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 and Arab Dental Exhibition (AEEDC Dubai), where they participated in the AEEDC 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 Bio 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 AEEDC 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 Potts, of the University of Dundee (Scotland), presented his research related to “A New Approach to Caries Classification, Detection and Assessment: The Experiences of ICDS,” 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 attendees of the Gulf Cooperation Council Preventive Dentistry Conference, paying a special thank you to Professor Abdullah Al Shammery, Dean of Riyadh Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy and AEEDC International Scientific Advisory Board Member. Dr Via- nna said, that FDI World Dental Federation “is delighted to participate in this Conference and looks forward to working together with the Gulf Cooperation Council and FDI member associations to further prevention at the national level.”

The annual FDI Corporate Partners meeting took place at the end of February during the 145th Chicago Dental Society Mid-Winter Meeting. FDI President Dr Roberto Vianna opened the meeting, welcoming & thanking FDI Corporate Partners for their unwavering support, particularly in view of the economic challenges still affecting businesses worldwide. Joining the FDI President at the meeting were FDI President-Elect, Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva; Councillor, Dr Kathryn Kell; Executive Director, Dr David Alexander; and other full-time FDI professional staff from the Finance, Communications and Congress departments.

Dr David Alexander presented a detailed report of ongoing FDI activities & achievements in 2009, including the introduction of a new FDI website, preparations for the 2010 Annual World Dental Congress in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, future congress venues, progress on the Global Caries Initiative and a summary of internal process improvements across the organisation. Dr Alexander reminded participants of the critical importance of partnership between FDI World Dental Federation and the dental industry, encouraging an “open dialogue, which strengthens our relationship and brings mutual benefits to both parties.” The presentations portion of the meeting included a financial review by Jerome Esti-gnard, FDI Director of Finance & Operations, who summarised the 2009 year-end results and budget forecasts for 2010 and beyond.

The annual FDI Corporate Partners meeting is held in the first quarter of each year, alternating venues between the Chicago Dental Society Mid-Winter Meeting and the International Dental Show in Cologne, Germany.

Patient safety is an emerging discipline, aiming to reduce harm to patients caused by health care and to identify opportunities for improving patient outcomes. According to the WHO Research Priority Setting Working Group on Patient Safety, tens of millions of 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 Inoue and Yermim 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.