

SPRING EDITION 2008



American Academy of Oral
& Maxillofacial Pathology



Photo by Vipul Bajpai

Record high attendance expected for AAOMP- IAOP meeting

Record-high abstract submissions and correspondingly high attendance are projected for the upcoming historic joint meeting of AAOMP and the International Association of Oral Pathologists (IAOP), June 22-26, in San Francisco.

Approximately 300 abstracts have been submitted from 150 institutions, representing over 30 countries on 6 continents. Some attendees requesting oral presentation will be asked to use the poster format instead, because of time and space constraints. "Your understanding of our limitations in this regard is appreciated," says AAOMP president John Fantasia. The poster format is so successful this year that it is being considered for future AAOMP meetings.

"The organizing committee has been hard at work ensuring a scientifically and socially rewarding experience. The hard work of the people responsible for the abstract sessions needs to be acknowledged. Drs. Valerie Murrah and Susan Zunt, with the help of their able staff, Judy Dow, Nicole Guerretaz, and Julie LeHunt, and the IT staff at Indiana University, Justin Robinson, Amer Hussein, and Chad Beckner, have been hard at work organizing the abstract sessions. They have provided a seamless effort in coordinating this important component of the program," says Dr Fantasia.

(continued on page 6)

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting
June 22 - 26
San Francisco CA
USA

The Fairmont Hotel
950 Mason Street
Ph 415-772-5000

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ADA clarifies issue of concern

Recently, Dr. Paul Freedman brought to our attention a document from CMS indicating the May 23, 2008 implementation date for the use of the National Provider Identifier (NPI). In the text of this announcement there was wording indicating Physicians (MD and DO) are the only types of providers eligible to refer/order services or items for beneficiaries. We recognize that the word physician includes DDS and DMD in the definition of a physician. However the parenthetical (MD and DO) wording of the document was of concern. We contacted the ADA, specifically Frank Kyle, Jr., D.D.S., M.S., Manager, Legislative & Regulatory Policy, American Dental Association, Washington, D.C. Office. He helped to clarify and resolve the issue. The announcement (MM5890) was revised by CMS eliminating the parenthetical reference to MD and DO following the word physician. Thanks to Paul for bringing this to our attention and a special thanks to Dr. Kyle for working on this issue. This demonstrates the benefits of a close working relationship with the ADA. For our memberships records; Section 186 (r) of the Social Security Act defines Physician:

Physician:
(r) The term "physician", when used in connection with the performance of any function or action, means (1) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine and surgery by the State in which he performs such function or action (including a physician within the meaning of section 1101(a)(7)), (2) a doctor of dental surgery or of dental medicine who is legally authorized to practice dentistry by the State in which he performs such function and who is acting within the scope of his license when he performs such functions, (3) a doctor of podiatric medicine for the purposes of subsections (k), (m), (p)(1), and (s) of this section and sections 1814(a), 1832(a)(2)(F)(ii), and 1835 but only with respect to functions which he is legally authorized to perform as such by the State in which he performs them, (4) a doctor of optometry, but only for purposes of subsection (p)(1) with respect to the provision of items or services described in subsection (s) which he is legally authorized to perform as a doctor of optometry by the State in which he performs them, or (5) a chiropractor who is licensed as such by the State (or in a State which does not license chiropractors as such, is legally authorized to perform the services of a chiropractor in the jurisdiction in which he performs such services), and who meets uniform minimum standards promulgated by the Secretary, but only for the purpose of sections 1861(s)(1) and 1861(s)(2)(A) and only with respect to treatment by means of manual manipulation of the spine (to correct a subluxation) which he is legally authorized to perform by the State or jurisdiction in which such treatment is provided. For the purposes of section 1862(a)(4) and subject to the limitations and conditions provided in the previous sentence, such term includes a doctor of one of the arts, specified in such previous sentence, legally authorized to practice such art in the country in which the inpatient hospital services (referred to in such section 1862(a)(4)) are furnished.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AAOMP attends CAPs Strategic Planning Session

In January, I represented AAOMP at the College of American Pathologists, Council of Government and Professional Affairs, meeting with other national pathology organizations. This is an annual meeting sponsored by CAP's Washington office to discuss advocacy priorities with other pathology constituents. The invited organizations included: American Pathology

Foundation; American Society of Cytopathology, Association for Molecular Pathology, Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology, Association of Pathology Chairs, National Association of Medical Examiners, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology and AAOMP.

