

Letter of Intent

International Association of Endodontology

In response to a growing demand for communication and cooperation among endodontic organizations throughout the world, a group of committed endodontic leaders from various organizations initiated dialogue to explore how to best meet the future needs of endodontics. As a result of many thoughtful and candid discussions about the desire for enhanced cooperation, a consensus was reached to create a mechanism to address issues facing our clinical specialty. The Asian Pacific Endodontic Confederation (APEC), the European Society of Endodontology (ESE) and the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) together with the Canadian Academy of Endodontics (CAE) (to be organized in a North-American regional society), now have decided to pursue the formation of an international organization. As this new organization, called the International Association of Endodontology (IAE), is in the process of being constituted, this letter is issued to briefly inform you about plans, management structure and mode by which the organization will operate.

The name of the organization was taken to give emphasis to its primary purpose namely to serve as a support structure for international collaboration on subject matters of significance to the advancement of both the science and practice of endodontics. Various issues which ultimately would improve patient care through research and education and would require global communication and cooperation were identified. Areas of concentration were targeted. These topics include research, education, clinical practice and patient service. To bring about progress within these specific areas, aims and potential support activities were outlined:

Research

Aims: Proactively identify areas of research relevant to endodontics, stimulate research in these areas, and facilitate international collaboration amongst researchers.

Example of support activity: Well-known researchers in the various areas of our discipline will be asked to provide opinions and delineate clinical and research topics/areas suitable for State of Science Conferences and Position Statements on topics of critical importance to endodontics.

Education

Aims: Assist with the development of standards for endodontic education worldwide, encourage international accreditation of endodontic specialty training programs, provide opportunities for interaction among the international educator community, and provide support for endodontic departments worldwide.

Example of support activity: Formation of educator forum of international educators and assembly of an international faculty for distance learning.

Clinical Practice

Aims: Promote recognition of endodontics as a specialty in dentistry; assist in compilation, promotion and dissemination of the best practice evidence; and facilitate international acceptance of accredited specialty training programs in endodontics.

Example of support activity: Provide clinical forum/conferences focusing on critical issues/controversies in endodontics.

Service

Aims: Respond to critical issues challenging endodontics; represent our members with the public, profession and governing bodies; and collect, assimilate, and make available information on topics relevant to endodontics.

Example of support activity: Compile database of information relating to practice of endodontics, i.e. registry of endodontics specialty training programs, licensure requirements for different countries, create a directory of the academic workforce.

By addressing issues facing endodontics in a timely manner, the IAE will facilitate sharing of information and knowledge within our profession in an effort to promote the highest level of patient care. This new organization is not supposed to replace any existing organization or to become a union of endodontists representing their individual needs. Rather it hopes to include all individuals around the world who carry a special interest for the advancement of endodontology. In order to achieve a convenient organizational structure, IAE will be made up of societies that have a basis in a world region and not by country societies or individual members. Although Asia-Pacific, Europe and North-America will become the first regions to be represented within the IAE, it is expected that South America and Africa, in due time, will be part of the organization as well.

The governance of the IAE will be stratified into two layers. There will be a General Assembly with representatives from the various member regions. The primary function of this body is to decide policy matters and to elect the Executive Board, which will have the responsibility of the day to day running of the organization. In order to ensure effective operation of the IAE, an administrative office with an Executive Director will be created. The developmental work within the organization will be performed by individuals who, for a limited period of time, are willing to donate their effort to serve on standing committees and task forces with specific charges addressing the objectives of the IAE.

It is anticipated that the IAE will hold a meeting for the exchange of education, research and clinical practice information every 2 to 4 years. These meetings will either be organized on their own or in conjunction with regional congresses organized by a regional member society.

The members of the Steering Committee hope that this new initiative will receive acceptance and support as we are convinced that advancement of endodontology, in current times, requires international collaboration and net-working. Every individual will be important for the accomplishment of the IAE mission. For further information please contact any of us in the Steering Committee.

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