

# Chapter Eight

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## The Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations

The concept for the creation of an assembly of prosthodontic organizations began by a motion made by Dr. Carl O. Boucher during an Academy business meeting, which was supported by the fellowship. Subsequently, for two days on August 21–22, 1965, twenty-one leaders in prosthodontics met in Chicago at the American Dental Association (ADA) headquarters to organize many of the existing prosthodontic organizations into a new entity to be known as the Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations (Federation/FPO).<sup>1-3</sup> Ten academies and societies were represented at this first meeting:



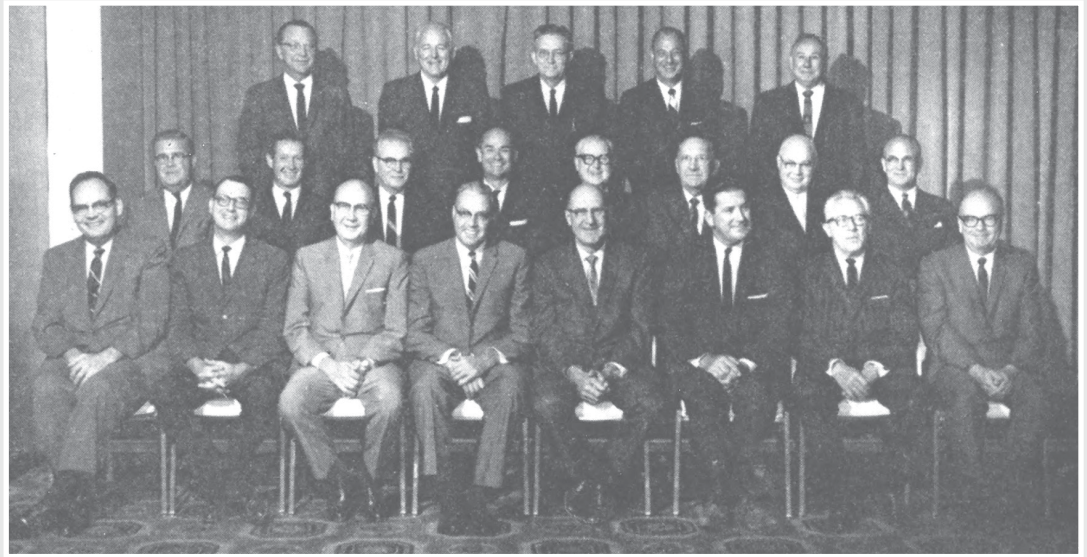
Academy of Denture Prosthetics  
American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics  
American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics  
American Academy of Restorative Dentistry  
American Equilibration Society  
American Prosthodontic Society  
Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics  
Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics  
Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics  
Canadian Academy of Prosthodontics

The purpose of the FPO was to serve the needs of the specialty and the discipline and to provide one cohesive voice for the specialty instead of many fragmented voices.<sup>2-4</sup> It would accomplish this by:

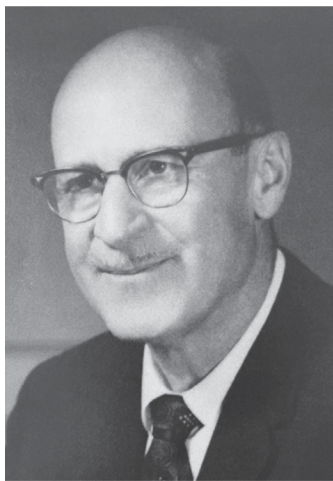
- encouraging and improving prosthodontic service to the public,
- serving as a liaison agency for the member organizations,
- improving communications between member organizations,
- improving communications between member organizations and other organizations, and
- improving communications between member organizations and the American Dental Association and the Canadian Dental Association and their agencies.

Each member group was entitled to two delegates, and the first elected officers of the Federation were Chairman Carl O. Boucher, Vice Chairman Louis J. Boucher, and Secretary and Treasurer Alexander L. Martone. Directors of the Executive Committee consisted of Drs. George H. Moulton and Frank A. Farrell.

► The organizers of the Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations (FPO). Front row: Drs. Samuel E. Guyer, John E. Robinson Jr., William N. Holmes, Louis J. Boucher, Carl O. Boucher, Alexander L. Martone, Victor L. Steffel, and LeRoy E. Kurth. Middle row: William G. Woods, William C. Hudson Jr., W. Les Warburton, G. Newell Wood, Arthur L. Roberts, LaMar W. Harris, Frank A. Farrell, and Kenneth M. Kerr. Back row: Willoughby R. Wright, John H. Allgood Jr., J. Russell Goodloe, George H. Moulton, and E. C. Brooks.



