The congress provided an ideal forum to further strengthen FDI's relationships with member associations, corporate partners and contributing specialists. During the National Liaison Officer (NLO) Luncheon on 2 September, three of four contributing authors to ‘The Oral Health Atlas’ made a brief presentation about the research involved in compiling this new FDI advocacy tool, which was officially released later that day. I was delighted to learn about the University announcement: University has renewed its partnership with FDI on the Live.Learn.Laugh programme for another three years, to continue developing oral health projects for communities in need.

The Welcome Ceremony this year was a special evening for me, Singapore’s Health Minister, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, delivered an inspiring account of the positive improvements to oral health in his country, as well as the need to continue working in collaboration across the region. I will forever cherish the moment I received the presidential chain from my distinguished colleague, Past-President, Dr Burton Conrod, in a symbolic change of FDI presidency. During his term as president, Dr Conrod has supported important FDI initiatives to increase global awareness about oral health issues, including Live.Learn.Laugh, the publication of ‘The Oral Health Atlas’ and the Global Cartes Initiative. In my Welcome Ceremony speech, I affirmed my commitment to the continuation of these and other FDI activities. Later we enjoyed a colourful performance that took the audience through Singapore’s history, represented through dance and music.

Looking at the year ahead, we have many exciting projects on the horizon, including upcoming events for the Global Cartes Initiative and the FDI Regional Continuing Education Programme. I feel proud to have been given this opportunity to serve as FDI President, particularly at a time when next year’s AWDC will be in my home country. The 2010 AWDC Local Organising Committee has been working steadily towards welcoming us all in Salvador da Bahia next year and I look forward to seeing you there!

Dr Roberto Vianna  FDI President

FDI Policy Statements

The FDI General Assembly adopted three new and nine revised FDI Policy Statements at the 2009 Annual World Dental Congress.

New Policy Statements

- Dentist Hypersensitivity
- Endodontal and General Health Problems of the Elderly
- The Use of Academic, Professional and Honorary Titles

Revised Policy Statements

- The Association between Oral Health and General Health
- Dental Bleaching Materials

- Effect of Masticatory Efficiency on General Health
- Fluoride in Restorative Materials
- Infection Control in Dental Practice
- Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for HBV, HCV and HIV
- Research

The FDI Policy Statements on Dental Unit Water Lines and Tuberculosis and the Practice of Dentistry were withdrawn at General Assembly B and Open Forum 1, respectively.

FDI launches new Oral Health sourcebook

The 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Singapore has come to a close for another year. This year’s event ran seamlessly thanks to the tireless efforts of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and volunteers. I would like to make a special mention of the FDI staff, which has been working in collaboration with the LOC in addition to relocating the FDI head office from Ferney-Voltaire, France, to Geneva, Switzerland.

The AWDC brought together 107 speakers from many disciplines of the dental profession to share best practices and best practices on treatment advances with colleagues from around the world. Congress participants were dazzled by the latest developments in products and equipment at the Exhibition, which featured more than 150 international vendors. During the week, important business meetings designed to advance global health advocacy took place, as well as the 2009 FDI Elections. Congratulations to Council and Committee members who were appointed during the General Assembly B and Council C meetings (see 2009 FDI Elections). Thank you to outgoing representatives who have dedicated their time and expertise to the organisation: Dr William O’Reilly, Dr Neil Campbell, Dr Mark Good-nen, Dr Claus Munck, Dr Howard Jones, Prof. Martin Tyas, Prof. Reiner Biffar, Mr George Weber and Prof. Martin Hobell.

FDI launches new Oral Health sourcebook

FDI launches new Oral Health sourcebook

Participants and delegates of the 2009 congress joined incoming FDI President, Dr Roberto Vianna, FDI Executive Director, Dr David Alexander, and authors Roby Beagahale, Habib Benzian and Jon Crail, at the FDI Pavilion for the official release of FDI’s new ‘Oral Health Atlas’, in commemoration of World Oral Health Day (WOHD) on 12 September, 2009.

