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 in compiling this new FDI advocacy tool, which was officially released a day later. 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 about the positive improvements 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 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 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 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 project 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.

Switzerland was a top contender due to its proximity to the FDI’s previous head office, which allowed the possibility of keeping the majority of existing staff. Furthermore, the city is a hub for international governmental and non-governmental organisations such as the United Nations, World Health Organization, World Heart Federation and the International Council of Nurses, which facilitates collaboration in integrated health promotion.

The new office is a walking distance from the Geneva Airport, making it convenient for out-of-town visitors. It has 475 sqm of space and has been renovated to create an open concept workspace, with 360 degrees of windows. Earlier this year, FDI introduced a “Sponsor a Window” programme as a way to raise funds for the move. FDI Executive Director, Dr David Alexander, reported on the progress of the initiative: “The response to the Sponsor a Window programme has been significant and I would like to thank contributing member associations and individual donors for their generosity.”

New address of FDI head office:

FDI World Dental Federation
Tour de Cointrin
Avenue Louis Casati 54
1216 Cointrin – Genève Switzerland

Does not include some incorrect information. Dr Yeo’s first name is Alvin, not Ylvin. Included some incorrect information. The WDDF, which supports oral healthcare professions worldwide, has been renamed to the International Dental Development Fund (IDDF). This change was made in recognition of the WDDF’s broader mission and to clarify its relationship with the FDI. The IDDF is a separate organisation that raises funds for the FDI’s Global Dental Programme and other initiatives.

Correction note

FDI World Dental Federation Daily, 4 September, 2009, 4. FDI, an article on page 4, should have read: “FDI is a non-profit organisation, and any donations contribute to the advancement of oral health.”

Meet the Section Defence Forces Dental Services (SDFDS) in Singapore

On 11 August, Brigadier General (Dr) Benjamin Seet, Chief of the Singapore Armed Forces Medical Corps, officiated at the Opening Ceremony of the Army of the Mili- tary Programme for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress. The meeting, which attracted more than 60 military dentists from 18 countries, provided a forum for military dental officers to discuss scientific and military dental issues.

In his opening address, Brig. Gen. (Dr) Benjamin Seet 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 presenting 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 Stomatolgy, China Fourth Military Medical University; Colonel Robert Hale of the US Army Institute of Surgical Research; and Police Colonel Peter Sahabangi. A wide range of topics were discussed during the two-day Military Programme, including facial trauma care, forensic identification, field dentistry and dental fitness of soldiers.

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 organ- ising associations in Singapore on 5 September.

They are:

• Sagar Bichhandani (India) – “Evaluation of the Quality of Root Canal Fillings in Mumbai, India”
• Myat Nyin (Japan) – “Effects of simvastatin and alpha-tricalcium phosphate combination on the early healing of bone defects”
• Yun-Ching Chang (Chinese Tai- pei) – “Study of invasion patterns of oral parotid cell carcinoma with a new device of modified grading system”
• Victor TW, Fan – “Alveolar Bone Preservation and Augmentation with scaffold for implant therapeutics”
• Manisha Kukreja – “Comparative evaluation of hand wrist radiographs with cervical vertebrae for skeletal maturation in 10–12 yr old children”
• Mohanad Al-Sabagh – “Genetic variations in periodically involved smokers”

More than 120 submissions were received by the FDI for the competition this year. The best posters were selected as finalists prior to the congress and they were then invited to present their posters and research to a panel of judges, followed by a question and answer session at the congress. All winners received a free registration to a future FDI Annual World Dental Congress and $1,500 towards his or her participation in the congress. A FDI/Unilever Poster Award Competition will be held once again in 2010. More information can be found on the FDI website once it becomes available.

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”.

Representatives from the FDI and Unilever and the winners of the 2009 Poster Award Competition.

For more information, visit www.fdiworldental.org