John Helfrick in 2018, the Academy will be seeking a firm to manage the AACMFS
- The application for new Fellows has been posted on the AACMFS website under “Becoming a Member”
- The legal interpretation of the bylaws is complete
- A standardized case log was developed as a sample for new applicants and is available on the website
- A listing of OMS Meetings around the world is posted on the website
- As of this meeting the total AACMFS membership is 165 members

Steven G. Docimo, MD presented “Trends in Academic Healthcare Enterprises Important for Surgical Subspecialties.” Dr. Docimo has been involved in training future physicians at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where he is the director of the ACGME-approved fellowship program in pediatric urology. He shared with the AACMFS Fellows changes and future trends that impact education in the field of oral maxillofacial surgery.

Michael Collins, PhD was the second keynoter and his presentation focused on “Concussion Clinical Trajectories: An Active and Targeted Approach to Concussion Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation.” Dr. Collins reviewed the work they are doing at UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program. They treat over 18,000 patients a year and have published over 200 papers on the topic. This has provided a battery of active therapies that challenge patients’ vision, balance, and concentration. Therapies are tailored to the patient’s particular symptom set, since researchers now recognize six different types of concussions: anxiety/mood; cervical, which can lead to headaches; post-traumatic migraine; ocular dysfunction; vestibular, or difficulty with balance, motion, and coordination; and cognitive/fatigue, which causes concentration issues. New therapies have been very successful and Dr. Collins predicts that 90% of concussions make full recovery.

The Scientific Session included abstract presentations in Pediatric, Craniofacial and Orthognathic Surgery, Education, Training and Research, Craniomaxillofacial Trauma Surgery and Craniomaxillofacial Reconstructive Surgery and Head and Neck Oncology. Participants identified key takeaways as concussion screening protocols, staging for hemi-mandibular hypertrophy, virtual planning techniques, immunotherapy and common concerns facing OMS educational programs. Strategies that could be implemented that would result in improved patient care included better treatment planning, fewer returns to the operating room, decreased recovery times and additional equipment for scanning to improve trauma care. They expressed the need for more robust discussion of the abstracts finding presented. Participants favor the format for this meeting in that it is small, focused, dedicated group.

The Business Meeting was held on Saturday afternoon and the status of the AACMFS was reviewed. Dr. Ellis presented the financial report: As of April 30, 2017, for this fiscal year the revenue is \$54,645.46 and expenses \$20,526.47 leaving a net income of \$34,118.99. The Assets as shown on the Balance Sheet are \$110,759.34. Dr. Kim provided an update on membership: Dr. Kim presented the report of members. Currently there are a total of 165 Fellows, 7 Post-Graduate Members, 8 Emeritus and 4 Honorary Members.

The new officers were announced by Dr. Costello: Election of Secretary and Member at Large. Presentation of officers 2017-2018. Dr. Costello moved to elect Dr. Ramon Ruiz as Secretary and Dr. John Caccamese as the new trustee.

An issue that was brought to the members related to dental curriculum changes: Drs. Edwards, Ward and Steed brought up concerns about changes in the curriculum as proposed by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). It was suggested that a group or committee be formed to look at the proposed change and impact on anesthesia, international rotation and licensure. Dr. Steed volunteered to do further exploration to determine the best approach for expressing concerns and provide input. Dr. Dierks to follow up on this issue.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

The Saturday evening event was at the Senator John Heinz History Center.



The Reception was held on Friday evening at the Duquesne Club.



## JOHN F. HELFRICK, DDS, MS, FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AACMFS STEPS DOWN



On May 18, 2017, Dr. John Helfrick stepped down as Executive Director of the AACMFS. He was our first Executive Director and all future holders of that position will be measured by his yardstick.

