

# An International Honor Dental Organization

Affiliated Member

Federation Dentaire Internationale

Asian Pacific Dental Federation



[www.fauchard.org](http://www.fauchard.org)

## A Brief History

The Pierre Fauchard Academy

was founded in 1936 by

Dr. Elmer S. Best, a Minneapolis

dentist. Troubled by the propri-

etary nature of many dental publications, Dr. Best wanted

to help the profession gain control of its own literature and

assure its independence from commercial interests. His pas-

sionate concern for the search for knowledge and the raising

of professional standards guided the beginnings of the

Academy, attracted outstanding dental researchers and

teachers to its ranks, and led to a continuing role in foster-

ing dental science.

The Constitution of the Pierre Fauchard Academy estab-

lished a series of objectives intended to promote

Dr. Best's aims. These included a constant emphasis on pro-

fessionalism, integrity, and ethics. One of the means adopted

by the Academy was to award medals and other honors to

persons who had distinguished themselves by their contri-

butions to dentistry and who were recognized

as worthy role models for others in the profession.



Elmer Best

Fellowship in the Academy is by nomination by profession-  
al dental leaders. Such membership was designed to be an  
accolade itself for past accomplishments and to serve as an  
encouragement to future productivity. The criteria for  
Fellowship include service to the dental profession, contribu-  
tions to dental literature and  
research, and public service to the general community.

The Academy fosters a publication program of books, pam-  
phlets, and dental literature as part of its mission. Dental  
World and Dental Abstracts are two contemporary peri-  
odicals that are sent to its members bi-monthly. Further, the  
Academy encourages member contributions in dental education  
and literature as an extension of that mission.

The Pierre Fauchard Academy maintains 119 sections  
worldwide. The United States has 55 with another 64  
in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and  
Australia. Global membership is 7,000.

*...an international honorary  
dental organization...*

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## Pierre Fauchard, a Biographical Note

In founding the Academy, Dr. Best and his colleagues adopted the name of Pierre Fauchard. This Parisian *chirurgien dentiste* published his monumental work, *Le Chirurgien Dentiste au Traité des Dents* in 1728. It became the first widely accepted scientifically oriented book on dentistry. The two volumes are credited with raising dentistry to the status of a profession. Deservedly, Fauchard has been described as the “Father of Modern Dentistry.”

Fauchard was born in 1678 in Brittany where he spent his early years. At the age of fifteen he joined the French Royal Navy, becoming an assistant to and student of Alexander Poteleret, a surgeon and apparently a competent teacher who stimulated Fauchard’s interest in scurvy, the common dental affliction of sailors who spent long periods at sea. During his service in the Navy, Fauchard focussed his attention on dentistry and after three years apparently went ashore to acquire more knowledge and the skills necessary to provide the dental care possible at the time.

Between 1696 and 1718, there are records indicating that Fauchard engaged in the practice of dentistry in western France in several towns, meanwhile learning that there were no useful books on the care of teeth. He still managed to prepare himself for examination to qualify as an *expert pour les dents*, and went on to earn a reputation as a skilled



Pierre Fauchard

practitioner. He settled in Paris in 1718 or 1719, remaining there the rest of his long life. He died in 1761.

The influence of Fauchard’s book can be documented by the fact that a German translation appeared in Berlin as early as 1733, a second French edition in 1746, a third edition in 1786 (long after his death), and even an English translation in 1946. The work covered what we recognize today as the basic concerns of the profession: dental anatomy and anomalies of tooth form, an understanding of the possibility of correcting orthodontic malformation, treatment of

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## Principles and Policies

In founding the Pierre Fauchard Academy its sponsors were determined to form an association dedicated to the improvement of the practice of dentistry. They shared a concern for the prevalence of proprietary publications and what they recognized as the pernicious influence of monetary considerations in much of what was then the common character of dental writing.

They intended that the conferring of fellowship on prospective members be seen as a distinct honor and that the selection of individuals for fellowship be motivated by a search for persons who exemplified high standards of professionalism, ethics, and scholarship.

These founders, conscious of the high standards they set for themselves and their colleagues, stated that the objectives of the organization were to elevate the character, education, and professional ability of dentists. They aimed to make available publications putting forth the latest scientific developments in the field and wanted to encourage dentists to make contributions to the professional literature and to share their knowledge with fellow practitioners.

carious lesions, prosthetic replacements, treatment of periodontal disease, and the benefits of removing calculus and debris from the teeth.

Fauchard included numerous case histories in his textbook and described the treatment for a variety of

oral ills including

abscesses, cysts,

and tumors. His

observations

showed both clini-

cal skill and scien-

tific curiosity.

He advocated the retention of deciduous teeth until their normal loss with the eruption of the permanent teeth even as he sought to explain the reasons

for the loss of root structure in the primary dentition. In addition to being an astute observer,

Fauchard was also a technological innovator. He

developed a vastly improved dental drill and made

his own dental instruments. His almost single-handed work in elevating dentistry to a true profession

cannot be underestimated. Fauchard's name is justly

memorialized in the Pierre Fauchard Academy.



*...an astute  
observer...*

*...a technological  
innovator...*

An annual awards program was established to recognize outstanding contributions to the art and science of dentistry and exemplary service to the profession. The names of the recipients of the Fauchard Gold Medal bring to mind a roster of outstanding individuals. The list is filled with deans of dental schools, noted researchers and other remarkable leaders of the profession. In the 1960's, a parallel award was instituted, the Elmer S. Best Memorial, dedicated to recognition of outstanding dental personalities from all over the world.

