FDI explores preventive dentistry at 2010 AEEDC Dubai

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 AEEDC Conference Program, the Gulf Cooperation Council Preventive Dentistry Conference and the 7th Annual Arab-Asian Scientific Dental Conference and the 7th Gulf Cooperation Council Preventive, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Congress and the 7th Gulf Cooperation Council Preventive, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Congress. Professors Takashi Inoue and Nermin Yamalik, of the FDI Education Committee, were expected to be finalized during a consensus meeting at the 2010 OSAP Annual Symposium in June.

FDI Corporate Partners Meeting in Chicago

The annual FDI Corporate Partners Meeting took place at the end of February during the 145th Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting. FDI President Dr. Roberto Vianna opened the meeting, welcoming and thanking FDI corporate partners for their unwavering support, particularly in view of the economic challenges still affecting businesses worldwide. Joining the FDI president at the meeting were FDI President-Elect Dr. Orlando Monteiro da Silva; Councillor Dr. Kathryn Kell; Executive Director Dr. David Alexander; and other full-time FDI professional staff from the finance, communications and congress departments.

Alexander presented a detailed report of ongoing FDI activities and achievements in 2009, including the introduction of a new FDI Global Caries Initiative 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.

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, together 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 errors 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 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.
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 within the context of GCI.

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 international 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 re-evaluating 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 to support 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 effect, 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 work together within the context of GCI?

It’s important to act as the facilitator for change. Privilege and opportunity to make a difference, and I gladly give my work as the dean of a dental school, editor of IADA or the chairman of the science committee, reflects my philosophy about health. I am lucky to have the opportunity to have a voice in sharing these beliefs with a larger group. But I see many examples of how dentists make a difference in their community at so many levels — such as extending free care. Every little bit makes a difference.

Dr. Michael Glick is dean of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine in the United States. He currently serves as chairman of the science committee for the FDI World Dental Federation.

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Dr. Michael Glick

"Continued, ‘FDI explores … scientific affairs, described the context of GCI in a presentation titled, “The Global Caries Initiative: A Profession-Led Call-to-Action,” and Dr. Nigel Pitts of the University of Dundee (Scotland) presented his research related to “A New Approach to Caries Classification, Detection and Assessment: The Experiences of ICDIS,” which addresses an underlying theme identified early in the GCI consultation process: that is, the need for the profession to establish a common language for caries. Pitts has been working with the FDI World Dental Federation to explore an international caries classification system within the context of GCI.

Vianna reinforced the FDI World Dental Federation commitment to oral health in an address to attendees of the Gulf Cooperation Council Preventive Dentistry Conference, paying a special thank you to Professor Abdullah Al Shammery, dean of Riyadh Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy and an AEECD International Scientific Advisory Board member.

Vianna said that the FDI World Dental Federation “is delighted to participate in this conference and looks forward to working together with the Gulf Cooperation Council and FDI member associations to further prevention at the national level.”