The annual WOHD is an opportunity for diverse segments of the population to reflect upon their own situations when it comes to managing oral health and ‘The Oral Health Atlas’ is designed to illustrate oral health globally. Using short texts, colourful maps, graphics and images, along with statistics and facts, the atlas presents a global picture of oral health in a visually intuitive and easy-to-understand format.

Following the official release at congress, the Singapore Dental Association announced it would purchase copies of ‘The Oral Health Atlas’ for distribution to public libraries across the city-state. Other member associations have demonstrated interest in translating the atlas for readers within their regions.

FDI head office relocates to Switzerland

The FDI has relocated its global headquarters to Geneva, Switzerland, concluding the final stage of a plan that has been several years in the making. The driving forces for the move were logistical and financial: the FDI sought to be in a country where it could conduct business as a single entity, versus the current structure of distinct companies—which could also offer favourable taxation and simplified management accounting on commercial activities.

Switzerland was a top contender due to its proximity to the FDI’s previous head office, which allowed the possibility of keeping the majority of existing staff. Furthermore, the city is a hub for international governmental organisations such as the United Nations, World Health Organization, World Heart Federation, and the International Council of Nurses, which facilitates collaboration in integrated health promotion.

The new office is walking distance from the Geneva Airport, making it convenient for out-of-town visitors. It has 475 sqm of space and has been renovated to create an open concept workspace, with 560 degrees of windows. Earlier this year, FDI introduced a “Sponsor a Window” programme as a way to raise funds for the move. FDI Executive Director, Dr David Alexander, reported on the progress of the initiative: “The response to the Sponsor a Window programme has been significant and I would like to thank contributing member associations and individual donors for their generosity.”

New address of FDI head office:
FDI World Dental Federation
Tour de Cointrin
Avenue Louis Casai 84
Case Postale 5
1216 Courteen – Genève
Switzerland

What makes dental professionals smile

The Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company has partnered with the FDI World Dental Federation in the second consecutive edition of the FDI’s Wrigley Photographic Award.

Earlier this year, dental professionals from 65 countries around the world submitted photographs to the 2009 FDI & Wrigley Photographic Award competition, which ran from 16 March to 8 July. The photographs were reviewed by a panel of judges and winners were selected based on their creativity in addressing “what makes you smile”.

The other five regional winners of the 2009 FDI & Wrigley Photographic Award are:
- Africa region: Sandy from Gauteng, South Africa
- Asia-Oceania region: Pujuan from Sinapore
- Europe region: Jan Eric from Altstätten, SG, Switzerland
- Latin America region: Gunther from Cartago, Costa Rica
- Middle East region: Neda from Tehran, Iran

On 31 August, Brigadier General (Dr) Benjamin Seet, Chief of the Singapore Armed Forces Medical Corps, officiated at the Opening Ceremony of the Miliary Programme for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress. The meeting, which attracted more than 50 military dentists from 18 countries, provided a forum for military dental officers to discuss scientific and military dental issues.

In his opening address, Brig. Gen. (Dr) Benjamin Seet emphasized the relevance of this year’s theme: Dental Healthcare for the Next Generation of Armed Forces. With healthcare services of many armed forces transforming to meet a wider spectrum of geopolitical and military challenges, this meeting offered participants an opportunity to network and share knowledge about advancing military dentistry and providing better oral care for soldiers and servicemen.

Among the speakers presenting at the congress were Colonel (Dr) Tao Peng Hui, Commander of the Singapore Armed Forces Military Medicine Institute; Major General Zhao Yimin, Vice-Dean of the School of Stomatology, China Fourth Military Medical University; Colonel Robert Hale of the US Army Institute of Surgical Research, and Polic Colonel Peter Sahelangi. A wide range of topics were discussed during the two-day Military Programme, including facial trauma care, forensic remains identification, field dentistry and dental fitness of soldiers.