

ADA speech

Dr. Charles H. Norman III,

Dear members of the ADA Board of Trustees, Dear colleagues,

This honorary membership is a tremendous joy for me.

The ADA and its efforts in promoting oral health in the United States and at global level have always been a source of inspiration for me.

I remember very well in the beginning of the past decade, applying for ADA Affiliate membership. Besides thus being part of the ADA organization, the possibility of accessing the most valuable information and strategies in terms of oral health promotion were, still are, tremendously important for me not only as a dentist in the private practice, but also for the professional organizations in which I'm involved.

The ADA, being on the frontline of the defense of dentists and the profession in the US, constituted regularly a source of inspiration to launch similar battles nationally in my country through the Portuguese Dental Association, regulatory body of the profession. In my Country, at a regional scale in the European Union and later on global perspective in the FDI.

I could never have imagined at the time, that one day I would be distinguished with such an honor!

Dear colleagues, now a days, more than ever, in this globalized world, it's necessary to defend the profession and dentists individually, locally, regionally, nationally, but also world level.

As the FDI – World Dental Federation is doing. This leadership is unique and irreplaceable!

Let me just give you two recent examples. The inclusion of oral health in the chronic diseases global strategy of the United Nations and the Minamata convention regarding the use of mercury, where dental public health issues were conveniently safeguarded under very demanding circumstances.

This Recognition by the ADA, one of the biggest, oldest and most respected professional organizations of the world is an enormous incentive to me, but mostly to the organizations I've been representing, to continue the fight on promoting access to oral health!

My sincere thanks to the Board of Trustees, to the ADA, to those I've working with this last years, many of them present in this room!

A special word for my colleagues in Portugal.