

# HONORARY FELLOWS

The Board may confer Honorary Fellowship upon an individual (not necessarily a dentist) who has rendered conspicuous service to the cause of dental science, has contributed to the promotion of the dental profession or has otherwise significantly advanced the dental profession within the Section. Honorary Fellowship is a rare honour. During the 58 year history of Section VIII, the Board of Regents has awarded Honorary Fellowship to only seventeen individuals. The Board has made a concerted effort in recent years to identify colleagues in the Australasian region who deserve the recognition of ICD Honorary Fellowship for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of oral health.

The Board is very proud to formally induct Catherine Snelling and Janet Wallace tonight as Honorary Fellows of Section VIII. Also tonight William Wadebho Alimani, Ioan Sloan and Ringo Paluku Wanzirendi are being inducted in absentia as Honorary Fellows. Honorary Fellows previously inducted into Section VIII are Sir Asher Joel (1975), Martin Halas (1990), John Harrington (1995), Peter Lazar AM (2003), Eric Reynolds AO (2008), Laynesh Gebrehiwot (2013), Keith Mentiplay (2018), Wendy Toulmin AM (2018), Margie Steffens OAM (2021), Jan Owen AM (2021), and Liz Webb (2022).



**Adjunct A/PROF CATHERINE SNELLING (Honorary)**

Cert. Dental Therapy (SA government), B. Education (Uni SA), Grad  
Cert Higher Education (Adelaide)  
Dental Therapist, Roxby Downs and Adelaide

Academic Titleholder, University of Adelaide Dental School (academic appointment 2002-2021)  
Educational consultant in oral health and higher education. Director, Australian Dental Council  
2012-2021; Vice President 2019-2021; Chair, Assessment Committee 2019-2021. Item writer for  
Australian Dental Council Examinations and Assessments since 2023. Senior Fellow, Higher  
Education Academy, United Kingdom since 2017. Recognised as an outstanding dental educator  
through awards including Australian Award for University Teaching, Office for Learning and  
Teaching 2013; International Award for Teaching Excellence in Higher Education, Flipped  
Learning Global Initiative 2018; Stephen Cole the Elder Award for Excellence in Teaching and  
Support for Learning, University of Adelaide 2013 and 2017; Australian Awards for University  
Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning, Australian Government 2010  
and 2017; Vice-Chancellor's and President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of  
Adelaide 2010.



**PROF JANET PATRICIA WALLACE (Honorary)**

PhD (Newcastle), GCPTT (Newcastle), BOH (Newcastle), Dip DT (Westmead), Dip BM (NSW Health)  
Professor of Oral Health, University of Sydney Dental School

Honorary Professor of Oral Health, University of Newcastle. Senior Smiles architect and chief investigator. ADA Valuable Service Award 2021. Honorary Member Dental Hygiene Association Australia (DHAA) 2021. Alliance Across Borders Global Award Recipient 2019. Life Member Australian Dental & Oral Health Therapists Association (ADOHTA) 2005. Dental Council NSW, Appointed Member 2013 - 2021. ADC Assessor since 2014. Member, Dental Council New Zealand Accreditation Committee since 2019. Member Australasian Council of Dental Schools (ACODS) 2018 - 2020. Dedicated to oral health education and research and improving the oral health of the elderly.



**PROF ALASTAIR J SLOAN (Honorary)**

*(in absentia)*

BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences (Wales), PhD (Birmingham), PGCert Learning & Teaching (Birmingham)

Head, Melbourne Dental School and Professor of Tissue Engineering and Dental Biology

Following a PhD in Oral Biology & Pathology and postdoctoral research, embarked on an academic career first at the School of Dentistry, University Birmingham, UK 2000-2005; School of Dentistry, Cardiff University, UK 2005-2020; and latterly Melbourne Dental School, University of Melbourne. Director of Cardiff Institute for Tissue Engineering and Repair, Cardiff University 2015-2017; Director of International and Research and International, School of Dentistry 2013-2017 and Head of School, School of Dentistry 2017-2020. Head, Melbourne Dental School since 2020. Awarded IADR Distinguished Scientist Young Investigators Award 2011 and the IADR Distinguished Scientist Award, the Isaac Schour Memorial Award 2021. President, IADR Pulp Biology and Regeneration Group 2010-2011; Constitutional Committee 2016-2019 and Chair 2018-2019; Nominations Committee 2020-2023 and Chair 2022-2023; William J Geis Award Committee 202-2023; Assistant Treasurer, BSODR 2013-2020; Tissue and Cell Engineering Society Executive Committee Member 2009-2019. Chair Australian Council of Dental Schools (ACODS) and Chair Australasian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART). Grant panel member for the National Centre for the 3Rs (UK), EU Eureka Eurostars programme, Research Foundation Flanders Med09 Panel and member of the Australian Dental Research Foundation (ADRF) research advisory committee. Awarded over \$10M in external competitive research funding and published over 100 peer reviewed articles and 7 books/book chapters.



