

2015 ADEA ANNUAL SESSION & EXHIBITION PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE ADEA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Hello, everyone. Welcome. We're so glad you're here. So my message to you today is pretty simple. ADEA is on the move. Literally. ADEA is on the move, and you're coming with us.

Many of you know that about two months ago, ADEA relocated to a new area of Washington, DC. We were over there on K Street, and now we're over here, still on K Street. It may look and sound like it was just a small step east, but it was a giant leap forward for our organization and for our professions.

We are very much in a different world. And it's the world we want to be in and the world that you are helping to shape. ADEA is now integrated into the headquarters of the Association of American Medical Colleges, the AAMC, in this beautiful state of the art, glass building.

We are working side by side, both philosophically and now physically, with medical education. And next month, the Physician Assistant Education Association will join us. So in the span of a year, medicine, dentistry and PAs will have joined together in the most visible, concrete way possible to embody the ideas of collaboration and partnership.

I just cannot overstate how exciting, how promising and how important this is. Our move to AAMC's building is the physical manifestation of what we as an association, and we as a community stand for and have been working toward for decades.

As we in the health professions now work together more strategically, we have created from the ground up so many programs to drive these partnerships and make them meaningful, for all of our organizations, and for our members.

When I leave Washington and come to visit your campuses, I can see that we're making a difference. Interprofessional education, IPE, is no longer just a concept. It's become real; it's become viable; it's becoming the expectation of our students.

Lily Garcia and I recently participated in the National Roundtable for Dental Collaboration. That whole meeting was focused on IPE and collaborative practice and how it will affect the dentistry side of the equation in the future. We are witnessing progress in real time, and we have much to be proud of.

You have often heard me say that the mantra of ADEA in the Relentless Pursuit of Strategic Alliances. A stellar example is the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program or SMDEP that is a collaboration of ADEA, AAMC and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Nearly one thousand college students from minority and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds come to one of twelve sites for six weeks in the summer to develop an enhanced skill set as they get ready to apply to medical or dental school. A report is about to be released that shows that the program doubles their chances of getting into dental school. And 100% of the dental SMDEP scholars who were accepted have matriculated since the program started in 2005.

This is incredible stuff and we couldn't do it without you. All of these successes are creating new education and practice environments for the health professions. In the United States. In Canada. And around the world.

As I said, ADEA is on the move. Our new office location brings us within a few blocks of the U.S. Capitol, where in 2014 we worked with other key voices to protect 500 million dollars in funding for programs and research that are critical to academic dentistry and our institutions.

And we did this despite the most acrimonious and hostile environment for health care and for any issue we've ever seen.

You know, Washington is an interesting place—we're hoping that our collaborative example in the health professions might just inspire our elected leaders to follow suit and work with one another.

We may just have to move to the moon to see that type of change in Congress, but I am an eternal optimist. And I can afford to be optimistic.

Within this ever-changing health care arena, dentistry is well positioned to handle all of the ups and downs.

Why? Let's take a look. Two major events occurred in 2012 that will affect us tremendously:

- The first is that for the first time, the majority of babies born in the U.S. are non-white.
- The second is that for the first time, the majority of physicians are employees.

What does this mean? It means that the patients in this country are changing, and their needs and expectations are changing along with them. It also means that where people get their health care and from whom is also changing. The entire health care paradigm is new – and it has enormous implications for all of us.

But...we can handle it. We tend to think of ourselves as being five to ten years behind medicine, but we're actually ahead of the game.

Here's why. Four reasons.

One: We have access to people. We have five hundred million patient encounters each year.

Two: We know that there is a fundamental link between oral and overall health. The oral and systemic health connection is clear and its impact is becoming better understood. So the value of what we do keeps going up.

Three: All of this hype around team-based care? This is not a new concept. Dentistry has been doing team-based care for decades. We can help lead the way.

And Four: We are arguably the most well respected model of preventive health care. We see people when they are well, and we work to keep them that way. So again, we can help lead the way as the health care system moves toward prevention.

There are many other reasons to highlight, but

suffice to say, I am optimistic. We are in a good place to weather these changes in our society and in health care, and I'm not the only one who thinks that.

According to *U.S. News and World Report*, dentistry is the number one occupation again in 2015. And dental hygiene is number five. Of all occupations, not just in health care. And we've been in the top ten for several years running.

Now, we can argue the merits of their formula, but the point is taken—we are attractive professions for many reasons, and the people in this room know that better than anyone. And we are being very deliberate about whom we attract.

We are working to bring new types of people to the professions to make sure we meet the needs of this changing patient population. When I was in dental school, everyone looked like me. But it just isn't that same world anymore, and we are embracing that.

In dental education, we have shifted to a more comprehensive view of who is quote, "Qualified" for a career in the dental professions and what we want our student bodies to be. Diversity means something for us.

As the name suggests, holistic admissions seeks to do just that—to assess people fully and determine what they as individual people offer as they go through the rigors of dental education and become practitioners. Holistic admissions takes into account someone's background, experiences, personal attributes and other characteristics and then marries them with their test scores.

And again, dentistry is ahead of this curve.

The Association of Public and Land grant Universities, AAMC and others released a study this past September, and of all of the health professions surveyed, academic dentistry leads the pack.

93 percent of reporting dental schools are actively using holistic admissions. I'd say 93

percent is a good indication that it's working for our members, and now the other health professions are looking to us to help them do better. That's a welcome change.

So ADEA is in the mix, and we're on the move. Yet this year has not been without its challenges for us and for our community.

As Lily Garcia has already mentioned, we've lost young, promising students this year. I want to take a minute to add some words to what Lily has already said about two of them.

The first at Columbia. Jiwon Lee was just 29 years old. President of the American Student Dental Association and such a talented young woman who we all expected to help lead our profession one day.

And this most recent tragedy at UNC-Chapel Hill. It's been weighing on all of us, and I've given a lot of thought about what it all means and how to feel. There's the shock, the anger, and more than anything, the grief.

But I find myself feeling something else. And it's gratitude. I am grateful to know that someone like this young man, Deah Barakat, chose us. Out of everything he could have done with his life, he chose dentistry. Deah Barakat was the epitome of the type of person that should be in our profession. Bright, giving, dedicated, and ready to give back.

There is a handout at your table that I encourage you to read; it's a reprint of the lovely tribute that Dean Jane Weintraub sent out after Deah, his wife and his sister-in-law were taken from us.

This young man took his drive to help people far beyond the walls of UNC School of Dentistry and reminded us that access to dental care remains out of reach for so many. The website he created earlier this year to fund a dental relief mission to Turkey and Syria with an aspirational goal of \$20,000 now has posted more than a half a million dollars in donations.

Deah Barakat and Jiwon Lee remind us of why we do what we do.

Helping to mentor, to teach, to inspire thousands of students every day. It's important work, and it all comes down to creating generations of caring, competent dental professionals who will help keep people healthy and change lives.

ADEA is proud to do our part in helping you do yours. We continue to represent one hundred percent of all dental schools in North America. We represent over 800 allied and advanced education program, 66 corporations, and for the first time over 20,000 individuals whose membership in ADEA is free.

We have made sound financial decisions that have resulted in a surplus yet again this year, so we can continue to think creatively about our programming and anticipate what you need and how we can work together to continue to be the voice of dental education.

ADEA is ready for what comes up next.

We're on the move.

And we're so glad you're here.

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President and CEO