The FPO developed the following standing committees: Bylaws Committee, Committee for Consultation with the American Board of Prosthodontics, Dental Care Programs Committee, Dental Materials and Devices Committee, Education Committee, Membership and Membership Service Committees, Oral Health Committee, and Policy Committee, along with a consultant to the ADA Council on Dental Laboratory Relations and a consultant to the ADA Council on Dental Education. The FPO was active in responding to the creation of educational guidelines for advanced training programs in prosthodontics and consulting with the ADA Council on Dental Education/Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDE/CODA), implementing an election process for the American Board of Prosthodontics (Board/ABP), and monitoring federal health-care initiatives, third-party payers, denturism, laboratory certification, and expanded-duty auxiliaries, as well as creating an awareness of oral health issues. The Education Committee of the Federation sponsored a workshop on advanced prosthodontic education during July 1968 in Chicago. The workshop and the distribution of its results was funded by the Editorial Council of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*. The FPO further



▲ Dr. Carl O. Boucher



▲ Dr. Louis Boucher



▲ Dr. Alexander L. Martone

supported efforts to develop a standardized glossary of terms and phrases for tooth and related structure designations for use in the writing of dental work authorization forms. The chairman of the Education Committee, Dr. Louis J. Boucher, represented the Federation during the Conference on Dental Specialties.<sup>5,6</sup>

The Academy of Prosthodontics (Academy/AP) sponsored the Board examinations for twenty-five years, a process that further refined and focused the specialty during this formative period. Recognizing the growing complexity of the prosthodontic specialty and the need for a broader Board membership base, the Academy transferred the sponsorship of the Board to the FPO in 1972 with ADA approval. The Council for the Affairs of the ABP that was created by the Academy was reorganized within the FPO. The organizations of the FPO submitted names of potential candidates for the Board to the FPO. Subsequently, the FPO Council for the Affairs of the ABP would vet the nominated individuals for the ABP, and the nominees were announced in the *FPO Newsletter* prior to voting by the diplomates. The *FPO Newsletter* also provided information to the member organizations regarding news about the various groups as well as events and resolutions adopted by the ADA House of Delegates that may impact prosthodontics. In addition, member organizations of the FPO whose various individuals received awards were often acknowledged in the newsletter. By 1985, the FPO would represent more than twenty organizations.

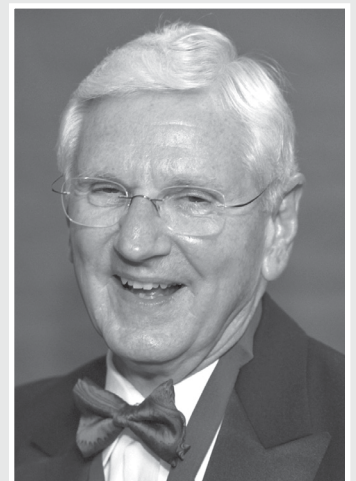
In 1970, guidelines for advanced prosthodontic education were initially developed and published by the Federation, allowing the ADA to formally recognize prosthodontics as a specialty of dentistry.<sup>7-9</sup> The CODA revised the guidelines in 1975, as they determined that some programs were providing “special emphasis” in a single subdiscipline of prosthodontics.

The FPO Central Office relocated in the ADA building beginning in 1979, with Mr. Eric Bishop being announced as the new Central Office director, replacing Mr. Harvey Sarner, who was followed by Mr. Peter Goulding from the Bishop and Goulding Group. The relocation to the ADA building facilitated many activities of the FPO. The Federation held leadership conferences at the ADA Headquarters Building in Chicago in 1980. The FPO assisted in eliminating multiple subscriptions to the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, with it being paid only once through the Federation dues. Yearly FPO reports were published in the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*.<sup>10-17</sup>

Five members of the FPO were named to advisory posts with the ADA CDE/CODA at the Federation’s Executive Committee meeting on February 16, 1980. Members named were Dr. Robert B. Lytle, Appeals Board of the Council/Commission; Dr. William R. Laney, Prosthodontic Advisory Committee; and Drs. Samuel E. Guyer, Dean L. Johnson, and Donald O. Lundquist, consultants.<sup>17, 18</sup> The FPO held a workshop in 1982 to revise the accreditation standards



▲ Dr. Robert B. Lytle



▲ Dr. William R. Laney

so that all programs would provide instruction and experiences in the full scope of the specialty, discontinuing the designation of two-year programs as fixed, removable, or combined prosthodontics. After review and discussion at all levels from the programs, dental schools, and the ADA, it was approved that two-year programs would no longer be designated as fixed, removable, or combined, but exist under a single designation, prosthodontics, effective July 1, 1986.<sup>19</sup>

