There is much to learn from our Korean colleagues
An interview with IAPD president Dr Jorge Luis Castillo, Peru

In June, the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry (IAPD) held its biennial meeting in partnership with the Korean Academy of Pediatric Dentistry in Seoul. Dental Tribune Asia Pacific spoke with the newly elected president, Dr Jorge Luis Castillo, from Peru about the event and what he hopes to achieve with the association in the future.

“Overall, we aim to contribute significantly to the improvement of oral health in children through our activities worldwide.”

Dr Luis Castillo: Dentistry in South Korea is definitely of very high quality. During the congress, I had the opportunity to attend some of the lectures by Korean presenters and the level of the presentations was impressive, an approach to early Class III malocclusion, demonstrating different treatment scenarios in different dentition stages, presented by Dr Kitar Park from the Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine in Seoul, caught my attention in particular. I think there is much to learn from our Korean colleagues.

You have just taken over the responsibilities of the IAPD presidency from Dr Alcaino from Australia. What are the most important issues that you feel need to be addressed in the years to come?

We will continue with the programmes the IAPD has developed in the past and include others that are aimed at strengthening our association. For example, we intend to organise more regional meetings, similar to those we held in countries like Russia, Brazil and India in recent years. We will also continue helping individuals from underdeveloped countries to attend our meetings and organise educational programmes in countries that need help in the field of paediatric dental care.

Furthermore, we want to increase the already huge IAPD membership by including more national associations and individual members, especially postgraduate students, who are the future of our specialty. In addition, increased participation of our members through our webpage, online lectures and other Internet resources will be promoted.

The International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry is one of the most important scientific publications worldwide in our field and we intend to continue supporting it.

Overall, we aim to contribute significantly to the improvement of oral health in children through our activities worldwide.

The congress paid tribute to gene therapy with a lecture series. How does this new field improve the understanding of processes in children’s dental health?

As we gain more knowledge about the way genes regulate normal and abnormal processes in the human body, we have more tools at our disposal to fight certain conditions and diseases. At the meeting, genetic factors in the development of enamel and other dental features, such as the size and number of teeth, were discussed.

It is very important to know that genomics plays a significant role in the development of caries. The information we gain in this area in the future will help in terms of personalised risk assessment, as well as disease prevention and treatment, as discussed in another lecture series.

Unfortunately, dental caries prevalence in many countries is almost 100 per cent, with little potential for improvement. We need better policies, greater involvement by governments, as well as resources to prevent and treat dental disease. A coalition between dental scientists, authorities, and institutions could improve oral health in many parts of the world.

Thank you for this interview.

Join the first open access publishing platform in dentistry!

www.dtscience.com