

About the author

Dr Paul V. Abbott

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Professorial Fellow -

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Endodontist - Private Practice

Paul Abbott completed his undergraduate dental training (BDS) at the University of Western Australia in 1979 and after several years in general practice in country areas of WA, he obtained his MDS degree in Endodontics from the University of Adelaide in 1985. In 1990, he was then the first dentist to obtain a Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons by examination in the Special Field of Endodontics - FRACDS(Endo).



From 1986 until 1995, Prof. Abbott worked in Perth, Western Australia as a Specialist Endodontist in private practice. He was also an Honorary Consultant Endodontist at Perth Dental Hospital, and a part-time Senior Lecturer in Endodontics at The University of Western Australia where he co-ordinated both the undergraduate and postgraduate endodontic courses.

In 1995, Prof. Abbott moved to Melbourne and worked there in private practice as a specialist Endodontist until mid-2002. During this time, he was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne's School of Dental Science where he co-ordinated the postgraduate training program in endodontics from 1997-99, and then he became a Senior Fellow and continued teaching in the postgraduate endodontic training program until 2002. He was also a Visiting Consultant Endodontist at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne from 1997-2001.

In 2002, Prof. Abbott was invited to take an appointment as a Professorial Fellow in Endodontics at the University of Western Australia's new dental school, known as the Oral Health Centre of WA. He commenced duties there in July 2002 and he also continues to work in private practice as a part-time specialist Endodontist in Perth, WA.

Prof. Abbott has maintained an active involvement in dental research, having published 49 articles in refereed dental journals and 43 articles for dental newsletters on various aspects of endodontics and dental practice. He has also contributed to 4 dental textbooks, written 11 course manuals, and published 25 Abstracts, 16 Letters to the Editor, and 7 Book Reviews in various journals and newsletters. In 1997, he wrote a comprehensive teaching manual (entitled "Endodontics and Dental Traumatology - An Overview of Modern Endodontics") that has been adopted by most Australian dental schools, the Fiji Dental School, and the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA) as an endodontic text book/manual for undergraduate dental courses.

Prof. Abbott has been invited to present over 320 major lectures and continuing dental education courses in all States and Territories of Australia, as well as in 22 other countries (Argentina, Canada, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, England, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, Venezuela and Vietnam).

Other universities have invited Prof. Abbott to participate in their endodontic programs. Prof. Abbott has developed the curriculum for undergraduate endodontic courses at several overseas universities and has been a Visiting Professor on two occasions at the Fiji School of Medicine Dental Department. He has been an external examiner for Masters degree courses in Endodontics at several Australian universities and in New Zealand. He has also been an external examiner for undergraduate examinations at various universities, and an examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Special Stream Examination in Endodontics.

Prof. Abbott has served on many committees with a particular interest in continuing education - he is:

- the President-Elect of the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA) for 2001-04; and he was the Secretary / Editor from 1998-2001. He will serve a three-year term as the President of IFEA from 2004 until 2007.
- a Past Federal President of the Australian Society of Endodontology Inc. (ASE Inc).
- a Past President of the Asian-Pacific Endodontic Confederation (APEC) and currently Councillor for Australia; he has also been the Editor of the APEC Newsletter (1997-99) and was formerly the Treasurer for 5 years.
- a member of the Education Committees of the ASE (Inc) and IFEA.
- the Co-ordinator of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons' Board of Studies in Endodontics, and a member of the Panel of Examiners for the Special Stream Fellowship Examination.
- a member of the Scientific Review Panel for the Endodontics Section of the journal: Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology & Endodontics.
- a member of the Editorial Advisory Boards and a Scientific Referee for the following major international dental journals:
 - Endodontic Practice
 - International Endodontic Journal
 - Australian Dental Journal.
- a referee for numerous other international and national dental journals
- a former Chairman of the Australian Dental Association's Victorian Branch Group D.
- a member and former President/Chairman of many other study groups/professional societies.

Prof. Abbott's contributions to dentistry have been recognised internationally through invitations to Fellowship in three international dental academies and colleges (the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the Academy of Dentistry International, and the International College of Dentists).

SAMPLE of part of the tutorial section:

Diagnosis of Pulp and Periapical Diseases

Introduction

There is considerable confusion amongst dentists (including endodontists) and within textbooks regarding the diagnosis of pulp and periapical diseases. Much of this confusion stems from the lack of a universally-accepted and clinically-useful classification for these diseases. Most texts have their own classification which will be based on the author's own thoughts and experiences.

Traditional approaches to endodontics have attempted to correlate the histological and clinical findings but numerous studies have shown that it is not possible to clinically diagnose the true histological state of the pulp. This has led to confusion in the terminology used and the traditional diagnostic terms have not helped with the treatment planning processes because of this confusion. Further limitations that affect the ability of clinicians to diagnose pulp disease result from the lack of adequate clinical tests to assess the presence or absence of the pulp's blood supply, and the variety of symptoms that occur from one patient to another, and even from one tooth to another in the same patient.

In order to diagnose pulp and periapical diseases, it is essential to have an understanding of these diseases, what causes them and how they progress through different stages. Pulp and periapical diseases are dynamic processes that typically follow a number of stages, and hence the symptoms will vary at each stage. The diagnosis must therefore be largely based on the history provided by the patient as this will indicate to the clinician the stage of the disease process at the time of presentation for treatment.



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Figures 1 - 3 outline the typical progression of pulp and periapical diseases.

The classification used in this CD-ROM is a simple, practical diagnostic system that uses terminology based on clinical findings which will help direct clinicians towards the correct and most conservative therapy for each condition.