An overview of health policy was presented by CAP staff. Highlights were 1) concerns about the insolvency of Medicare; 2) value based purchasing (pay for performance); 3) competitive bidding issues; 4) regulatory issues related to molecular testing; 5) partnering with parent professional societies; 6) importance of visibility in promoting advocacy issues.

Scope of practice issues were discussed and there is growing concern that pathology work being done out of state may be impacted by state laws requiring providers be licensed in the state from which a specimen is sent.

It was stated emphatically by some, and endorsed by all, that pathologists need to move closer to patient care. AAOMP informed the group that most oral and maxillofacial pathologists are actively involved in clinical care.

A major issue facing physician pathologists are POD labs and contractual joint ventures. The term POD lab is used to denote a variety of different business structures that permit a referring physician, who frequently orders anatomical pathology services, to share in revenues earned by those referrals, even though the physician does not actually perform or supervise the services. Group urology and gastroenterology practices, both of which frequently order anatomic pathology services, have been the focus of attention regarding so-called POD labs. These arrangements have been the focus of intense scrutiny by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CAP likewise is concerned about the potential for abuse regarding such arrangement between clinicians and pathologists.

Medicare issues included a discussion on sustainable growth rate; a formula that attempts to decrease Medicare reimbursement as volume for a particular service increases, thus trying to "delay" the insolvency issues faced by CMS. CAP will seek greater transparency to Medically Unlikely Edits; support legislation to repeal CMS's Competitive Bidding Authority; and seek federal protection for laboratories from Gene Patent Holders.

AAOMP defined our specialty to the group, reviewed our scope of practice, indicated our working relationship with the ADA, our specialty's involvement with the Intersociety Pathology Council, North American Society of Head and Neck Pathology, and the ABOMP relationship and shared arrangement with the American Board of Pathology in Tampa.

AAOMP advocacy issues relayed to CAP included 1) concerns about ICD9 filtering policies that directly affect the practice of pathology and in particular oral and maxillofacial pathology; 2) awareness of issues legislative and insurance related that directly affect the ability of oral and maxillofacial pathologists to provide care that is in the best interest of their patients; 3) specialty concerns about the ever increasing role of industry on funding research that is motivated by profit and marketing of "tests" that have little or no scientific basis.

John E. Fantasia

AAOMP and ADA look for stronger ties

Stronger ties between AAOMP and the American Dental Association were key to the agenda when the officers of both groups met at ADA headquarters in February. AAOMP President John Fantasia characterized the meeting as “substantive and informative.”

Discussion included cooperation on advocacy issues and government affairs that are likely to impact our specialty. Dr Fantasia said, “We informed them of our opinion, echoed by other dental specialties, that strong support of the recognized specialties by the ADA would only strengthen the profession, and not dilute the importance of advanced dental education with resultant public confusion regarding qualifications and credentials. We remain committed to supporting improvements in the ADA/CODA accrediting process.

“We also voiced concerns regarding the tone and accuracy in the marketing of certain commercial products, devices and tests/procedures that the ADA seems to have embraced. Rescheduling of a previously canceled “expert panel” was suggested by AAOMP. We offered the expertise of OMFP on the panel and reaffirmed our specialty’s unique position regarding these issues,” said Dr Fantasia.

AAOMP proposed a higher profile in ADA sponsored programs such as the annual New Dentist Symposium, the ADA General Session, and Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) program, the later is administered by the ADA Foundation. Dr Fantasia said, “The GKAS is a very well received program which could represent an opportunity to inform children about the health risks associated with tobacco use, at an age when the anti-tobacco message is likely to have the greatest impact. It was ADA’s suggestion that this could be best accomplished at the local level with a volunteer pilot program and then hopefully expand upon this initiative.”