A Mentorship program is an initiative of most of the sections of the Academy. Such programs generally exist in areas where there are dental schools, and Academy Fellows are recruited to serve as mentors to students during their dental education. In addition, the benefits of mentorship are extended to younger practitioners who often seek career guidance from established practitioners. Even when there is no dental school in an area, the need for mentorship exists and Fellows often provide such assistance.

The encouragement of dental students, the education of the public to utilize the benefits available from

good dental care, and the promotion of good interpersonal relations among dentists through the camaraderie of fellowship became the guidelines of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

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## governance and Organization

The Pierre Fauchard Academy was originally incorporated in the state of Minnesota (residence of founder Elmer S. Best) in 1936 and reincorporated in Illinois in August, 1995. Its Constitution and Bylaws specify that it should be a non-profit educational organization whose assets are protected. Operation of the organization is vested in a Board of Trustees including the officers (elected annually for one-year terms) and (currently) ten Trustees who serve terms of four years. The Trustees represent geographic areas of the United States and the rest of the world. Subdivision is accomplished through individual state organizations and, in the case of foreign entities, sections in different countries under the guidance of regional Trustees.

The officers include the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and the Editor, all of whom serve with the ten Trustees to form the Board of Trustees.

State Chairpersons or Section Chairs (outside the United States) are charged with the responsibility of overseeing their own areas, nominating new Fellows, arranging meeting functions and public relations, and reporting periodically to the area Trustee. The Board of Trustees holds its annual meeting at the same time and location as the American Dental Association. The interim meeting is held at a different location, usually in conjunction with a Regional or State dental meeting. These meetings are devoted to reviewing Academy affairs.

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## Fellowship

Eligible Candidates for Fellowship are drawn from the membership of the American Dental Association or the equivalent organized dental group outside the United States. Fellowship is by invitation only and limited to ethical dentists. Candidates must have been graduated from an

accredited dental school at least five years prior to their nomination. Each nomination for Fellowship must bear the endorsement of the Section Chairperson. The State or Section Chairperson who may have other advisers generally accomplishes the process of selecting Fellows.

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## Publications

*Dental World*, which replaced a newsletter in 1980, is the current periodical issued by the Academy. This bi-monthly publication appears inside the scientific journal *Dental Abstracts*. *Dental World* covers the programs and activities of the International Academy, its Officers and Fellows, and provides meeting reports for Sections and Foundation news.

The Academy also has an internet Website, [www.fauchard.org](http://www.fauchard.org) which regularly provides news of the Academy, updates on regional and other meetings, lists of officers, and information on grants and activities of the Academy. The website is updated monthly and has proved to be a useful tool for members and other interested persons.

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## Foundation



Fernando  
Brenes- Espinach

The Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy was established in 1986 as a vehicle to hold and administer certain funds coming to the Academy in the form of gifts, bequests,

and grants from public and private sources. The Foundation is especially indebted to the bequest from the estate of Dr. Fernando J. Brenes-Espinach, Costa Rican dentist and recipient of the Elmer S. Best award in 1984. That bequest, amounting to more than five million dollars, established the Pierre Fauchard Academy Foundation as one of the largest such agencies in the world.

A separate Board of Trustees composed of past Academy Presidents administers the Foundation. Its annual grants program receives applications for dental projects in a number of dental service areas from all over the world. The Student Scholarship Program makes presentations to dental students at every dental school in the United States and Canada and in 28 other countries. The Foundation has funded projects such as a surgery clinic in Vietnam, a mobile dental clinic in Paris, and dental clinics for the

poor in San Diego, California. Grants are made in varying amounts, most in the \$5000 to \$10,000 range, but some projects may receive more. Most grants are under the auspices of a dental school or a regional dental association.

The Foundation is limited to using the income it receives annually. It encourages and solicits gifts, grants from other foundations, and bequests. The Trustees manage the principal with professional consultation.

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## Dues

Income from dues, established by the Board of Trustees, supports the operations of the central office and some section activities, the publication of *Dental World*, and the awards program, including the Pierre Fauchard Gold Medal, the Elmer S. Best Award, and student Awards of Merit. The dues also cover the expenses of the International Dental Hall of Fame, the Mentorship Program, Leadership Conferences, and sponsorship of continuing education courses. In addition to an annual dues fee, a one-time initiation charge is assessed on new Fellows.



## Awards

The principal honors granted by the Pierre Fauchard Academy are the Pierre Fauchard Gold Medal and the Elmer S. Best Memorial Award. The Gold Medal is presented annually to an individual usually holding a dental degree and residing in the United States. The award is intended for a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the art and science of dentistry. Nominations are made by a committee of past recipients of the Medal and by a confirmatory vote of the awards committee and the Board of Trustees.

The Elmer S. Best Memorial Award commemorates the founder of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. It is directed to individuals outside the United States who have made major contributions to dentistry. This award requires a unanimous vote by the members of the awards committee and a two-thirds vote of the Trustees. [www.pfa.org](http://www.pfa.org)

Lists of past recipients of the Pierre Fauchard Gold Medal and the Elmer S. Best Memorial Award are included in the pocket at the back of this booklet. Additional awards are directed through the various sections of the Academy and are listed at the website of the Academy.