Other activities included funding of education and research activities as well as creating guidelines for oral health and quality of care.<sup>20, 21</sup> The FPO passed resolutions in support of dental laboratory certification with a goal to improve the quality of the dental laboratory and technician services. The FPO encouraged member organizations to advise their members to seek out and utilize certified dental laboratories and technicians.<sup>22</sup> The Education & Research Foundation (E&R Foundation) that was initially founded by the ADP became an arm of the FPO and was embraced by member organizations.<sup>23</sup> The supporting affiliates of the E&R Foundation were the Academy of Denture Prosthetics, Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics, American Prosthodontic Society (APS), American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics, American Equilibration Society, and American Academy of Crown and Bridge Prosthodontics (American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics-AAFP). The FPO sponsored the First International Prosthodontic Congress with the APS as the host. More than 2,600 registrants attended with eighty-six presentations from October 26–28, 1972. The Congress was made possible by the contributions from the E&R Foundation, the FPO, the Brookdale Foundation, the Editorial Council of the *JPD*, and the APS.<sup>24, 25</sup> Twenty-three of the speakers were from countries other than the United States.<sup>26</sup>

As many of the organizations participating in the FPO were composed of specialists and generalists with a major interest in prosthodontics, an organization that was solely made up of specialty-trained prosthodontists was lacking. In 1970, this need was met when the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) was formed. Although it

► Dr. Homer Vaughn (right) notes the geographical location of the International Circuit Course (ICC) international speakers along with Louis Saporito, ADA President, 1972–1973.





◀ ICC speakers receive certificates of appreciation from the American Prosthodontic Society. Left to right: Drs. Chester K. Perry, Homer C. Vaughn, Earl Pound, an international speaker, and Arthur E. Aull.

encountered some resistance from some of the established organizations and individuals, it filled an important need. It grew quickly as more individuals were trained in the specialty of prosthodontics and an emphasis was placed on gaining more Board-certified prosthodontists.<sup>27</sup>

Over the next two decades, as the ACP grew in stature, it became apparent that it could be the voice of prosthodontics. Therefore, in 1993, the FPO House of Delegates pursued a resolution that led to the dissolution of the Federation. Resolution #8 stated, in part, that “the Goals and Objectives Workshop” participants believe prosthodontics is best served by one organization and recommend that the FPO offices develop a mechanism for the FPO activities to be accommodated by the ACP. After the dissolution of the FPO in 1994, the sponsorship of the ABP was transferred to the American College of Prosthodontists.

Additionally, the plan created “Affiliated Dental Organizations” which would belong to the “Forum of Affiliated Organizations (Prosthodontic Forum/Forum) that would meet annually having two representatives per organization.” The purpose of the Forum would be to act as an advisory body and assist the ACP in creating policies and programs to advance both the specialty and discipline of prosthodontics.

In the twenty-nine-year existence of the FPO, there have been twenty-eight presidents, of which twenty were fellows of the Academy and twelve were also Academy past-presidents (see Table 8-1. Presidents of the Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations). Many other Academy fellows were also representatives of the various organizations. The commitment to the specialty is evident by the leadership roles that Academy fellows have played by serving on FPO committees or participating in educational workshops and administrative positions. The FPO performed a remarkable role for three decades by representing the specialty and the discipline while navigating prosthodontics during a critical era, leading to the coalescence and evolution of the specialty.

**TABLE 8-1. PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERATION OF PROSTHODONTIC ORGANIZATIONS (FPO)**

1965–67	Carl O. Boucher	1981	Dewey H. Bell
1968	Louis J. Boucher	1982	William R. Laney
1969	Alexander L. Martone	1983	James B. Lepley
1970	William C. Hudson	1984	Douglas A. Atwood
1971	Louis S. Block	1985	Glen P. McGivney
1972	G. Newell Wood	1986	Kenneth D. Rudd
1973	Victor L. Steffel	1987	John E. Roads
1974	John E. Robinson	1988	Alex Koper
1975	Daniel H. Gehl	1989	Robert C. Wesley
1976	Samuel E. Guyer	1990	Jesse T. Bullard
1977	Ira E. Klein	1991	James L. Lord
1978	Douglas C. Wendt	1992	William A. Kuebker
1979	Philip M. Jones	1993	Robert D. Schweitzer
1980	Robert B. Lytle	1994	Stephen F. Bergen

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