“Subsequent to our meeting we have been offered to submit course outlines that would be of interest to the New Dentist Symposium. We are in communication with the ADA Government Affairs, Washington office, and are partnering with the ADA Political Affairs/ADPAC Grassroots efforts. We have also been in communication with the Council of Dental Benefits regarding concerns about billing and payment issues that are specialty specific.”

ADA President Mark Feldman, President- Elect John Findley, and Executive Director James Bramson hosted the Chicago meeting. John Fantasia, Valerie Murrah, Susan Zunt, Lawrence Goldblatt, and Janet Svazas represented the AAOMP.

Dim Sum, Wine Tour added to San Francisco Meeting

Dim Sum Luncheon

Dim Sum is a delicious type of Chinese cuisine featuring little dishes of food accompanied by tea. The IAOP/AAOMP Spousal Program will feature a Dim Sum luncheon in San Francisco’s Chinatown on Monday, June 23rd. The group will meet in the Fairmont hotel lobby at noon. Cost will be about \$15. Make a reservation by email to program coordinator, Joan Leider: ALeider575@aol.com

Napa Valley Wine Tour with picnic lunch and ferry ride

We will visit five wineries in the Napa Valley with an outdoor picnic lunch at one of the wineries. The bus will pick us up at the Fairmont at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 21st. We will return across the bay by ferry boat to San Francisco around 6:00 PM. Total cost inclusive of bus tour, wine tasting fees, lunch, tour guide and gratuities is \$150 per person. Limited to 40 persons. Pay by Visa or MC in advance. FAX card number, expiration date, and 3 digit code # on the back of the Card or call Dr. Roy Eversole with charge card info. For security reasons do not send over internet. Credit card charges will be made to OPDS (Oral Pathology Diagnostic Services). FAX 858-573-2687 or call 858-492-9500. Deadline for registration for the Wine Tour is May 15.

Canadian academy embraces oral pathology and oral medicine

The Canadian Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology and Oral Medicine (CAOMPOM) is a friendly mingling of oral pathology and oral medicine specialists, according to its president Sara Gordon.

The CAOMPOM will hold its Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the AAOMP and IAOP in San Francisco, followed by a scientific session case exchange. It will be held on Tuesday, June 24th at 5:00 pm in the International Room. The academy will also hold its Interim General Meeting and scientific session in conjunction with the American Academy of Oral Medicine in Tucson in late April.

The CAOMPOM represents the merged specialties, which share a core national qualifying exam with separate additional sections for oral medicine and for oral pathology specialist designations. The national qualifying exam is administered by the Royal College of Dentists of Canada. Qualified specialists are conferred Fellowship in the college, with the designation FRDC.

Officers this year are: president Sara Gordon, vice-president and president-elect Grace Bradley, secretary Catalena Birek, and treasurer Karen Burgess. The past-president and representative to the CDA's Council on Specialist Affairs is John Perry.

Murrah elected VP of Intersociety Pathology Council

First dentist to hold office in organization



Valerie Murrah was elected vice-president of the Intersociety Pathology Council (IPC) recently, becoming the first dentist to take office in the society that represents all pathology organizations in North America.

The IPC was formed in 1968 and meets annually at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology meeting. The mission of the Intersociety Pathology Council is to provide a unified voice for the discipline of pathology in North America.

