Message from the president

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 all the developments announced: Unilever 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, emphasising 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 Caries 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 Caries 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 2010 FDI World Dental Congress will be in my home country. The 2010 FDI World Dental Congress Committee has been working steadily towards welcoming us all in Salvador da Bahia next year and I look forward to seeing you there!

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

• Dentin 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

Participants and delegates of the 2009 congress joined incoming FDI President, Dr Roberto Vianna, FDI Executive Director, Dr David Alexander, and authors Roby Beaghehole, Habib Benzial 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. 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, completing 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 63 different compencies—which could also offer favourable taxation and simplified management accounting on commercial activities.

FDI head office relocates to Switzerland

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 and non-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 Coninrin
Avenue Louis Casai 84
Case Postale 5
1216 Cointrin—Geneve
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 & 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”.

Winning photographs from this year’s competition were displayed at the FDI Pavilion during the Annual World Dental Congress in Singapore. The grand prize overall winner of the 2009 FDI & Wrigley Photographic Award was Richard from Tacoma, Washington (also the North America Regional Winner). Richard was awarded an expense-paid trip to the 2010 FDI World Dental Congress in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. Additionally, he received a regional prize: a voucher worth $1,000 US for photographic equipment, a one-year subscription to the International Dental Journal, and a year’s supply of Wrigley sugar-free chewing gum.

The other five regional winners of the 2009 FDI & Wrigley Photographic Award are:

- Africa region: Sandy from Gauteng, South Africa
- Asia-Oceania region: Pujan from Singapore
- Europe region: Jan Eric from Alstätten, SG, Switzerland
- Latin America region: Gunther from Cartago, Costa Rica
- Middle East region: Neda from Tehran, Iran

Each regional winner received the same regional prize noted above. Also, in addition to the regional winners this year, 50 other names were chosen at random from the remaining entries to receive a year’s supply of Wrigley’s sugar-free chewing gum (approx. 144 packs). Finally, for each entry received, Wrigley’s Oral Health-care Program (OHCP) is donating $25 USD per submission, or up to $25,000 USD total, to the FDI World Dental Development Fund (WDFD), which supports oral health education and projects in low-income countries.

FDI/Unilever Poster Award Competition

The six winners of the 2009 FDI/Unilever Poster Award Competition were announced at a reception hosted by the two organising associations in Singapore on 5 September.

They are:
- Sagar Abichandani (India) — “Evaluation of the Quality of Root Canal Fillings in Mumbai, India”
- Myat Nyan (Japan) — “Effects of simvastatin and alpha-tricalcium phosphate combination on the early healing of bone defects”
- Yun-Ching Chang (Chinese Taipei) — “Study of invasion patterns of oral squamous cell carcinoma with a new device of modified grading system”
- Victor T.W. Fan — “Alveolar Bone Preservation and Augmentation with scaffold for implant therapy”
- Manisha Kukreja — “Comparative evaluation of hand wrist radiographs with cervical vertebral bone age in 10–12 year old children”
- Sagar Abichandani (India) — “Gene
tic variations in periodically involved smokers”

More than 120 submissions were received by the FDI for the competition this year. The best posters were selected as finalists prior to the congress and they were then invited to present their posters and research to a panel of judges, followed by a question and answer session at the congress. All winners received a free registration to a future FDI Annual World Dental Congress and a $250 USD prize towards his or her participation in the congress.

A FDI/Unilever Poster Award Competition will be held once again in 2010. More information can be found on the FDI website once it becomes available.

Meeting of the Section Defence Forces Dental Services (SDF(S)) in Singapore

On 31 August, Brigadier General (Dr) Benjamin Seet, Chief of the Singapore Armed Forces Medical Corps, officiated at the Opening Ceremony of the Military Programme for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress. The meeting, which attracted more than 60 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 emphasised 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 and establish advancing military dentistry and providing better oral care for soldiers and servicemen.

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

Correction note
In FDI Worldental Communiqué, 6 September 2009, the article “Favourable Taxation and Simplified Management Accounting” on page 3 should read: the SLActive surface from Straumann included some incorrect information. Dr. Yeo’s first name is Alvin, not Ylvin.

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