John was born in Elkhart, Indiana in 1941 and spent his early years in the Hoosier state, completing both his undergraduate studies and dental school at Indiana University. He was accepted for oral and maxillofacial surgery residency training immediately following dental school at Sinai Hospital of Detroit which was then directed by Herbert Bloom. Following residency, John joined the US Army Dental Corps and served at Darnell Army Hospital in Fort Hood, Texas before his discharge with the rank of Major. He returned to Detroit after completion of his military service and returned to Sinai Hospital to join the teaching faculty and was appointed shortly after as Chairman of the Department of Dental and Oral Surgery. He had a special interest in cleft surgery and the management of oral malignancies and soon became the Director of the Sinai Cleft and Maxillofacial Deformity clinic and Co-Director of the Head and Neck Tumor clinic. In 1984, John was recruited to lead the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Texas in Houston, succeeding Dr. Edward Hinds, the founding chairman. He brought to Houston his considerable reputation as a young leader of the profession, his interests in cleft and oncologic surgery, and the energy to reorganize and promote the Department within the largest medical center in the world with many competing specialties. The University of Texas Cleft and Craniofacial Team was revitalized by John and he served as its Director from 1985 until 1997. He also successfully fought professional battles to be credentialed to treat oral tumors and this stimulated his interest in the importance of standards and the accreditation of standards. While continuing his active academic practice, John became active in various professional organizations. Some of his major contributions include his service as an examiner for the ABOMS, CRET member, OMS Commissioner on CODA, and perhaps one of his most important achievements, chairing the committee that developed the first Parameters of Care for the specialty in 1991. John's contributions also extended to the global community and he developed a strong leadership role in the IAOMS serving on different committees before he was elected President of the IAOMS in 1999. He continued his relationship with the IAOMS for many years after that as its Executive Director.

In 2000, John decided to shift the focus of his professional career from surgery to accreditation. He had already earned the rare distinction in 1997 of Chairing the Joint Commission of Accreditation on Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO as a dentist and felt a great passion for the process. He joined the JCAHO as a full-time member in 2000 and remained until 2003 when he joined the Harvard-based Partners organization as a Senior Consultant. He continues to direct accreditation activities for that organization presently.

According to John he was contacted “out of the blue” by Lenny Kaban who told him about the concept of an AACMFS as a small “elite” organization that would represent the best of those doing major hospital surgery. The goal was to entice younger surgeons to strive to be members and keep them engaged in major surgery. John's role in getting our origination underway and up and running was nothing less than pivotal. He had previously served for eight years as the Executive Director of the IAOMS. His well-honed organizational skills and personal diplomacy allowed our fledgling organization to avoid many of the pitfalls that other organizations of this type have dealt with early in their existence.

John and his wife Nancy still call south Texas home, where they share their time between homes in Houston and Galveston. Their children Kathy and Michael and grandchildren live close by.

## JULIA A. “ JULIE” KNEEDLER, RN, EDD TO RETIRE AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF AACMFS



Julie Kneedler has been a familiar face at every AACMFS meeting since our inception. Her career in medical and nursing education and her role as President of Kneedler Solutions, and prior to that, co-owner of Pfiedler Enterprises put her in the organizational center of many such educational events. Julie is so much more than the very nice lady who checks us in at our meetings.

Dr. Kneedler is a native of Martinez, California. She holds a B.S. from Walla Walla College in Washington; an M.S. from Loma Linda University, and a Doctorate of Continuing Education from the University of Northern Colorado. She is co-author of the textbook entitled, *Perioperative Patient Care – The Nursing Perspective* and has authored and co-authored many books and manuals published by AORN.

She began her career in the operating room at Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital and went on to become the Director of Operating Room at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver. She then was employed by the Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) where she planned national and international conferences. As one of the co-founders of Pfiedler Enterprises, she was instrumental in building a multimillion dollar business whose major customers were medical device companies. Pfiedler Enterprises was recently sold to AORN.

She is a member of ANA, AORN and the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions (ACEhp). Among her many achievements is the AORN Award for Excellence in practice, research and education which she received in 1996. Julie has traveled extensively both nationally and internationally and looks forward to further travel and time with family and friends.



**AACMFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**(2017-2018)**

**Officers**

- Eric J. Dierks, MD, DMD-President
- B. J. Costello, MD, DMD-Immediate Past President
- Edward Ellis, III, DDS, MS-President-Elect
- David Kim, MD, DDS-Treasurer
- Ramon L. Ruiz, DMD, MD-Secretary

**Trustees**

- Timothy Turvey, DDS
- Rui P. Fernandes, DMD, MD
- Sean Edwards, DMD, MD
- John Caccamese, DMD, MD
- Martin Steed, DDS

**Member at Large**

- Bonnie L. Padwa, DMD, MD

**Staff**

- John Helfrick, DDS, MS-Executive Director
- Brent Ward, DDS, MD-Assistant Executive Director
- Julie Kneeder, RN, EdD-Executive Secretary



**2018 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CRANIOMAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS ANNUAL MEETING**

*May 4-5, 2018 The Nines Hotel, Portland, Oregon*

The AACMFS Scientific and Business Sessions will be returning to Portland, Oregon. Eric Dierks, DMD, MD, FACS, President is continuing the format of the organization by inviting Keynote Speakers as well as Fellow Abstracts for presentation at the meeting. This meeting is a must for all Fellows as it provides an avenue for exchange of ideas and current practice trends as well as time to share advances in treatment options for OMS patients. Social activities include a Friday evening reception in the Departure Lounge on the roof top of The Nines Hotel and the Saturday evening black tie dinner at the Oregon Historical Society. Registration will open soon.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2019 AACMFS ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2019 meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10 at the Omni La Mansion del Rio Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Please note this is a Thursday-Friday meeting which is a slight change from previous meetings.



## IN THE NEWS

### *Transition to New Management Firm*

The Board of Directors received notice from both Dr. John Helfrick, Executive Director and Julie Kneeder, Executive Secretary that they are retiring and would like to make it effective at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Portland. Because of their retirements, the Academy will need to identify a new organization to function as the secretariat. The Board took action to develop an RFP to send to perspective groups. Currently there are three management firms who are submitting proposals. The plan is to select a firm by October 1, 2017 and begin the transition.



### AACMFS NEW LOGO

The American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery has a Board-approved graphic and logo. The seal will be used in an official capacity by the organization, and its use requires approval from the Board of the AACMFS. Our new illustrative image helps to show our commitment to scholarly pursuits and an unwavering commitment to excellence in our surgical discipline through rigorous scientific debate. Veritas Virtus Sapientia roughly translates to “the power of truth and wisdom”, and speaks to the Academy’s desire to provide a forum that is open, challenging, experienced, and committed to the highest level of care for our patients

## MEMBER IN THE NEWS



On July 8, 2017, AACMFS President Eric Dierks received honorary Fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRSC(Ed)), where he also delivered the address to all the graduating Fellows.

His address was titled “The Ballistics and Trajectory of a Surgical Career.” Edinburgh is one of the oldest medical schools in the world. He joins AACMFS Fellows David Powers and Ed Ellis, who have previously been awarded this honorary fellowship.



The 6th World Oral Cancer Congress of the International Academy of Oral Oncology was held May 17-20, 2017 in Bengaluru, India. The United States was well represented, Many of them Fellows of the AACMFS.

### MICHAEL JASKOLKA, MD, DDS, FACS NAMED DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S SURGERY



Barbara Buechler, administrator of the Betty H. Cameron Women’s & Children’s Hospital, is pleased to announce that Michael Jaskolka, MD, DDS, FACS, has accepted the position of Director of Children’s Surgery, New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Jaskolka brought his significant skills and passion for children with traumatic and congenital abnormalities of the face to the NHRMC Physician Group in 2014. Dr. Jaskolka leads the NHRMC multi-disciplinary Cleft and Craniofacial Team which was accredited in 2016 by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association and listed by the Cleft Palate Foundation.

Dr. Jaskolka’s new responsibilities focus on representing the interests of children’s surgery within NHRMC and the surrounding community including the transition of the new pediatric surgery team of Dr. Jeff Dehmer and Dr. Tim Weiner to Wilmington. Dr. Jaskolka will work closely with the Women’s & Children’s leadership team and surgical services to develop children’s surgery at NHRMC and together will demonstrate our mission of Leading Our Community to Outstanding Health by providing state of the art surgical care for children.

### DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP AWARD

**John F. Helfrick, DDS, MS**

**AACMFS Executive Director**



Senior Consultant and Head, Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety, Partners Healthcare International, Boston, MA.

In May 2017, Dr. Helfrick was awarded the 1st Distinguished Award for Service in the AACMFS for his exceptional contribution to the specialty and to the Academy.