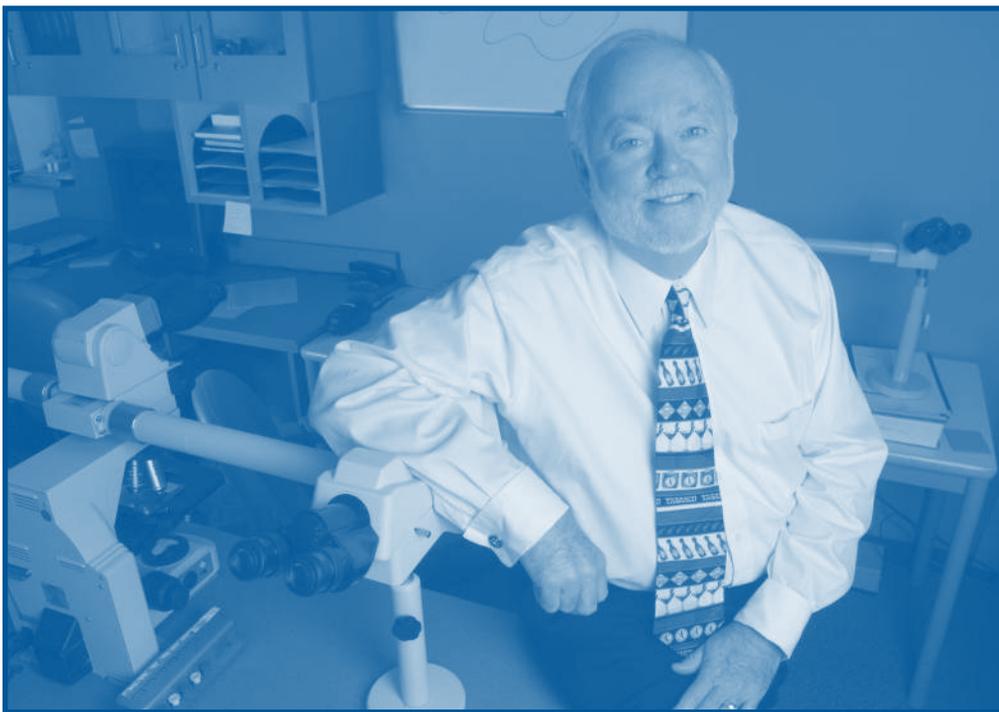
Dr. Murrah has represented the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and American

Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology on the Intersociety Pathology Council for 5 years.

"I strongly feel that the representation of both the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology serves to promote the interests of dentists within the larger community of medicine," she said. "My theme for both oral and maxillofacial pathology and dentistry has always been to obtain and maintain a seat at the table of all formal organizations that can affect the practice of pathology and dentistry in the United States."

The IPC's 24 participant organizations include the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, American Society of Investigative Pathology, College of American Pathologists, and Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Representatives from all constituent organizations, examining boards and governmental pathology agencies work toward mutual goals in clinical practice, legislative affairs, patient advocacy and research.

Its objectives include serving as a North American forum for discussion of all matters of pathology interest, serving as a clearing house for scheduling of national meetings and serving as a forum to promote networking among US and Canadian pathology organizations, according to Dr Murrah.



Dr Ronnie Weathers received the Emory Medal, the university's highest alumni honor recently.

Photo by Ann Borden.

Dr Ronnie Weathers receives Emory Medal

Longtime AAOMP member and past-president Dr Ronnie Weathers recently received Emory University's highest alumni honor, the 2007 Emory Medal, in a formal ceremony at the Emory Conference Center. There was only one other recipient.

"Dr Weathers began his lifelong relationship with Emory as an undergraduate more than 50 years ago", according to Emory University spokesman Eric Rangus. He earned his bachelor's degree, dental degree, and masters of science from Emory.

"He has been a member of the faculty since then, first in the former Emory School of Dentistry (where he served as dean), and now in the School of Medicine," says Rangus. "Dr Weathers continues to give back to his alma mater through the education of its students, the care of its patients, the mentoring of fellow physicians and contributions and leadership in the wider health care community. Now the vice chairman for oral pathology and director of the Office of Dental Programs in the School of Medicine, Dr Weathers is a distinguished champion of health care and medical education."

"The Emory Medal can be considered a lifetime achievement award—except that our 2007 recipients continue making exceptional contributions to Emory and the world at large. Their leadership in the Emory community continues to grow, and all of us can be thankful for their cherished contributions. On behalf of the entire Emory community, the Emory Alumni Association is proud to congratulate our new Emory Medalists," says Allison Dykes, vice president for alumni relations.

