2015 Emerging Leaders in Dentistry Symposium Speakers

Jeffrey D. Amstutz, DDS, MBA, is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University and its School of Dental Medicine and completed an MBA at Kent State University. Following 10 years of dental practice in the United States, the Amstutz family was called to Africa where Jeff opened a dental clinic in Gabon, established a program to train Gabonese dental technicians and launched a mobile ministry to reach remote villages. They also served in Mali at the Koutiala Hospital for Women and Children and in Senegal. He joined Christian Medical & Dental Associations in 2012 as the Vice President for Dental Ministries, Peter E. Dawson Chair of Dentistry.

Peter E. Dawson, DDS, is a graduate of Emory University School of Dentistry. He is the author of three bestselling dental textbooks and the founder of the Dawson Academy, a renowned training center that has provided continuing dental education courses for dental professionals for more than 30 years. Dr. Dawson has lectured extensively worldwide, served as a visiting professor at universities and presided as president of three national dental academies. His passion for encouraging health professionals to lead balanced lives with an emphasis on Christian values is given fulfillment through a partnership with CMDA to expand CMDA’s dental ministries.

DeWitt Wilkerson, DMD, is a dentist and Senior Lecturer, Dawson Academy for Advanced Dental Study; St. Petersburg, Florida. Dr. DeWitt Wilkerson is a 1982 graduate of the University of Florida, College of Dentistry. He now serves as the senior lecturer at the Dawson Academy for Advanced Dental Study and is also an adjunct professor at the University of Florida, College of Dentistry. Dr. Wilkerson is the immediate past president of the American Equilibration Society.

Joan Forrest, BA, MS is the President and CEO of The Dawson Academy, headquartered in St. Petersburg, Florida. She joined The Dawson Academy in 1993 as Executive Director and was named CEO in 2004. Prior to joining The Academy, she was founder and president of Prime Performance, a training and consulting company specializing in building self-directed work teams and developing facilitative leadership. Her career has also included management positions with AT&T and United Technologies. Joan received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Florida and a Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. Joan has served her community as a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of Shorecrest Preparatory School, Chair of the Board of First United Methodist Church Preschool, and President of the Network of Christian Counseling Centers.

David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics), serves as the Chief Executive Officer for CMDA. From 1981 to 1991, he served as a missionary doctor in Kenya helping to transform Tenwek Hospital into one of the premier mission healthcare facilities in the world. Subsequently, he served as the Director of World Medical Mission, the medical arm of Samaritan’s Purse. As a leading spokesman for Christian healthcare professionals, Dr. Stevens has conducted hundreds of television, radio and print media interviews. He holds degrees from Asbury University, is an AOA graduate University of Louisville School of Medicine and is board certified in family practice.
David Maddy, DMD graduated from the University Of Louisville School Of Dentistry in 1981. After graduation he moved to Bradenton, Florida with his new wife. He had a solo general dentistry private practice for 31 years with an emphasis on restorative procedures. They have two children now 18 and 21 years old, one in college in Kentucky and the other in Australia doing post graduate study.

Dr. Maddy came to the Lord because of a short term dental mission trip in 1996. Because of this grace he made a commitment to the Lord to serve Him by short term missions as long as the Lord continues to call him to do so. In 2012, after retiring from private practice and over 20 dental mission trips later, Dr. Maddy took an assignment as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University Of Louisville Dental School. He saw this as an opportunity to continue missions but with a shift to train the next generation of dental missionaries. By God’s direction he has taken 47 dental students to Dominican Republic, Haiti, Peru and Honduras. Last summer he was appointed the Director of International Outreach and Service Learning at the dental school. This was a new position created to enhance the international outreach opportunities for the students. Dr. Maddy considers it a blessing and gift from God to have the opportunity to be part of the lives of the students at the University of Louisville.

John C. Cranham, DDS has a contemporary dental practice in Chesapeake, Virginia, focusing on cosmetic, restorative and implant services. An honors graduate of the Medical College of Virginia in 1988, Dr. Cranham maintains a strong relationship with his Alma Mata, as an Associate Clinical Professor. Dr. Cranham is an internationally recognized speaker on the Esthetic Principles of Smile Design, Contemporary Occlusal Concepts, Treatment Planning, Restoration Selection, Digital Photography, Laboratory Communication, and Happiness and Fulfillment in Dentistry.

He is the Clinical Director of The Dawson Academy where he is involved with many of the lecture and hands-on courses within curriculum. Additionally Dr. Cranham founded Cranham Dental Seminars which in February of 2008 merged with the Dawson Academy. As an active educator, he has provided over 650 days of continuing education for dental professionals throughout the world.

Dr. Cranham is an active member of numerous professional organizations including the American Dental Association, The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, The American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, and The American Equilibration Society. A published author, Dr. Cranham has published numerous articles on Restorative Dentistry. He maintains a strong commitment to providing the highest quality of dental care, along with developing sound educational programs that exceed the needs of today's dental professional. Dr. Cranham can be reached at smildoc@aol.com.