Message from the president

I am sure that every practising dentist sincerely believes that they are members of a respected health profession. But the oral health care environment is changing rapidly. And I wonder how the public views dentistry, when it turns first of all to spa services, tooth whitening and travel packages for dental tourism. But most states agree that dentistry is a privilege and not a right. In order for us to establish the dentist/patient relationship of trust, critical to successful health promotion and treatment of oral disease, it is essential that the public perceives dentistry as a profession and not merely as a vocation or trade.

I believe that the main value of a strong national dental association is in ensuring that dentists are able to conduct themselves as health care professionals rather than simply suppliers of services. The formula for success is not a simple one and involves working with the licensing or regulatory authority. This is the ability of a dental association to maintain good government relations with the licensing or regulatory authority. The government always considers the views of a national association when making decisions that will impact on the health of its population. This is a difficult goal to achieve, but a common feature of the most successful associations.

For associations that manage to present dentists as the ethical and compassionate health care providers that we strive to be, the support of the dental industry follows easily. A good relationship with the dental industry is not simply transactional but meets the needs of both industry and professionals in their mutual quest to improve oral health. The best associations seek out the true professional values and build the health awareness day for the public.

Dr Burton Conrod
FDI President

FDI sponsors CE programme in Francophone Africa

Current Therapies in Periodontal Health

Forty-two dentists, from both the private and public sector, attended the Continuing Education (CE) programme sponsored by the FDI in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The attendees represented 85% of the dentists of Burkina Faso and also included others from Côte d’Ivoire, Niger and Senegal. The CE programme, which took place 16-17 October, was a part of the Premiers journées Dentaires du Burkina Faso.

The CE programme was presented as the form of a two-day workshop, titled “Current Therapies in Periodontal Health”. It was presented by Dr R. Struth from the University of Lyon in France. He focused on existing approaches to periodontal disease treatment, in the context of an overall treatment plan, taking into consideration factors such as classification data, aetiology, care of the patient during the initial phase, HIV and periodontal health. In addition, two hands-on workshops were conducted, where attendees practised incisions and surgical sutures and radiological assessment.

A series of events were organised for the congress, amongst which were an oral health awareness day in nine schools and a separate oral health awareness day for the public. All the events were broadcasted by the Burkina Faso central television channels and press. During the congress, the Scientific-Practical Conference of the Assemblée des Chirurgiens-Dentistes du Burkina (ACDB) was held. All the realised activities were highly and positively evaluated by the participants of the congress.

Dr Yannego Joachim, President of ACDB, praised the delegates for taking time off to update themselves and commended the efforts of the FDI, the Groupement des Associations Dentaires Francophones, in the context of the CE programme and of the CE congress, and the organising committee for bringing up a stimulating and enlightening convention.

As reported by Prof Denis Bourgeois, FDI Co-Programme Manager for Africa

FDI Treasurer attends WMA Assembly

Speaking to other health professionals on oral health and human rights

FDI Treasurer, Dr Tin Chun Wong, represented the FDI at the October World Medical Assembly (WMA) Assembly in Seoul, Korea. The topic of this year’s four-day WMA Assembly was “Health and Human Rights.” Dr Wong made a presentation to the WMA Committee on Medical Ethics on “Oral Health and Human Rights.” The session was open to all delegates.

Dr Wong emphasised to the WMA committee and those in attendance that oral health is a basic human right. She further explained the link between oral health and general health by providing examples related to diabetes, heart disease and premature low birth weight of babies. Dr Wong also promoted the work of the FDI in its area to support oral health as a right for all through examples of the Federation’s efforts in global conferences, such as the 2004 Nairobi Conference, the promotion of fluoride and FDI’s Policy Statements.

The FDI is honoured to have been invited to the WMA Assembly and thanks Dr Wong for representing the federation. The WMA is a partner of the FDI through the World Health Professions Alliance.

FDI Treasurer: Dr Tin Chun Wong, presented at the WMA Assembly on “Oral Health and Human Rights.”

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Plan your attendance for the 2009 AWDC in Singapore

Congress information available online

With the 2008 congress behind us, it is now time to start planning your attendance for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in the city of Singapore.

FDI Scientific Programme
Organise your visit to the FDI congress around the scientific sessions you would like to attend. The Scientific Programme, which includes limited attendance courses and forums, is available for viewing online. Please visit: www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/Singapore/congress4.html

Get up to 20% discount with the Star Alliance network.

