

Dentists in Leadership: Perpetuating a Culture of Excellence

Dr. G.V. Black: Known as the "Father of Modern Dentistry", Dr. Greene Vardiman Black a prominent 19th and 20th century American dentist changed the face of dentistry through standardized techniques, materials, and instruments. Dr. Horace Wells: discovered anesthesia in dentistry, pioneered the use of nitrous oxide for pain relief during dental procedures. Dr. Lucy Hobbs Taylor, the first woman to earn a dental degree in the United States paved the way for women in dentistry. Dr. John M. Harris is considered one of the pioneers of modern oral surgery. He established the world's first formal training program for oral and maxillofacial surgeons and co-founded the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Dr. Charles H. Tweed was an influential orthodontist who developed innovative techniques for the treatment of malocclusion. Dr. Michal Kováč was a Slovak politician and dentist who served as the speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (Slovakia's parliament) from 1994 to 1998 while Dr. Gholamali Haddad-Adel is an Iranian politician and academic with a Ph.D. in philosophy and dentistry served as the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran (Iran's parliament) from 2004 to 2008.

Nearer home, Prof. Onatolu Odukoya is the first dentist as a Chief Medical Director (CMD) while Prof. Eytipe O. Ogunbodede is the first dentist as a Vice Chancellor. Nigeria dentists have made a mark in the academia, in the civil service, in policy and in politics. This edition chronicles their self-reported experiences as a treatise for the younger and future generation of dentists. I welcome you to peruse their submissions.

S. Olusegun Nwhator

E-IC: *editorinchief@nigeriandentaljournal.ng*