‘Dental caries is not easily prevented or treated in the most susceptible children’

By Daniel Zimmermann,
Dental Tribune International

In July, pediatric dentistry specialists will gather in Pasay City, the Philippines, for the seventh biennial congress of the Pediatric Dentistry Association of Asia.

Group Editor Daniel Zimmermann spoke with presenters Prof. Jill Fernandez and Drs. Neal Herman and Lily Kim from the New York University College of Dentistry about their participation and recent developments in the field.

The U.S. congress recently approved a new proposal for health care reform. In your opinion, what impact will this policy change have on children’s dental care?

Prof. Jill Fernandez: It is still too early to know what the final health reform bill will entail exactly, but as of now it does include mandatory pediatric dental care that requires dental coverage be offered as part of any essential benefits package for children younger than age 21. The new law will enable stand-alone dental plans to offer dental benefits as part of any health insurance exchange and/or subcontract with medical plans.

The impact of this on the public and the profession could be monumental — the message is to begin oral health preventive interventions early in the lives of children, and that oral health is an integral part of overall health.

The oral health of children in the epidemic of pediatric dental disease and to help break its cycle.

NCOHF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of and fighting pediatric dental disease — the No. 1 chronic childhood illness — by facilitating delivery of comprehensive oral health care.

National Children’s Oral Health Foundation: America’s Toothfairy (NCOHF) was recently featured in a special section dedicated to oral health in The Wall Street Journal. As America’s Toothfairy, NCOHF is positioned to help shed light on the silent epidemic of pediatric dental disease and to help break its cycle.

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SPECIAL ADD & IACA EDITION

DENTAL TRIBUNE

The World’s Dental Newspaper · U.S. Edition

JUNE 2010
www.dental-tribune.com
Vol. 5, No. 16

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