

Future Developments

International standards can bring a range of benefits, including enhanced customer satisfaction, cost savings, access to new markets, increased market share, and environmental benefits. There will therefore be a growing need for standards development and maintenance with pressures to make these global, whenever possible. This will require increasing collaboration, particularly across traditional boundaries between disciplines, and perhaps the emergence of new bodies such as the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF). This is an international voluntary group of medical device regulators building on the work of the Global Harmonization Task Force on Medical Devices (GHTF), with representatives from medical device regulatory authorities in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, and the United States, together with the WHO.

The needs of the various stakeholders will have to be reconciled because industry, health care professionals, and researchers may have differing views. This is important in emerging technologies where the premature development of standards can restrict innovation, while a less structured arrangement can result in inferior goods, incompatibility between systems, and a lack of criteria against which to judge products.

Pressures to expand data collection for a wider range of clinical activities, the digitization of dentistry, including the replacement of physical artifacts with

digital analogues, computer-controlled fabrication techniques, robotic devices, and dental informatics, will all create challenges if dental care professionals are to work effectively in an increasingly complex environment.

Standards development may be seen by some as an astringent environment, yet it will be increasingly important in the care of our patients and an area in which support from the dental care professional will continue to be essential.

References

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George Zarb Receives CDA Medal of Honour

The Canadian Dental Association recently awarded Dr George Zarb, IJP editor-in-chief, the CDA Medal of Honour. The highest award the association confers, the Medal of Honour is given to a dentist in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding service and professional achievement to the benefit of the dental profession, the dental community, and society at large, and to whom significant change can be attributed. The breadth and scope of achievement are significant factors in granting this award, as are the individual's contributions to the goals and objectives of CDA. Dr Peter Doig, CDA president, is shown with Dr Zarb (*right*) during presentation of the award at the CDA Executive Meeting in April in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.



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