

Dr. Chad Gehani Honored



Dr. Chad Gehani was bestowed with the Distinguished Service Award by the IDA at its annual meeting held in September 2015. The award was given to him in recognition of his dedication and commitment to the profession of dentistry.

Dr. Gehani has always advocated for underprivileged people and ADA membership. He is the first Indian American to be president of the New York State Dental Association. He then advanced to service at the national level as Trustee of the American Dental Association.

Dr. Gehani is a respected clinician, visionary leader, passionate educator, admired mentor, humanitarian, and effective collaborator making significant contributions to organized dentistry, oral health care and dental education. He has always been concerned about the future of dentistry and thinks of what is best for our profession. As a leader, his vision is to unite the profession of dentistry, so that the ADA is the “Voice of Dentistry” in the United States and the most respected dental association globally. He believes creating unity will bring about the best in all the stakeholders of dentistry.

At its 155th meeting in October 2014, in San Antonio, Dr. Gehani was installed as Trustee of the American Dental Association representing the Second Trustee District (New York State, one of the largest state constituents). In addition, he served as an ADA Delegate from 2000-2014. He was a member of the Committee on International Programs and Development from 2005-2009; Council on Membership from 2006-2009; Chair, New York State Tripartite Grassroots Membership Initiative from 2002-2007; Member, Reference Committee on Membership, House of Delegates, 2003 and National Summit on Diversity, 2009-2010.

Dr. Gehani has been a successful leader with one of the largest and progressive state constituents of the American Dental Association, the New York State Dental Association, serving as its president from 2011-2012. During his tenure he successfully preserved adult dental Medicaid and created a task force to examine the licensure process (popularly known as PGY1 Task Force). His leadership experiences at the state level include Chair, Council on Membership & Communications; member, Council on Nominations; member, Board of Governors; member, Executive Committee/Board of Trustees; and member, Council on Awards. During his

presidency, NYSDA was successful in passing legislation to include young dentists/recent graduates willing to serve in areas of decreased access to care to the New York State loan forgiveness program. He is a strong promotor of the slogan, "Good Oral Health will lead to Good Overall Health."

In 2003, he was installed as the President of the Queens County Dental Society. Since 2005, he has served as a member, Board of Directors of the Empire Dental Political Action Committee and the New York State Dental Foundation.

Dr. Gehani is one of the most respected leaders of the New York State Dental Association, the Queens County Dental Society and the Indian Dental Association, (USA) Inc. His influence extends to many other ethnic groups within dentistry. He is widely respected for his ability to bring all the stakeholders together and has been personally responsible for an impressive increase in membership in organized dentistry in the New York City area and in several other components in the country.

In appreciation of his diligent efforts, community service and volunteerism, Dr. Gehani has received various awards including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, 2015; Emil Lentchner Distinguished Service Award of Queens County Dental Society, 2013; Distinguished Service Award of The Pierre Fauchard Academy , New York Section, 2013; Honorary Life Member, Indian Dental Association (India), 2008; New York State Dental Foundation Award of Excellence in Community Service, 2006; Honored by the President of the Dominican Republic, 2003; International College of Dentists Award for International Dental Service, 2000; Best Teacher Award, International College of Dentists (India Section), 1990. In addition, Dr. Gehani has several commendable achievements at the local, state, national and international level. He is a Fellow, of American College of Dentists, Fellow, International College of Dentists, Fellow, Pierre Fauchard Academy, Honorary life member of the Indian Dental Association, India, and honorary life member of the Indian Endodontic Society.

Dr. Gehani has given over 250 lectures worldwide. His speaking engagements include presenting at the American Dental Association, Federation Dentaire International, Asia Pacific Dental Federation, Asia Pacific Dental Congress, Greater New York Dental Meeting, Greater Long Island Dental Meeting and many more. Dr. Gehani is the only individual who has given the coveted Colgate Oration twice, the highest honor to any individual bestowed upon by the Indian Dental Association, India.

Dr. Gehani is an Endodontist in private practice. He received his dental training at the University of Bombay, with post-graduate training in Endodontics from Columbia University. He has been an Associate Clinical

Professor of Endodontics at New York University College of Dentistry since 1982 and is chair of the Department of Endodontics at Flushing Hospital Medical Center. He has mentored many young dentists, many who are involved in leadership roles at various levels in organized dentistry.

Dr. Gehani has an impressive record of contributions to international dentistry. He gathers dentists from Southeast Asia at various dental institutions in an effort to train them with American dental techniques so that they can serve patients more effectively. He visits Southeast Asia frequently to lecture and encourage young dentists to consider their postdoctoral study in the United States. He is also an advisor to at least five dental colleges in India.

The Gehani's are well known in the dental community. His wife, Dr. Rekha Gehani, is past chair and board member of the New York State Board of Dentistry and has served at the New York State Office of Professional Discipline. Their son, Dr. Daniel Gehani, and daughter, Dr. Kiren Gehani Patel, are both orthodontists and their youngest son, Dr. Neal Gehani, is an ENT surgeon.

Chad is well known for speaking his mind. He has been a tireless supporter of integration and for fostering a spirit of inclusiveness for all dentists united under one umbrella, the ADA. He is a known advocate of organized dentistry. He believes all dentists should have one effective and united voice and in equal treatment for all dentists practicing in the United States.