Oral and maxillofacial pathologist position at Columbia University, College of Dental Medicine

Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, Division of Oral Pathology within the Section of Hospital Dentistry seeks a board certified oral and maxillofacial pathologist. Responsibilities include clinical patient care, surgical pathology, and the development of a funded research program. Candidates must have a D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree from an accredited U.S. or Canadian dental school, have successfully completed an accredited oral and maxillofacial pathology residency program, have either a Ph.D. degree or evidence of research experience, and have or be eligible for New York State licensure. Additionally, there will be the opportunity to join the newly created Center for Skin and Oral Mucosal Biology. The initial level of appointment (Assistant Professor or Associate Professor) and salary will be commensurate with credentials and experience. This position is available as soon as possible, and will remain open until it is successfully filled. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, three references, and a letter outlining academic goals and research interests to:

David J. Zegarelli, D.D.S.
College of Dental Medicine
Columbia University Medical Center
630 West 168th St., Box 20
New York, NY, 10032
djz1@columbia.edu

Columbia University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

NASHNP to sponsor specialty conference at USCAP meeting

The North American Society for Head and Neck Pathology (NASHNP) will sponsor a new head and neck specialty conference to be held with the annual US and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) meeting, starting next year. The conference was recently approved by the educational committee of USCAP. The conference format will be unknown case presentation and discussion, and the cases will be forwarded to the members before the meeting. This announcement was a highlight of NASHNP's annual meeting in Denver, CO, on March 2, 2008.

NASHNP also had a scientific session entitled "Diagnostic Challenges in Head and Neck Pathology." At the annual meeting, NASHNP elected a new

slate of officers, including President, Dr Samir K. El-Mofty; Vice-President / President elect, Dr Bruce Wenig; Secretary, Dr Manju Prasad; and Treasurer, Dr Nasser Said Al-Naief. The new co-editor of Head and Neck Pathology Journal is Dr Susan Mueller.

For more information on NASHNP, contact Dr El-Mofty at elmofty@wustl.edu or visit the society's website, headandneckpathology.com.

You must not miss the San Francisco meeting

(continued from page 1)

"An intriguing line up of continuing education courses, symposia, seminars, abstract presentations, keynote address and clinical pathologic correlation conference are offered, with enough continuing education credits to spare.

John Wright and Susan Zunt have finalized the CPC session and the contributors will have cases to tweak the recesses of an oral pathologist's brain. John Hellstein and his continuing education committee promises a challenging CCA program. Mike Kahn, John Kalmar and the Scientific Program Committee will be working overtime at this year's meeting, ensuring a successful conference. Janet and Liz have been hard at work as usual, as crunch time for the meeting is upon us," says Dr Fantasia.

The local arrangement committee, Richard Jordan, Roy Eversole, Bill Carpenter, Darren Cox, John Greenspan and Troy Daniels, has been also been working on a number of items that will ensure that the goals of the meeting are met. Joni Leider has organized a nearby trip from the Fairmont to San Francisco's Chinatown, to supplement the already scheduled spouse's afternoon reception and the AAOMP past presidents sponsored spouses' continental breakfast. San Francisco sightseeing will be available through the Hotel concierge. Dr Roy Eversole has organized a pre-meeting wine tour to Napa valley, June, 21.

The social program includes the Monday Presidents' Reception, the Tuesday evening Resident Reception (open to all and hosted on the top of the Fairmont Tower with a panoramic view of San Francisco) and the Gala Dinner - all included in the registration fee.

"The cooperation of the IAOP, President, Paul Speight, Secretary Treasurer Michael Aldred and those IAOP members who will participate in the abstract sessions is gratefully acknowledged," says Dr Fantasia.

So register now for what will likely prove to be one of the largest gatherings of oral and maxillofacial pathologists. Rekindle friendships with our international colleagues and establish new bonds with the newer members of AAOMP and IAOP.

