One of the unique features of the FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) is the forums that are held on issues of science and dental practice. Designed as gatherings of people whose aims are to promote the interchange of ideas, usually on a defined theme, the forums frequently include short presentations by world renowned researchers, clinicians, educators and practitioners and the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. A relaxed atmosphere encourages the various participants in the audience to share their experiences and ideas.

I urge everyone, who will attend our AWDC in Stockholm in September, to attend and participate in some of these forums, so we can include your concerns, advice and experience when dealing with these issues. The FDI is the nexus for oral health professionals, facilitating information transfer and promoting optimal oral health for all people. Each year our interactive forums are staged as a valuable means to achieve this knowledge access and the common understanding that result from discussions among dentists from many different countries, functioning in various facets of our profession.

Some forums focus on current scientific or clinical issues, such as this year’s session on “Prevention and Control of Periodontal Disease for Oral and General Health.” The presentations in this forum will provide enhanced understanding of periodontal and systemic inflammation as well as the relationship between oral and systemic health. Most patients have questions about these issues and the latest information will prepare us to provide appropriate answers. We recommend that you consult the experts at our forum and not the unconfirmed media reports on the issues.