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

The AWDC brought together 107 speakers from many disciplines of the dental profession to share best practices on treatment advances with colleagues from around the world. Congress participants were dazzled with the latest developments in products and equipment at the Exhibition, which featured more than 150 international vendors. During the week, important business meetings designed to set the agenda for global health advocacy took place, as well as the 2009 FDI Elections. Congratulations to Council and Committee members who were appointed during the General Assembly B and Council C meetings (see 2009 FDI Elections). I was delighted to learn at an assembly that the FDI has released its inaugural 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 it would purchase copies of ‘The Oral Health Atlas’ for dissemination to public libraries across the city-state. Other members of the Singapore Dental Association in the profession joined in support of the atlas, including how to purchase a copy, is available at the official website: www.oralhealthatlas.org.

FDI launches new Oral Health sourcebook

Participants and delegates of the 2009 congress joined incoming 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 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 our 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 from all about the Universal announcement: Universal 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, emphasizing 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 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 Program. 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 in my home country. The 2010 AWDC LOC 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

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, 20 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 Council

Councillors
Dr Norberto Lubiana (Brazil)

FDI Committees

Communications & Member Support Committee
Dr Jus-Sik Moon (Korea)

FDI activities. Later we enjoyed a colourful performance that took

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
• Fluoride in Restorative Materials
• Infection Control in Dental Practice
• Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for HBV, HCV and HIV
• Research

FDI Policy Statements are published by Myriad Editions (www.myriadeDITIONS.com), which is known for its award-winning State of the World Atlas series. More information about the atlas, including how to purchase a copy, is available at the official website: www.oralhealthatlas.org.

Revised Policy Statements

• Edentulism and General Health
• Fluoride in Restorative Materials
• Endodontal and General Health Problems of the Elderly
• The Use of Academic, Professional and Honorary Titles
• Masticatory Efficiency on General Health

Revised Policy Statements

• Edentulism and General Health
• Fluoride in Restorative Materials
• Endodontal and General Health Problems of the Elderly
• The Use of Academic, Professional and Honorary Titles
• Masticatory Efficiency on General Health
FDI head office relocates to Switzerland

The FDI has relocated its global headquarters to Geneva, Switzerland, concluding 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 31 distinct companies—which could also offer favourable taxation and simplified management accounting on commercial activities.

FDI head office

FDI head office is in Geneva, Switzerland. (FDI/FDI)

What makes dental professionals smile

Earlier this year, dental professionals from 65 countries 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.”

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’s other winners were chosen from among the remaining entries to receive a year supply of Wrigley’s sugarfree chewing gum.

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 50 military dentists from 18 countries, provided a forum for military dental officers to discuss scientific and military dental issues.

The six winners of the 2009 FDI/Unilever Poster Award Competition were announced at a reception hosted by the two organizations in Singapore on 3 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”
- Yan-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 vertebrae for skeletal maturation in 10–12 yr old children”
- Mohan Al-Sabhag—“Genetic variations in periodically involved smokers”

Correction note

In FDI Worldental Daily, 6 September 2009, on page 2, blue text, the 3LActive surface from Straumann included some incorrect information. Dr Lo’s first name is Alin, not Tien.

Closing Ceremony of the 2009 Military Programme in Singapore. (DENTALTRIBUNE)