ACFD Structure

The ACFD Board for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017 is:

Dr. Paul Allison, McGill University - President
Dr. Andrea Esteves, University of British Columbia – Vice President / Treasurer
Dr. Steve Patterson, University of Alberta - Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Dr. Blaine Cleghorn, Dalhousie University – Chair, Clinical Affairs Committee
Dr. Paul Major, University of Alberta – Chair, Deans’ Committee
Dr. Patrick Flood, University of Alberta – Chair, Research Affairs Committee
Dr. Daniel Haas, University of Toronto – Immediate Past President
Dr. Edwin Yen, University of British Columbia, Executive Director

The Board meets three times annually, either in person or by conference call.

Committees

1. Deans’ Committee
   The Deans Committee includes the ACFD President, Executive Director and the Dean, Director or equivalent from each Canadian dental program. The Deans’ Committee meets four times a year either by teleconference or in person at the ACFD Biennial Conference or Annual General Meeting.

2. Academic Affairs Committee
   The Academic Affairs Committee includes the Associate Dean Academic or equivalent from each Canadian dental program. The Academic Affairs committee meets twice a year either by teleconference or in person at the ACFD Biennial Conference or Annual General Meeting.

3. Clinical Affairs Committee
   The Clinic Affairs Committee includes the Clinic Director or equivalent from each Canadian dental program. The Clinic Affairs committee meets twice a year either by teleconference or in person at the ACFD Biennial Conference.

4. Research Affairs Committee
   The Research Affairs Committee includes the Associate Dean of Research or equivalent from each Canadian dental program. The Research Affairs committee meets once a year either by teleconference or in person at the ACFD Biennial Conference.
Communication and Members Services

The ACFD web site, www.acfd.ca, provides information for both ACFD Members and graduates of non-accredited dental and dental specialty programs. The web site includes the ACFD directory, information about awards presented by the Association, upcoming meetings, links to related organizations, academic opportunities and general information.

W. W. Wood Award

The Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry established the W.W. Wood Awards for “Excellence in Dental Education” to commemorate Dr. Bill Wood whose academic career exemplified dedication to research, teaching and service. One ACFD “W.W. Wood Award for Excellence in Dental Education” is available to be awarded each year, in each Canadian Faculty of Dentistry, to a full or part-time faculty member who has completed at least three years of teaching in a Canadian Faculty of Dentistry.

We wish to congratulate the following recipients who received the award in 2016:

Dr. Timothy Wilson – Western University
Dr. Hugo Ciaburro – Université de Montréal
Dr. Manuel Lagravere – University of Alberta
Dr. Bob Clark – McGill University
Dr. Anil Kishen – University of Toronto
Dr. John Christie – Dalhousie University

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individual lifetime achievement in dental education. Award criteria and nomination information can be found on the ACFD web site. There was not a recipient in 2016.

Biennial Conference

The 2017 Biennial Conference will be hosted by Université Laval in June 2017 in Quebec City. The education day will focus on “The Challenges and Opportunities of Implementing the ACFD Educational Framework for the Development of Competency”. The keynote speaker is Dr. Marilou Bélisle who will be talking about “The Assessment of Generic Competencies: Towards Adopting a Development and Collective Approach in Dental Education.”

Dental Research

ACFD has committed to support oral health research in Canada by giving funds to the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR) for the next three years. This funding has been used to support the creation of research networks, team projects, graduate research training, interdisciplinary research and other areas relevant to building capacity in oral health research in Canada.
Competency Educational Framework

The ACFD Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) received an ISBN 978-0-9952789-0-5 for the publication of the “ACFD Educational Framework for the Development of Competency in Dental Programs”.

Collaboration with CDA, CDRAF, CDAC and RCDC

ACFD continues to strengthen liaisons with external organizations for the dental community nationally. In 2016 ACFD met with the following organizations to discuss topics of mutual concerns.

The ACFD / CDA interface committee did not meet in 2016 but met in Montreal in February 2017 and discussed a number of issues. These included:
- The final draft and agreement on the Committee on the Identification of Future Dentists
- Dental research in Canada and CIHR
- Use of CDAnet by the dental schools
- Diagnostics codes, such as “Big Mouth”
- Future of the Profession
- ACFD’s relationship with FCDSA, our invitation to ACFD Biennial conference
- Follow-up report of the CDA-ACFD Special Care in Dentistry Working Group

The ACFD / CDRAF interfaced via phone in March, and in person in Montreal in June and in Vancouver in October. They discussed support for the Specialty Program Directors criteria, the future of PGY1, as well as the ACFD Competency document and the use of it by the International Society of Dentistry Regulators for accrediting International dental competencies.

The ACFD / CDAC met in Montreal in June and in Ottawa in October to continue their discussions about the proposed language changes and credentials regarding Specialty Program Directors. As well they discussed the ACFD Competency Framework document to see how it could guide them in their accreditation visits. The also discussed vocational training, PGY1.

The ACFD also met with the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) in Toronto in June to observe their oral examination process which was impressive. As well ACFD has joined the newly formed “Educational Committee”.

The ACFD also met with the Federation of Canadian of Dental Students Associations (FCDSA) in Vancouver in March and discussed participation in our 2017 Biennial conference, and how the two groups could have more interaction with each other. FCDSA also participated in the ACFD Admissions workshop. ACFD President attended the FCDSA AGM in Montreal in June. FCDSA is keen to have some advocacy from ACFD. FCDSA also discussed their concerns over exam security.
Challenges Facing Dental Education

The ACFD strives to identify, communicate and address challenges facing dental education, including:

- Recruitment and retention of full- and part-time faculty for dental schools.
- Recruitment of directors for specialty programs.
- Research in dental schools, including access to CIHR funding and other granting agencies.
- Certification processes for general dentists and specialists from non-accredited dental programs.
- Government funding for dental schools.
- Financial assistance programs for students (scholarships, bursaries and loans).
- Sustaining a future for academic dentistry in Canada.
- The need for research and development of selection tools for dentistry students.
- The need to explore residency programs and PGY1 programs as a means to increase clinical learning opportunities for recently graduated dental students.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Paul Allison  
President, ACFD