



Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 60th annual meeting of ISO/TC 106 in New Orleans, USA. I am very grateful to the American Dental Association for taking on this third attempt at planning a meeting in the US. COVID had derailed the 2020 and 2021 meetings that had been planned and replanned. Nevertheless, we did not give up and I am very grateful to them and their dedicated ISO/TC 106 team.

I would like to recognize the following people who have made significant contributions in planning this meeting:

- Sharon Stanford, Kathy Medic, Marilyn Ward, and Mary Swick from the American Dental Association (ADA), and
- The American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

I also and especially want to thank our ISO/TC 106 manager, Katie Lee, for her tremendous help in preparing this meeting.

We are gathering in in New Orleans to continue our work of improving dental standards. Standards play an essential role in modern dentistry and the large numbers of participants at the ISO/TC 106 meetings reflect the energy and resources that the dental community has invested in this field. Standards are developed to facilitate the international exchange of goods on open markets. However, setting standards also ensures the quality of products. ISO/TC 106 is also open to innovation and recognizes the broader impact standards can have. In that sense, the work we do ensures the quality of standards will remain high finally for the good of our patients. For example, ISO standards (and others) are often used to fulfill legal requirements before a material or a device can be brought to market. With international standardization, there is also an underlying responsibility of providing quality assurance and I am confident we will meet these broader expectations.

I hope you will also have the chance to take some time to explore the fascinating city of New Orleans with the famous French quarter, the Mississippi river and many other attractions. Enjoy the music, the good food and the many friendly talks with friends and colleagues outside of the official meetings. I wish you all an enjoyable and productive meeting in New Orleans.

Gottfried Schmalz  
Chairman, ISO TC 106