Assistant Professor

Tufts University School of Dental Medicine seeks candidates for a full-time tenure-track or contract-track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. Salary and academic rank will be commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and experience. The position is available July 1, 2008. The department encompasses both the predoctoral and postgraduate curricula. The applicant will participate and demonstrate excellence in clinical and didactic teaching of predoctoral and postgraduate students, involvement in an active biopsy service, scholarly activities and research and public health/community outreach. Additionally, applicants will be expected to participate periodically in the school's continuing education programs in oral and maxillofacial pathology. Requirements include a DDS/DMD degree and a certificate in oral and maxillofacial pathology from a CDA or ADA-accredited school and eligibility for licensure in Massachusetts. Board certification by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology is preferred or the candidate will be board-eligible and slated to sit for the Board examination in October 2008. An opportunity for faculty practice (clinical) exists. Review of applications will begin upon receipt and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants should send curriculum vitae, statement describing their scholarly and clinical accomplishments and interests, and names and addresses of at least three references to:

Michael A. Kahn, D.D.S.
Chairman, Department of Oral
and Maxillofacial Pathology
Tufts University School of Dentistry
1 Kneeland Street, Room DHS-646D
Boston, MA 02111

Tufts University is an EEO/AA employer.



Officers of the Oral Pathology section of ADEA include, left to right: secretary Terry Dean; chair Jerry Bouquot; councilor Alice Curran; immediate past chair Kurt Summersgill; and vice-chair Sara Gordon. Photo by Kristina Okolisan.

Oral Path and Radiology ponder Millennial Learner at ADEA

The Millennial Learner likes to learn by doing and collaborating, according to the joint section program of Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology at the recent ADEA meeting in Dallas.

The program, which had over 50 attendees, had a lively introduction by oral radiologist John Brand, who characterized students born after about 1982 as multi-taskers who need to be actively engaged to capture their attention. John Valenza discussed the electronic patient record as a teaching tool for these students. AAOMP members Jerry Bouquot and Jim Geist presented clinical cases that illustrate effective teaching strategies for the millennial learner.

At the Section on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology meeting following the program, members discussed new competencies for the graduating dentist that were adopted by ADEA's House of Delegates later in the week. Beginning in about 2 months, all sections will help develop the accompanying Foundation Knowledge document, a process that should take about 2 years, according to section councilor Alice Curran. AAOMP members will be solicited for input on this document in a number of forums that will be conducted. Members approved Section Secretary Sara Gordon's suggestion that next year's Section Program should attempt to define the parameters of the head and neck screening examination for the graduating dentist and dental hygienist.

Dr Curran introduced members to the MedEdPortal, a peer-reviewed online service that allows participants to share their educational ideas with others while retaining copyright.

Next year's ADEA meeting will be held March 14-18 in Phoenix.



American Academy of Oral
& Maxillofacial Pathology

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USA

San Francisco is calling you! Register today.

AAOMP Newsletter

The AAOMP Newsletter is published three times a year by the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

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Our thanks to contributors in this issue (alphabetically):

Ann Borden, Dr Samir ElMofty, Dr John Fantasia, Dr Michael Kahn, Dr Valerie Murrah, Kristina Okolisan, Eric Rangus.

Got a photo or news story? Please send it. ***We welcome your submissions!***

Murrah completes marathon quest

Valerie Murrah recently completed her personal quest of running a marathon in every US state and the District of Columbia, by running the Maui Marathon.

Since dental school, Murrah has been a runner as a means of combating the sedentary aspects of dentistry and pathology. "As I stood on the brink of my 40th year, however, I decided to undertake a marathon as a means of marking the milestone.", she says. "Choosing the Big Sur International Marathon to run meant that I started with what is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful marathons in the world. It was only natural, therefore, that I fell in love with the challenge of the marathon and decided a couple of years later to take on the quest of running a marathon in all 50 states."

Now, as she prepares to run the Boston Marathon for a 4th time in April, she has thanks to extend. "I would like to thank all of the academy members who graciously hosted me, cheered for me on the sidelines or accompanied me over the years during the quest, including George Gallagher, Alice Curran, Jim Weir, Mike Kahn, John Fantasia, Rob Kelsch, Josephine Wu, Ronnie Weathers, Steve Budnick, Susan Mueller, Ricardo Padilla, Al Dovigi, Patricia Devilliers, Liz Andrews, Jim Rokos and Bob Gorlin. Additional thanks go out to many many more academy members who provided periodic encouragement along the way."

Next quests: All Canadian provinces, the 7 continents and 100 marathons total. All she needs is time.....and a good supply of running shoes.