



**International College of Prosthodontists  
19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Scientific Session - VIRTUAL - September 22 – 25, 2021**

**Program Speaker – Karen Bennie**

**Title**

The Future of our Field: Harnessing our Untapped Potential

**Abstract**

The demographics of dentistry have evolved with increasing numbers of women and people from underrepresented communities having entered the profession. Despite this, leadership positions such as journal editors, organisation presidents, department/school chairs, and first authors do not routinely represent these demographic changes. Diverse patient populations and globalisation in our field have resulted in greater exposure to and need for diverse perspectives. The business case for diversity and inclusion is well established and the benefits of diverse perspectives in other healthcare fields are gaining increased attention. Our dental community could similarly benefit from diversity and inclusion especially in leadership positions. Whilst the business case for diversity and inclusion is significant, we must, however, also consider the importance of representation, mentorship, ethics and social justice.

**Biography**

Dr. Karen Bennie received her BChD degree and completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Aesthetic Dentistry at the University of Pretoria. She went on to complete Master's degrees in Endodontics and Prosthodontics at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Subsequent to qualifying as a Prosthodontist she spent several years in private practice and working as a specialist consultant at both the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Pretoria. She established a private practice earlier this year in Pretoria, South Africa. Her clinical interests are broad including both conventional and maxillofacial prosthodontics.

Dr. Bennie has published articles and presented her research both locally and internationally. Her current research interests include gerodontology, implant maintenance and leadership diversity in dentistry.