Message from the president

I am sure that every practicing dentist sincerely believes that they are members of a respected health profession. But the oral health care environment is changing rapidly and I wonder how the public views dentists, when public awareness is focused on spa services, tooth whitening and travel packages for dental tourism. This is a serious challenge. The key criteria for dentists to work together is to conduct themselves as health care providers rather than simply suppliers of services. The formula for success is not a simple one. A strong relationship with the dental industry is not something that happens easily. A good relationship with the dental industry is not simple transactional but meets the needs of both industry and professionals in their mutual quest to improve oral health. The best associations seek out the true professionals in the industry as partners in health promotion. The alternative to a strong national dental association may well be an unprofessional environment, where dentists compete for patients by each representing their own version of ethical and appropriate practice. With limited prospects for support in areas such as continuing education, evidence-based issues management and health promotion initiatives, it is easy to imagine a once respected profession being viewed as simply another purveyor of services. Ethical practice should be defined by our best collective efforts and not by the self-interest of a few individuals.

I believe that the main value of a strong national dental association is in ensuring that dentists are able to conduct themselves as health care professionals rather than simply suppliers of services. The formula for success is not a simple one and I have observed what is required for dentists to work together as professionals to improve the health of their fellow citizens rather than just compete for health care dollars in the marketplace.

Recently, I had the first-hand experience in observing the operation of two of the FDI’s largest members, the Associação Brasileira de Odontologia and the American Dental Association, and also two of our smaller members, the Croatian Dental Association and the Croatian Dental Society. I witnessed several common elements in their success in supporting dentists as respected and ethical providers of evidence-based health care in very different environments.

FDI sponsors CE programme in Francophone Africa

Forty-two dentists, from both the private and public sector, attended the Continuing Education (CE) programme sponsored by the FDI in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The attendees represented 85% of the dentists of Burkina Faso and also included others from Côte d’Ivoire, Niger and Senegal. The CE programme, which took place 16-17 October, was part of the Premiers Journees Dentaires du Burkina Faso. The CE programme was presented in the form of a two-day workshop, titled “Current Therapies in Periodontal Health”. It was presented by Dr R. Strahm from the University of Lyon in France. He focused on existing approaches to periodontal disease treatment in the context of an overall treatment plan, taking into consideration factors such as classification data, etiology, care of the patient during the initial phase, HIV and periodontal health. In addition, two hands-on workshops were conducted, where attendees practiced incisions and surgical sutures and radiological assessment.

A series of events were organised for the congress, amongst which were an oral health awareness day in nine schools and a separate oral health awareness day for the public. All the events were broadcasted by the Burkina Faso central television channels and press. During the congress, the Scientific-Practical Conference of the Association des Chercheurs-Dentistes du Burkina (ACDB) was held. All the realised activities were highly and positively evaluated by the participants of the congress. Dr Yamengo Joamin, President of ACDB, praised the delegates for taking time off to update themselves and commended the efforts of the FDI, the Groupement des Associations Dentaires Francophones, partners of the congress and of the CE programme, and the organising committee for bringing up a stimulating and enlightening conversation.

As reported by Prof. Denis Bourgeois, FDI Co-Programme Manager for Africa.

FDI Treasurer attends WMA Assembly

Speaking to other health professionals on oral health and human rights

FDI Treasurer, Dr Tin Chun Wong, represented the FDI at October’s World Medical Assembly (WMA) in Seoul, Korea. The topic of this year’s four-day WMA Assembly was “Health and Human Rights”. While he also attended the World Health Professions Assembly, Dr Wong made a presentation to the WMA Committee on Medical Ethics on “Oral Health and Human Rights”. The session was opened to all delegates.

Dr Wong emphasised to the WMA committee and those in attendance that oral health is a basic human right. He further explained the links between oral health and general health by providing examples related to diabetes, heart disease and premature low birth weight of babies. Dr Wong also promoted the work of the FDI in its area to support oral health as a right for all through examples of the Federation’s efforts in global conferences, such as the 2004 Nairobi Conference, the promotion of fluoride and FDI’s Policy Statements.

The FDI is honoured to have been invited to the WMA Assembly and thanks Dr Wong for representing the federation. The WMA is a partner of the FDI through the World Health Professions Alliance.
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FDI prepares for 2010 Congress in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

Delegation including FDI President, Councillors and head office representatives visit congress site

FDI President, Dr Burton Conrod, addressed the 1500 delegates present at his visit to Salvador da Bahia, Brazil.

Plan your attendance for the 2009 AWDC in Singapore

Congress information available online

With the 2009 congress behind us, it is now time to start planning your attendance for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in the city of Singapore.

FDI Scientific Programme

Organise your visit to the FDI congress around the scientific sessions you would like to attend. The Scientific Programme, which includes limited attendance courses and forums, is available for viewing online. Please visit: www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/Singapore/congress4.html

Get up to 20% discount with the Star Alliance network

The Star Alliance network has been appointed as the official airline network for the 2009 FDI congress. Simply call the reservation office of any participating Star Alliance member airline and quote the event code SQ01S09. Registered participants plus one accompanying person travelling to the event are automatically granted a discount of up to 20%, depending on the class of travel. For more information, please visit www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/Singapore/congress7.html

After the congress...

Take advantage of Singapore’s proximity to other popular tourist destinations in the region by signing up for one of the post-congress excursions. Pacific World, organiser of the post-congress excursions, has prepared trips for congress attendees to Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. For more information, please visit www.pacificworld.com.sg and www.adafoundation.org/singapore/congress7.html

Singapore Climate

According to the Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore is warm and humid all year round, with only slight variations between the average maximum of 31 degrees Celsius and minimums of 25 degrees Celsius.

2009 FDI Continuing Education Programme

First stop, Malaysia

2009 will be another busy year for the FDI Continuing Education (CE) team. Twenty-five programmes have been scheduled for 2009 with the first one taking place in January in Malaysia. The Malaysian programme includes a workshop on endodontic retreatment and sessions on managing biofilms for optimal oral and systemic health and new approaches to detection and monitoring of early carious lesions.

The Malaysian programme will be followed by ones in February in Cote d’Ivoire, Myanmar and Singapore. The complete 2009 FDI CE programme calendar with more information on the above sessions and others, is available online for viewing at www.fdiworldental.org/federation/4_0calendar.html

FDI Annual World Dental Congress
2 - 5 September 2009
Singapore

Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund Grant Program

Request for Proposals (RFP)

In response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004, the ADA Foundation and the American Dental Association’s Committee on International Programs and Development created a Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund Grant Program to address long term oral health needs of the communities affected by this natural disaster. The Request for Proposal seeks applicants from US and non-US based organisations, who are working to rebuild oral health care initiatives and infrastructure in countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami such as but not limited to: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Proposals for grants will be accepted in amounts of up to USD$70,000.

Grants will be awarded to support activities such as:
- The rebuilding of damaged dental facilities and infrastructure
- The construction and maintenance of a dental facility to establish continued oral healthcare and infrastructure in an affected area.

• The costs associated with providing dental services to affected populations (equipment, supplies, transport, training).
• Community outreach to affected populations (oral health education, training, service programs). All proposals must be RECEIVED no later than 31 MARCH 2009. Additional information and application can be found online at www.fdiworldental.org/grants/index.asp?indexmode=4

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