FDI teams up with OSAP to improve global patient safety standards

The FDI World Dental Federation is participating in an official review of the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide with the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures (OSAP), International Federation of Dental Educators and Associations (IFDEA) and other leading global medical profession associations.

Patient safety is an emerging discipline, aiming to prevent harm to patients caused by health care and to identify opportunities for improving patient outcomes. According to the WHO Research Priority Setting Working Group on Patient Safety, tens of millions of patients worldwide suffer disabling injuries or death due to unsafe medical care every year.

The multi-professional WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide was first published in 2009 to provide medical schools with guidelines for teaching patient safety, and has since been downloaded by more than 1000 institutions in 100 countries. In growing recognition of the harms caused by health care, the WHO initiated a review of the Guide and invited the FDI World Dental Federation to participate as a primary partner in the project, together with the International Council of Midwives and other members of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), International Council of Nurses, International Pharmaceutical Federation and World Medical Association. Professors Takashi Inoue and Nermin Yamalik, of the FDI Education Committee, will be contributing to the review. Details are expected to be finalized during a consensus meeting at the 2010 OSAP Annual Symposium in June.

FDI explores preventive dentistry at 2010 AEEDC Dubai

FDI World Dental Federation introduces the Global Caries Initiative to the Gulf Region as part of a global consultation process

Representatives from the FDI World Dental Federation, including Dr. Roberto Vianna, FDI president, were recently in Dubai for the 2010 UAE International Dental Conference & Arab Dental Exhibition (AEEDC Dubai), where they participated in the FDI Global Caries Initiative to key opinion leaders of the Gulf Region.

The Global Caries Initiative (GCI) was first conceived during the Rio Caries Conference in July 2009, where conference attendees — including leading experts in epidemiology, cariology, dental education, prevention and change management — conceded there is a need to establish a broad alliance of key influencers and decision-makers to effect fundamental change across health systems and in individual behavior in order to eradicate caries worldwide by 2020.

Departing from this objective, the FDI World Dental Federation embarked upon a global consultation process to assess the potential challenges and impact of introducing a preventive model to existing systems for caries management.

The most recent seminar took place at the 2010 AEEDC Conference Program: Dr. Julian Fisher, FDI associate director of education and communications and congress departments.

Alexander presented a detailed report of ongoing FDI activities and achievements in 2009, including the introduction of a new FDI website, preparations for the 2010 Annual World Dental Congress in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, future congress venues, progress on the Global Caries Initiative and a summary of internal process improvements across the organization.

Alexander reminded participants of the critical importance of partnership between the FDI World Dental Federation and the dental industry, encouraging an "open dialogue, which strengthens our relationship and brings mutual benefits to both parties."

The presentations portion of the meeting included a financial review by Jerome Estignard, FDI director of finance and operations, who summarized the 2009 year-end results and budget forecasts for 2010 and beyond.

The annual FDI Corporate Partners Meeting is held in the first quarter of each year, alternating venues between the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting and the International Dental Show in Cologne, Germany.
Members’ Corner

Dr. Michael Glick: outstanding scientist and clinician

In this interview with World Dental Communiqué, Dr. Michael Glick discusses his work with the FDI World Dental Federation and his views on the role of the dental profession in oral and general health.

In October 2009, you were appointed dean of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. What attracted you to this role and what do you hope to achieve?

This position is a chance to have an impact with respect to dental education and, consequently, the future of dentistry: to build on the best of what we’re doing and take it to the next level. I am proud to be a dentist.

But, first and foremost, I see myself as a health-care professional. There is a small but growing trend in enhancing overall health by providing medically based point-of-care screening in dental offices.

In fact, last year I coordinated a seminar at the ADA Annual Session that was a hands-on course for dentists in office-based medical screening. There is a small critical mass developing that is eager to improve oral health-care delivery and education is where it all begins.

You dedicate a lot of time to the FDI World Dental Federation as chairman of the science committee. What motivates you to participate in organized dentistry at the inter-national level?

Working with the FDI World Dental Federation is an opportunity to make a difference, and I gladly give my time to help bring about positive change in the way the dental profession is perceived; for instance, in reviewing how we provide care or providing care to people who do not have access.

The structural complexity of our profession can be complicated, which further emphasizes a need for unity at the international level in order to make any progress.

What does the FDI World Dental Federation bring to the world of dentistry?

The FDI is the largest dental organization in the world, bringing together representatives from many different countries as a unified, global voice of dentistry. This gives us the privilege and opportunity to make a huge impact through the profession: to act as the facilitator for change.

For example, in caries prevention, the FDI is leading the Global Caries Initiative, a profession-led project with the goal of significantly diminishing the prevalence of caries worldwide by 2020.

Other recent projects, such as the Oral Health Atlas and Dental Ethics Manual, are further examples of practical tools produced by the FDI that dentists can use in their countries.

How do your many responsibilities relate to your personal vision in oral health?

All of my work, whether as the dean of a dental school, editor of JADA or the chairman of the science committee, supports advocacy and awareness around oral health.

You recently attended the FDI mid-year committee meetings in Geneva. What are some of the areas of focus for the science committee in 2010?

This year, the Science Committee wants to focus on setting a research agenda to respond to major global oral health-care issues. We also want to proactively generate collaboration between researchers in different parts of the world and partner with organizations working toward the same goals, such as the International Association for Dental Research (IADR).

As chairman, I see my role as a facilitator: that is, does the committee work reflect the mission and vision of the FDI? This is a question I ask myself when embarking on a new initiative. Another area of focus for the committee is science and evidence behind policy. To this end, we are working to design FDI scientific statements that will help underpin policy and provide FDI members with valuable scientific resources.

How do your many responsibilities relate to your personal vision in oral health?

It is a privilege and opportunity to make a difference, and I gladly give my time to help bring about positive change in the world, bringing togeth-er representatives from many different countries as a unified, global voice of dentistry. This gives us the privilege and opportunity to make a huge impact through the profession: to act as the facilitator for change.

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