**WILLIAM WADEBHO ALIMANI (Honorary) (*in absentia*)**

The village of Ekanga, Ituri Province,  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

William was born in 1955 in the village of Ekanga in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, close to the Uganda border. His primary school education began at age 9, completing four years in French-speaking Congo before moving to Uganda with an uncle where he finished his primary schooling in English. William was never able to complete secondary school as Idi Amin's murderous reign caused massive social dislocation. So much so that in 1979, at age 18, William had to flee back across the border to the relative security of Congo, now re-named 'Zaire' by its own dictator president, Mobutu Sese Seku. William returned to his village and for the next six years, grew cassava, coffee and other vegetables in his family's field to enable them to survive.

In 1985 William was selected to undertake a nursing course in Boga with the Anglican Church's Medical Service. He completed the two year course becoming the first qualified nurse in Ekanga and worked with two midwives for another two years. In 1989 William was again selected to move 600 kilometres south to the large provincial town of Butembo where he began learning basic dental techniques under the tutelage of Australian dentist, Fellow Graham Toulmin. William joined the Anglican dental team in Butembo, working with Timon Grodya, another Boga-trained nurse who had arrived a year before. After Dr Toulmin and his family were evacuated back to Australia in 1991, the trainees were left in charge of the Butembo Dental Clinic. William became the Dentist in Charge until the second Congo War when he and his family were evacuated back to their home territory for safety.

With assistance from Australia via the Toulmins, a dental clinic was opened in Aru (near William's village) in 2004 and a third dental clinic opened in Mahagi, 200 kms away, in 2010. William has overseen both clinics and continued his work with competence yet without any dental qualifications. In 2015, the Toulmins returned for five years to work with William and to establish a dental training school in Aru.



In 2018, Dr Toulmin approached Sydney University's Dental School to acknowledge the service that William had faithfully carried out over a thirty year career, treating dental problems including multiple fractured mandibles. William had become the most competent oral surgeon for 600 kilometres. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Dental Science from the University of Sydney for his years of service.

William is deeply grateful for being inducted in absentia in Sydney as an Honorary Fellow of the ICD and is sorry that he cannot be here in person. He sends his greetings to all present and his overwhelming thanks to the College for this great honour. Fellows Graham and Wendy Toulmin returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to present William with his ICD Fellowship certificate and pin at a special presentation ceremony in the Butembo Anglican Church (where the Australian-assisted dental work all began) on September 17th with many dignitaries from the town and the surrounding region in attendance. Graham and Wendy are at the Sydney induction ceremony tonight to symbolically accept the honour of ICD Fellowship on behalf of William.

*(Information and photos provided by Graham Toulmin AM, FICD)*



## **RINGO PALUKU WANZIRENDI (Honorary)**

*(in absentia)*

Anglican Diocese North Kivu, Butembo City,  
Democratic Republic of Congo

Ringo was born in 1971 in the large provincial town of Butembo in Eastern Zaïre - now the Democratic Republic of Congo. At age 16, Ringo told his parents he wanted to be a mechanic and they were not happy, wanting him to become a teacher like his father. His parents relented and Ringo completed a three year motor mechanics apprenticeship. During these years he sang in one of the choirs at the Anglican Church during the time that the Anglican Church's Medical Service missionary team had arrived from Australia. Ringo captured the attention of the dentist in the team, Fellow Graham Toulmin.

After establishing a small dental clinic and training two nurses in basic dental techniques, Grodya and William, Dr Toulmin organised dental safaris to outlying villages. The roads were atrocious, especially in the wet season so Dr Toulmin hired Ringo to dig the vehicle out when it got bogged and to maintain the vehicles. Out in the villages, Ringo observed Dr Toulmin extracting teeth and became interested in providing dental treatment. Dr Toulmin decided to invite Ringo onto the dental team to teach him how to make dentures. Unfortunately, these plans were thrown into disarray by the oncoming Congo wars and the Toulmins were forced to return to Australia leaving Grodya and William running the dental clinic in Butembo. They suggested to Ringo that he go to Boga for nursing training then on his return they would train him as a dentist. Subsequently, Ringo was trained in the same 'apprenticeship' way by Grodya and William, as they had been trained by Dr Toulmin. After the Congo Wars, Ringo was appointed 'Dentist in Charge' of the Butembo Dental Clinic. To satisfy new government requirements for qualifications to deliver medical and dental care, Ringo enrolled in the dental course that had been started by Graham and Wendy Toulmin in Aru, 600 kilometres north of Butembo, in 2013. Ringo graduated with distinction. Since his graduation, Ringo has continued as a practising dentist and oral surgeon in Butembo and returns regularly to the Aru Dental School as one of their 'professeurs'. With his leadership he has transformed the original Butembo clinic facilities and has established three other smaller dental clinics in the surrounding regions.



Ringo was overjoyed with the news that he had been accepted as an Honorary Fellow of the International College of Dentists and sends heartfelt thanks to the College. Fellows Graham and Wendy Toulmin returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to present Ringo with his ICD Fellowship certificate and pin at a special presentation ceremony in the Butembo Anglican Church (where the Australian-assisted dental work all began) on September 17th with many dignitaries from the town and the surrounding region in attendance. Graham and Wendy are at the Sydney induction ceremony tonight to symbolically accept the honour of ICD Fellowship on behalf of Ringo.

*(Information provided by Graham Toulmin AM)*