The FDI, along with its WHPA partners, was actively involved in the World Noma Day, which took place on 9 May. The event aimed to help eradicate the disease, as stated by Dr Burton Conrod, FDI President. He said, “We expect the health professions as well as the public to play a major role whenever professional regulations need to be consulted by governments to self regulate health professions to stop any regulation that can be used as guides.”

The FDI, along with its WHPCR partners, has issued a joint statement, which calls for effective task shifting, employing new health care workers to provide health services relevant health topics with key stakeholders, prevention of control and treatment of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy, health of migrants, climate change, female genital mutilation and counterfeit medical products. Amongst those present from the FDI at the WHA include Dr Burton Conrod, FDI President, Dr John Hunt, FDI Interim Executive Director, Dr Harold Benkendorff, FDI Development and Public Health Manager, Dr Julian Fisher, FDI Scientific Affairs and Public Health Manager and Mr Jon Crail, FDI Development and Public Health Coordinator, Mrs Djerdana Ivosevic, FDI Projects Coordinator and Christina Tees Lhan, FDI Communications Coordinator.

Full details of the FDI interventions that can be used as guides are available on the FDI website.

In addition to the Assembly itself, the FDI, along with its WHPA partners, holds an annual on the opening day of the Assembly a lunch reception for the Ministries of Health, country delegations and other participants attending the WHA. The reception, attended by more than 250 participants, gave members of national health professional associations to strengthen self-regulation and dialog with their governments. The World Confederation for Physical Therapy and the International Council of Nurses have already produced model practices relating to regulation that can be used as guides.

Kamal Midha, President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, will consider holding another similar conference to follow up the issues we heard this weekend. The public needs to be aware that self-regulation is an effective way of stimulating good practice and preventing poor practice in the interests of the patient.

The full recording of the conference is available via the WHPA website.

61st World Health Assembly

The World Health Organisation’s (WHO) World Health Assembly (WHA) took place the week of 23 May at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The FDI delegation contributed on select agenda items through presentation of statements on the meeting floor. The FDI presented joint statements independently and jointly with the World Health Professionals Alliance (WHPA) on the subjects of prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy, health of migrants, climate change, female genital mutilation and counterfeit medical products. Amongst those present from the FDI at the WHA include Dr Burton Conrod, FDI President, Dr John Hunt, FDI Interim Executive Director, Dr Harold Benkendorff, FDI Development and Public Health Manager, Dr Julian Fisher, FDI Scientific Affairs and Public Health Manager and Mr Jon Crail, FDI Development and Public Health Coordinator, Mrs Djerdana Ivosevic, FDI Projects Coordinator and Christina Tees Lhan, FDI Communications Coordinator.

Full details of the FDI interventions that can be used as guides are available on the FDI website. www.fdiworldental.org

In addition to the Assembly itself, the FDI, along with its WHPA partners, holds an annual on the opening day of the Assembly a lunch reception for the Ministries of Health, country delegations and other participants attending the WHA. The reception, attended by more than 250 participants, gave members of national health professional associations to strengthen self-regulation and dialog with their governments. The World Confederation for Physical Therapy and the International Council of Nurses have already produced model practices relating to regulation that can be used as guides.

Kamal Midha, President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, will consider holding another similar conference to follow up the issues we heard this weekend. The public needs to be aware that self-regulation is an effective way of stimulating good practice and preventing poor practice in the interests of the patient.

The full recording of the conference is available via the WHPA website.

10

A day for the victims of Noma

Faces of children ravaged by malnutrition

The FDI joined the International No Noma Federation and the World Health Organization organizing the first ever World Noma Day, which took place on 22 May. Events, which included a scientific programme, community activity and gala dinner, were held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Attendees included representatives from national Noma associations, ministers of health from Africa, members from the health profession, area school children and various press and media. World Noma Day was presided by Dr Bertrand Piccard, President of the Winds of Hope Foundation, and under the high patronage of His Excellency, Kofi Annan, Former U.N. Secretary-General.

Noma, an atrocious disease that destroys the faces of thousands of children, still continues to leave ravaged children who never again see the sun. The disease is recognized in 28 countries, affecting hundreds of thousands of lives. Largely due to malnutrition, children fall ill with a disease that causes blindness, deafness, limb loss, and death.

Faces of children ravaged by malnutrition

Noma is a devastating necrosis that starts as a benign lesion in the mouth, of ten gingivitis. However, left untreated, it quickly devours the soft and bone tissue of the face, atrociously disfiguring its victims, who are almost always very young children. Those who do not die from it are left with scars and inability to breathe normally. They often become outcasts in their communities that see the disease as a curse.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region of the continent, is the epicentre of this devastating disease. While the exact etiology and scope of noma is unknown, it is apparent to be caused by a breakdown of the immune system attributable to malnutrition. According to the WHO, thousands of children fall ill in the course of ages of two and six may be affected each year. Epidemiological estimates are currently in the works, but there are many obstacles: isolated areas that are difficult to access, poor health services, unorganised recording of cases or handling of data by authorities, political and social instability, restricted mobility, high death rates, hidden victims, etc.

The two-day conference highlighted the fact that profession- al dialogue has to be opened up under more scrutiny than ever before, in many countries, and that often national health profes- sional associations were not being consulted. Discussion also focused on the impact of international trade on services agreements, cross-border movement of both pa- tients and health professionals.

Hiroko Miyanami, President of the International Council of Nurses: “International trade in services agreements impact the public and health professionals and it is important that health professional associations be consulted by governments prior to and during negotiations, whether regional, bilateral or global. It is critical that ministries of health be part of any negotiations concerning health and the health professions.”

Burton Conrod, President of the FDI World Dental Federation: “We expect the health professions as well as the public to play a major role whenever professional regulations need to be consulted by governments to stop any regulation that can be used as guides.”

The FDI, along with its WHPA partners, was actively involved in the World Noma Day, which took place on 9 May. The event aimed to help eradicate the disease, as stated by Dr Burton Conrod, FDI President. He said, “We expect the health professions as well as the public to play a major role whenever professional regulations need to be consulted by governments to stop any regulation that can be used as guides.”