mit on Diversity in Dentistry on the history of exclusion in organized dentistry.

The summit was jointly planned and convened by the National Dental Association [NDA], Hispanic Dental Association [HDA], Society of American Indian Dentists and the ADA. In July and September, the ADA Board developed and approved resolutions that were designed to strengthen diversity and inclusion in the profession.

As an African-American, do you feel a special pressure?
I don’t feel a special pressure to perform because of my race, but I do pressure myself to deliver because I know my capabilities. I want the dental profession to realize its potential, and I want to deliver that message effectively and consistently.

Is there a way to increase the low number of Hispanic dentists in the U.S., which causes cultural and language barriers to treatment?
Doors have opened, but more can be done to encourage careers in dentistry because enrollment in U.S. dental schools is not keeping pace with the growth of underrepresented minorities in the U.S. population.

For example, U.S. Census Bureau data for 2009 reveal that the Hispanic American population totaled 16 percent of the U.S. population. Yet, ADA survey information for the 2008/2009 school year indicate only about six percent of students were Hispanic American.

The ADA believes in guiding young people from diverse backgrounds toward the dental profession and is committed to increasing diversity, including through its outreach programs, such as the Institute for Diversity in Leadership, which provides a diverse group of dentists with education and experience to set new leadership paths within the profession and their communities; the Student Ambassador Program; and the Council on Dental Education and Licensure’s Career Guidance and Diversity Activities Committee (Committee D).

Committee D is composed of 14 members, including representatives of the NDA, HDA and the Society of American Indian Dentists.

We also believe that options for the repayment of dental school loans are very important to increasing diversity in dental schools.

For example, community service options should be available to dental students that would ease the financial burden of their dental school education and, at the same time, make a positive contribution to the public’s oral health.

Why do you offer Spanish-language courses at ADA sessions?
In recognition of the prominence of the Spanish language in the United States and the notable presence of annual session visitors from Spanish-speaking countries, the ADA, in its commitment to hosting a world-class meeting, decided to offer select continuing education courses in the Spanish language.

Allowing Spanish-speaking attendees to learn in their native language enhances the learning experience and the caliber of the annual session event.

What’s the ADA doing with foreign dental associations?
Engaging the international dental community and maintaining positive rapport with dental organizations around the world is a priority for the ADA, especially given that oral health recognizes no borders.

The ADA continues to seek collaborations with national dental associations and other organizations in Latin America through the FDI World Dental Federation, through ADA participation at international dental conventions, through collaborations with the Pan American Health Organization and through collaborative agreements with international dental organizations in Latin America.

For example, the ADA recently collaborated with the Mexican Dental Association on identifying prominent Spanish-speaking experts in Mexico to present their courses in Spanish at the ADA annual session in Orlando.

The ADA is also working with the Haitian Dental Association to raise funds to help rebuild and restore the dental offices in Port au Prince that were destroyed by the earthquake in January through the Adopt-a-Practice: Rebuilding Dental Offices in Haiti campaign.

What was your experience at the 2010 FDI World Dental Congress in Brazil?
The annual FDI World Dental Congress offers the ADA a unique opportunity to connect with dental organizations from around the world, forming new relationships and nurturing existing ones.

The 2010 FDI World Dental Congress in Salvador allowed the association to gain visibility among Brazilian and other Latin American dental professionals.

Being that the 2011 congress will be held in Mexico City, the ADA will have a second opportunity to heighten its awareness in Latin America while identifying new projects and programs that could deliver value to dental professionals in this region of the world.
Arizona Dental Association honored for its efforts to reduce smoking

The organization is recognized during the Great American Smokeout event

The Arizona Dental Association (AzDA) received a Health Leadership Award on Nov. 18 from Arizonans Concerned About Smoking. The award recognizes the AzDA’s ongoing work in the fight against tobacco and its effort to promote a smoke-free environment.

The AzDA was one of the first two organizations to announce support for the Smoke-Free Arizona initiative in 2005. A year later, voters approved Proposition 201, which established a smoke-free workplace and public place law.

“On behalf of the entire Arizona Dental Association membership, we’re honored to receive this award,” said Mark Hughes, president of the AzDA board of trustees, who accepted the award at the ceremony.

“As dentists we see first-hand the devastating impact tobacco products have on oral health. We’re proud to be a partner in the fight against the harmful effects of tobacco and smoking.”

The AzDA was established in 1909 and is a non-profit professional organization representing a large majority of the active licensed and practicing dentists in Arizona.

An affiliate of the American Dental Association, the AzDA’s goal is to establish the highest standard of care for the public and support members in the pursuit of professional excellence.

The Health Leadership Award was presented at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center as part of the Great American Smokeout event in Phoenix.

Arizonans Concerned About Smoking is a non-profit, pro-health, organization that aims to save lives through public awareness regarding the hazards of tobacco use and by advocating public policy that promotes a more healthy, smoke-free society.

For more information visit www.arizonansconcernedaboutsmoking.com.