The Star Alliance network has been appointed as the official airline network for the 2009 FDI congress. Simply call the reservation office of any participating Star Alliance member airline and quote the event code SQ01S09. Registered participants plus one accompanying person travelling to the event are automatically granted a discount of up to 20%, depending on the class of travel. For more information, please visit www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/Singapore/congress7.html

After the congress...
Take advantage of Singapore’s proximity to other popular tourist destinations in the region by signing up for one of the post-congress excursions. Pacific World, organiser of the post-congress excursions, has prepared trips for congress attendees to Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. For more information, please visit: www.pacificworld.com/sg/vacation_3.html

Singapore Climate
According to the Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore is warm and humid all year round, with only slight variations between the average maximum of 31 degrees Celsius and minimums of 25 degrees Celsius. This makes it ideal for those who enjoy sunbathing, swimming, sailing and other water sports. But for those who do not enjoy the tropical climate, Singapore is sheltered from the worst effects of the sun with air-conditioning in almost all of its shops, hotels, office buildings and restaurants.

2009 FDI Continuing Education programme

First stop, Malaysia

2009 will be another busy year for the FDI Continuing Education (CE) team. Twenty-five programmes have been scheduled for 2009 with the first one taking place in January in Malaysia. The Malaysian programme includes a workshop on endodontic retreatment and sessions on managing biofilms for optimal oral and systemic health and new approaches to detection and monitoring of early carious lesions.

The Malaysian programme will be followed by ones in February in Cote d’Ivoire, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. The complete 2009 FDI CE programme calendar with more information on the above sessions and others, is available online for viewing at www.fdiworldental.org/federation/4_0calendar.html

Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund Grant Program

Request for Proposals (RFP)

In response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004, the ADA Foundation and the American Dental Association’s Committee on International Programs and Development created a Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund Grant Program to address long term oral health needs of the communities affected by this natural disaster.

The Request for Proposal seeks applicants from US and non-US based organisations, who are working to rebuild oral healthcare initiatives and infrastructures in countries affected by the 2005 Indian Ocean Tsunamis such as but not limited to: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Grants will be awarded to support activities such as:
• The refurbishment of damaged dental facilities and infrastructure
• The construction and maintenance of a dental facility to establish continued oral health care and infrastructure in an affected area.
• The costs associated with providing dental services to affected populations (equipment, supplies, transport, training).
• Community outreach to affected populations (oral health education, training, service programs).

Proposals must be RECEIVED no later than 31 MARCH 2009. Additional information and application can be found at www.fdiworldental.org/federation/grants/index.asp?indoor=maldives

FDI prepares for 2010 Congress in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

Delegation including FDI President, Councillors and head office representatives visit city site

FDI, President, Dr Burton Conrod, addresses the ABO state representatives during his recent visit to Salvador da Bahia, Brazil.

An FDI delegation, invited by the 2010 FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) local organising committee, Asociazon Brasileira de Odontologia (ABO), visited the congress city during ABO’s International Dental Congress, XV CIOBA. During this preparation phase, every congress event was reviewed. After nearly a week of seeing what, where and how things happen in Salvador da Bahia, the expert committee was delighted with what they experienced and was pleased with the hospitality from the people of Bahia and their interest and willingness to help and accommodate visitors.

In addition to visiting various sites for congress activities, the FDI delegation also met with the Chief of the State Government Office, Mr Fernando Roth Schmidt, who reassured Bahia’s interest in hosting the 2010 event. “We know for sure that the congress [required some kind of support, directly from the government or private partnerships]. The convention centre is the ideal place for the event, and it will immediately be improved regarding air-conditioning and replacement of equipment. Strong investments are being done in the city for the important events that will take place. Furthermore, as part of such an effort, the airport will also be enlarged, and the seven direct flights to the USA and Europe that currently exist will be increased to 22 in the next two years.”

The delegation also met with the Vice-Governor of Bahia, who stated that Bahia is honored to host the FDI congress and also affirmed the support of the Governor of Bahia, Mr Jaques Wagner.

More information about the FDI’s visit in Brazil can be found at www.fdiworldental.org/congress/travel/2010_fdi_visit_Brazil.html

Plan your attendance for the 2009 AWDC in Singapore

FDI Annual World Dental Congress

2 - 5 September 2009

Singapore