FDI teams up with OSAP to improve global patient safety standards

FDI World Dental Federation is participating in an official review of the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide, together with the Organization for Safety and Quality in the Dental Profession (OSAP), and other leading global medical profession associations.

Patient safety is an emerging discipline, aiming to reduce harm to patients caused by healthcare and to identify opportunities for improving patient outcomes. According to the WHO Research Priority Setting Process, ten million patients worldwide suffer disabling injuries or death due to unsafe medical care every year.

The Multi-professional WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide was first published in 2009 to provide medical schools with guidelines for teaching patient safety, and has since been downloaded by more than 1000 institutions in 100 countries. In growing recognition of the harms caused by health care, the WHO initiated a review of the Guide and invited FDI World Dental Federation to participate as a primary partner in the project, together with the International Council of Midwives and other members of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), International Council of Nurses, International Pharmaceutical Federation and World Medical Association. Professors Takashi Itome and Nermin Yamalik, of the FDI Education Committee, will be contributing to the review. Details are expected to be finalised during a consensus meeting, at the 2010 OSAP Annual Symposium in June.

FDI explores preventive dentistry at 2010 AEEEDC Dubai

FDI World Dental Federation introduces the Global Caries Initiative to the Gulf Region as part of a global consultation process

Representatives from FDI World Dental Federation, including Dr Roberto Vianna, FDI President, were recently in Dubai for the 2010 UAE International Dental Conference & Arab Dental Exhibition (AEEEDC Dubai), where they participated in the AEEEDC Conference Program, the Gulf Cooperation Council Preventive Dentistry Conference and the 7th Annual Arab Asian Scientific Dental Alliance, introducing the FDI Global Caries Initiative to key opinion leaders of the Gulf Region.

The Global Caries Initiative (GCI) was first conceived during the FDI Caries Conference in July 2009, where conference attendees—including leading experts in epidemiology, cariology, dental education, prevention and change management—conceded there is a need to establish a broad alliance of key influencers and decision-makers to effect fundamental change across health systems and in individual behaviour in order to eradicate caries worldwide by 2020.

Departing from this objective, FDI World Dental Federation embarked upon a global consultation process to assess the potential challenges and impact of introducing a preventive model to existing systems for caries management. The most recent seminar took place at the 2010 AEEEDC Conference Program—Dr Julian Fisher, FDI Associate Director of Education and Scientific Affairs, described the context of GCI in a presentation entitled, “The Global Caries Initiative: A Profession-Led Call-to-Action” and Dr Nigel Pitts, of the University of Dundee (Scotland), presented his research related to “A New Approach to Caries Classification, Detection and Assessment: The Experiences of EDCAS”, which addresses an underlying theme identified early in the GCI consultation process, that is, the need for the profession to establish a common language for caries. Dr Pitts has been working with FDI World Dental Federation to explore an international caries classification system within the context of GCI.

Dr Roberto Vianna reinforced the FDI World Dental Federation commitment to oral health in an address to attendances of the Gulf Region.

Inside the FDI: Spotlight on congress

By Ndolo Moka Lisette

Tie, tie, tie… the minute hand of the clock ticks away, representing the passing of time—and for the Congress team at the FDI World Dental Federation headquarters in Geneva—serving as a poignant reminder that the 2010 Annual World Dental Congress is drawing closer. From the various work stations around the office, one hears the sound of keyboards clattering, papers shuffling, phones ringing and voices buzzing: Congress planning in motion. As preparation for this year’s Congress intensifies, the full-time staff team—under the leadership of Neil Kirkman, FDI’s Manager of Conferences and Exhibitions—is busy finalising the details of the 2010 Congress to ensure a seamless experience for all this year’s attendees in Brazil.

An event of such magnitude relies on a solid foundation and, as Kirkman suggests, success is a high level of collaboration across the organization, with close attention to “the many stakeholders involved; understanding their needs and expectations, developing the right formula to satisfy the largest possible audience, and working to create a win-win for everybody involved.” Kirkman joined FDI World Dental Federation in February 2010 and is responsible for strategic development and execution of the FDI Annual World Dental Congress, working closely with elected and staff leadership, as well as member associations, to deliver world-class international dental conferences.

For almost 20 years, Mr Kirkman has developed and coordinated international conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and festivals for organizations including the European Society of Cardiology, the International Union Against Cancer and the Young Presidents Organisation. “In managing events of this scale, both immediate and long-term planning is critical”, he says. Plans for future FDI Congresses in Mexico City 2011 and Geneva 2012 are already in the works, as well as research into venues as far ahead as 2016.
In this interview with WDC, Dr Michael Glick discusses his work with the FDI World Dental Federation and his views on the role of the dental profession in oral and general health.

WDC: In October 2009 you were appointed Dean of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. What motivated you to take this role and what do you hope to achieve?

Dr Michael Glick: This position is a chance to have an impact with respect to dental education and consequently, the future of dentistry: to build on the best of what we’re doing and take it to the next level. I am proud to be a dentist. But first and foremost I see myself as a healthcare professional. There is a small but growing trend to enhance oral health by providing medically based point-of-care screening in dental offices. In fact, last year I coordinated a seminar at the ADA Annual Session that was a hands-on course for dentists in office-based screening. There is a small, critical mass developing that is eager to improve oral health care delivery, and education is where it all begins.

You dedicate a lot of time to FDI World Dental Federation as Chairman of the Science Committee. What motivates you to participate in organised dentistry at the international level?

Working with FDI World Dental Federation is an opportunity to make a difference and I gladly give my time to help bring about positive change in the way the dental profession is perceived; for instance, in re-evaluating how we provide care or providing care to people who do not have access. The structural complexity of our profession can be complex, which further emphasises a need for unity at the international level in order to make any progress.

What does FDI World Dental Federation bring to the world of dentistry?

FDI is the largest dental organisation in the world, bringing together representatives from many different countries and their unified, global voice of dentistry. This gives us the privilege and opportunity to make a huge impact through the profession to act as facilitator for change. For example, in caries prevention, FDI is leading. The Global Caries Initiative, a profession-led project with the goal of significantly diminishing the prevalence of caries worldwide by 2020. Other recent projects, such as the Oral Health Atlas and Dental Ethics Manual, are further examples of practical tools produced by FDI that dentists can use in their countries to support advocacy and awareness around oral health.

You recently attended the FDI mid-year committee meetings in Geneva. What are some of the areas of focus for the Science Committee in 2010?

This year, the Science Committee wants to focus on setting a research agenda to respond to major oral health care issues. We also want to proactively generate collaboration between researchers in different parts of the world and partner with organisations working towards the same goals, such as the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). As Chairman, I see my role as a facilitator: that is, does the Committee work to reflect the mission and vision of FDI? This is a question I ask myself when embarking on a new initiative. Another area of focus for the committee is science and evidence behind policy. To this effect, we are working to design FDI scientific statements that will help underpin policy and provide FDI members with valuable scientific resources.

How do your many responsibilities relate to your personal vision in oral health?

All of my work, whether as the dean of a dental school, editor of JADA or chairman of the Science Committee, reflects my philosophy about health. I am lucky to have the opportunity to have a voice in sharing these beliefs with a larger group. But I see many examples of how dentists make a difference in their communities at so many levels—such as extending free care. Every little bit makes a difference.

Dr Michael Glick is Dean of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine in the United States. He currently serves as Chairman of the Science Committee for FDI World Dental Federation.

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- Dr Michael Glick discusses his work and views on the role of the dental profession in oral and general health.
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