About the AzDA

Established in 1909, the Arizona Dental Association is a nonprofit professional organization representing a large majority of the active licensed and practicing dentists in Arizona.

Its component societies are the Central Arizona Dental Society, Northern Arizona Dental Society and Southern Arizona Dental Society.

As a constituent of the American Dental Association, AzDA encourages improvements in public oral health and promotes the art and science of dentistry through leadership, education and information.

Approximately 5,000 dental professionals attend AzDA’s annual Western Regional Dental Convention (www.WesternRegional.org). For more information about AzDA and its members, visit www.azda.org.

GNYDM executive director Edwab rings opening bell at New York Stock Exchange

By Fred Mischmershuizen, Online Editor

As everyone knows, it is considered quite an honor to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), and on Friday, Dec. 3, Dr. Robert R. Edwab, executive director of the Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) was among dignitaries selected to kick off the day’s trading along with executives from Marriott International.

As everyone knows, it is considered quite an honor to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), and on Friday, Dec. 3, Dr. Robert R. Edwab, executive director of the Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) was among dignitaries selected to kick off the day’s trading along with executives from Marriott International.

The New York Marriott Marquis was celebrating its 25th anniversary and its more than 20-year partnership with the GNYDM, and it was fitting that occasion for the ceremony, coming just two days after the conclusion of the 86th annual GNYDM event.

Located in Times Square, the New York Marriott Marquis is one of Marriott International’s flagship hotels, with 1,949 rooms and more than 100,000 square feet of banquet and meeting space.

Twenty-five years ago, no one could have imagined the thriving Times Square neighborhood as it is today. Back then, the area was so notorious for crime that even cab drivers avoided it, and the hotel gave away free lunches to cab drivers just to acquaint them with the neighborhood.

The GNYDM is one of the hotel’s most important clients and one of the largest dental congresses and expos in the United States. This year’s event ran from Nov. 26 to Dec. 1, and it attracted nearly 60,000 dental professionals from around the world to the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

Marriott officials said they appreciate their business partnership with the GNYDM throughout the years.

At the conclusion of trading on Dec. 5, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 19.68 points for the day, closing at 11,352.09.

As a constituent of the American Dental Association, AzDA encourages improvements in public oral health and promotes the art and science of dentistry through leadership, education and information.

An affiliate of the American Dental Association, the AzDA’s goal is to establish the highest standard of care for the public and support members in the pursuit of professional excellence.

Dr. Robert R. Edwab, executive director of the Greater New York Dental Meeting, fourth from right, helps ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Friday, Dec. 3. With Edwab are executives from The New York Marriott Marquis. (DTPhotography NYSE Euronext/Valerie Caviness)
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financial and logistical resources to make their vision a reality. That’s where Dentcubator comes in.

Now in its third year, Dentcubator is a group of investors and shareholders from 15 countries and 26 different states. Their goal is to seek out the most promising advances in new dental technology and bring these ideas to fruition.

This is an elite group. Among many others, it counts among its members such notables as Dr. William Arnett, Dr. Paul Feuerstein, Dr. Ron Jackson, Dr. Sonia Leziy, Dr. Ken Malament, Dr. Joerg Struh, Dr. Mauro Fradeani, Dr. Sonia Seid, Dr. Bill Dickerson, Dr. Hoy Maier, Dr. Manfred Pfeiffer, Dr. Brahm Miller, Dr. Gianluca Gambirini, Dr. Marco Martignoni, and Drs. Pedro, Leandro and Rogério Velasco of The Velasco Group in Brazil.

Dentcubator has 10 standing committees that receive proposals and evaluate them. In 2010 alone, Dentcubator fielded 70 proposals. Not only does the organization have the brains, they also have the much-needed financial capital and managerial expertise to make new products a reality.

Dentcubator is currently in the prototyping and testing phase for several new products, ranging from a new endodontic file system to advanced periodontal technology and even new software. A bit further back in the pipeline are a new obturation system, a bur made of a completely new material and number of biomarkers.

During the recent Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM), Dentcubator held its third annual meeting. In attendance, among many others, were Dr. L. Stephen Buchanan, Dr. Marc L. Nevins, Dr. John T. McSpadden, Dr. Richard Meissen, Dr. Lorne Lavine, Dr. Thomas J. McGarry and Barbro K. Brånemark of the Brånemark Osseointegration Center in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Dentcubator members said that New York is a fitting location for the group given the GNYDM’s position as the premier international dental meeting in the United States. The group’s leaders expressed gratitude to organizers of the GNYDM for helping spread the word about what it does.

“Dentcubator received an enormous number of submissions this year thanks to publicity we received through the e-mail blast the GNYDM sends to its members,” the chairman of Dentcubator said. “To our delight, we received responses from a number of countries as far away as India, and they said in their submissions that they read about Dentcubator in the GNYDM e-mail blast.”

Dentists who would like to submit proposals to Dentcubator are invited to contact the group at ideas@dentcubator.com.