At its regular meeting on March 29, 2009, in Sydney, Australia, the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Orthodontists elected Takayuki Kuroda of Yokahama, Japan, and Vincent G. Kokich of Tacoma, Washington, USA, to receive honorary membership in the World Federation of Orthodontists. Their election followed their nominations by the 133-member World Federation of Orthodontists Council. Dr Raymond George Sr, WFO Council member and president of the American Association of Orthodontists, submitted the name of Dr Kokich, and Council members Dr Shigemi Goto, president of the Japanese Orthodontic Society, along with Drs Kazuo Tanne and Keiji Moriyama submitted Dr Kuroda’s name. Honorary membership in the WFO is the highest honor awarded by the WFO and is presented to orthodontists who have rendered outstanding service to the specialty of orthodontics worldwide.

Drs Kuroda and Kokich will be joining an illustrious group of orthodontists who have previously received this award. They include: Arne Bjork (Denmark), Fujio Miura (Japan), and B.F. Dewel (United States) in 1995; Thomas Graber (United States) and Birgit Thilander (Sweden) in 2000; and James P. Moss (United Kingdom), Milton Sims (Australia), Samir Bishara (United States), and Donald Woodside (Canada) in 2005. The honorary memberships will be presented to Drs Kuroda and Kokich during the opening ceremony of the 7th International Orthodontic Congress, on February 6, 2010, in Sydney, Australia.

Takayuki Kuroda, DDS, PhD
Professor Kuroda graduated from Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan, in 1961. He subsequently received his orthodontic education at Tokyo Medical and Dental University and his PhD from the same institution in 1965. Since that time, Dr Kuroda has had a distinguished career in orthodontics, both professionally and scientifically.

Following the completion of his PhD, Dr Kuroda served as a research fellow at the Royal Dental College in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 1966 to 1967, and at the Center for Human Growth and Development at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from 1969 to 1970. In 1974, he became professor and chairman of the Second Department of Orthodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, and held that position for 28 years until his election to professor emeritus in 2002.

Professor Kuroda was very active in many facets of orthodontics throughout his career but is especially well known for his work in cleft lip and palate. He is an honorary member of the Japanese Cleft Palate Association, of which he was also its president (1997 to 1998). He has been elected to honorary membership in four additional prestigious professional orthodontic societies in Japan, including the Japanese Orthodontic Society. Professor Kuroda has been very active in the Japanese Association for Dental Research, serving as its president 1997–1998 and also active in the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), serving as chairman of the 79th IADR General Session in 2001 and president of the IADR from 2005 to 2006. He served on the first Executive Committee of the World Federation of Orthodontists from 1995 to 2000. He has given lectures in 20 foreign countries outside Japan. He is the author of 21 chapters in books written in Japanese and over 90 papers written in English in worldwide journals. In addition, he has written more than 200 papers for Japanese dental journals.

Dr Kuroda is married to Kimiko, and they have three married grown children, Yasuo, Tomoko, and Hideo.
Vincent G. Kokich, DDS, MSD
Dr. Vincent Kokich, of Tacoma, Washington, USA, completed his DDS degree and received the Alpha-Omega Valedictorian Award from the University of Washington in 1971 and also received his MSD in orthodontics at the University of Washington in 1974. Since 1974, he has been on the orthodontic faculty at the University of Washington, being named an orthodontic professor in 1986. Throughout this time, Dr. Kokich has maintained an active private practice of orthodontics in Tacoma, Washington.

Dr. Kokich is a well-known orthodontic lecturer throughout the world, and whenever he speaks, it is always to a full house. His thorough, thoughtful, and extremely useful presentations are given with great clarity and have led some to opine that Dr. Kokich has offered, arguably, the best and most useful continuing education for orthodontists in the history of the specialty. This statement is backed up by the fact that he has been invited to present over 37 named lectures at the various associations and societies of orthodontists around the world. In addition to his many presentations, Dr. Kokich has written chapters for 21 books and authored or coauthored more than 80 scientific articles.

Dr. Kokich has received over 25 awards for his work and service to orthodontics. Among these honors, he is a fellow of the American College of Dentists (1998), the Royal College of Surgeons of England (2000), and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (2005), and an honorary member of the British Orthodontic Society and the Polish Orthodontic Society. In 2005 he was honored as the University of Washington Distinguished Dental Alumnus.

Professionally, Dr. Kokich served as president of the American Board of Orthodontics and has served as an associate editor of four prominent orthodontic publications. He has or is currently serving on the editorial board of seven prominent journals in dentistry, including the Journal of the American Dental Association and the Australian Orthodontic Journal.

Sydney, Australia: Host of the 7th IOC
Edinburgh Military Tattoo to Perform in Sydney

Recently, it was announced that the internationally acclaimed Edinburgh Military Tattoo will perform exclusively in Sydney in February 2010, the same time the city will be host to the 7th International Orthodontic Conference. Sydney beat out several other international cities to host the Tattoo event, which will be held at the Sydney Football Stadium beginning on February 4, 2010, 5 years after the city last hosted it.

The event will bring 1,500 military and musical performers to the stadium each night. There will be a high integration of Australian troops and a big Australian segment as part of the new production. Called “The Edinburgh Military Tattoo—Celebrating 60 Years of Valour, Mateship and Glory,” the new production draws upon the closeness of the Australian and British defense forces as a central theme. This is something to add to your list of events and sites to see when you are in Sydney for the 7th IOC.