Message from the president

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 Singapore LOC in addition to relocating the FDI head office from Ferney-Voltaire, France, to Geneva, Switzerland.

The AWDC brought together more than 150 international vendors. During the week, important business meetings designed to set the agenda for the Global Congress took place, as well as the 2009 FDI Elections. Congratulations to the Council and Committee members who were appointed during the General Assembly B and Open Forum 1, respectively.

2009 FDI elections

There were two seats open for election on the FDI Council, including President-Elect, and ten seats open for election on the Committees at the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress. In total, 26 nominations were received for the available positions, with four nominations for Council positions and 22 nominations for Committee positions.

Congratulations and welcome to the following FDI Council and Committee members who were elected in Singapore:

- FDI President-Elect: Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva (Portugal)
- FDI Council:
  - Councillors: Dr Norberto Labrador (Brazil)
  - Communications & Member Support Committee: Dr Jun-Sil Moon (Korea)
  - Dental Practice Committee: Dr Ward van Dijk (The Netherlands)
  - World Dental Development & Health Promotion Committee: Dr Jo E. Frencken (The Netherlands)
- FDI Committees:
  - Dental Policy Statements Committee: Dr John Mukhisa (United States)
  - World Dental Development & Health Promotion Committee: Dr Jo E. Frencken (The Netherlands)
  - Dental Practice Committee: Dr Ward van Dijk (The Netherlands)

FDI Policy Statements

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The FDI Policy Statements on Dental Unit Water Lines and Tuberculosis and the Practice of Dentistry were withdrawn at General Assembly B and Open Forum 1, respectively.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

Participants and delegates of the 2009 congress joined in coming FDI President, Dr Roberto Vianna, FDI Executive Director, Dr David Alexander, and authors Roby Beaglehole, 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 that 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.


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) Lunch on 2 September, three of our contributing authors to “The Oral Health Atlas” made a brief presentation about the research involved.

compiling this new advocacy tool, which was officially released last that day. I was delighted to learn as well about the Unilever announcement. Unilever has renewed its partnership with FDI on the Live.Learn.Laugh. programme for another three years, in continue developing oral health projects for communities in need.

The Welcome Ceremony this year was a special event for me, Singapore’s Health Minister, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, delivered an inspiring speech on the positive implications to oral health in his country, emphasising as well 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 Conrad, in a symbolic change of FDI presidency.

During his term as president, Dr Conrad has supported important FDI initiatives to increase global awareness about oral health issues, including 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 held 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 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 six distinct companies—which could also offer favourable taxation and simplified management accounting on commercial activities.

FDI head office: Geneva, Switzerland (DTI/FDI)

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 63 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 Sandy, Utah, USA.

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 organisations in Singapore on 3 September.

They are:

- Sagarsinhchandani (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 defect”
- Yun-Ching Chang (Chinese Taipei) — “Study of invasion patterns of oral squamous cell carcinoma with a new device of modified grading system”
- Victor TW, Fan — “Alveolar Bone Preservation and Augmentation with scaffold for implant therapy”
- Manisha Lukreja — “Comparative evaluation of hand wrist radiographs with cervical vertebrae for skeletal maturation in 10–12 yr old children”

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

On 31 August, Brigadier General (Dr) Benjamin Sreet, 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 60 military dentists from 18 countries, provided a platform for military dental officers to discuss scientific and military dental issues.

In his opening address, Brig. Gen. (Dr) Benjamin Sreet 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 about advancing military dentistry and providing better oral care for soldiers and servicemen.

Among the speakers present at the congress were Colonel (Dr) Tan 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 Police Colonel Peter Sahelangi. A wide range of topics were discussed during the two-day Military Programme, including facial trauma care, forensic dentistry and dental fitness of soldiers.

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