

# FERNÉY

## communiqué

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear Colleagues and Friends,*

Best wishes for a prosperous 2007!

With the start of a new year, it is my pleasure to reflect on the FDI's activities of the past year, keeping in mind, the three areas of focus: Excellence, Medical Positioning and Ethics.

- The FDI excelled through the support of the World Dental Development Fund and the *Live.Learn.Laugh.* programme. Currently the FDI supports projects in more than 40 countries.
- The FDI's involvement in the work of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) increased during the year. The FDI played a leading role in the WHPA to promote a smoke free FIFA World Cup.
- The joint FDI/WHO publication "Tobacco or Oral Health" has been translated into Portuguese, traditional and simplified Chinese.
- The FDI was nominated for the Gates Award for Global Health.
- The Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Shenzhen was a successful, historic event.
- The FDI provided funding to support eight delegates from least developed and low income countries to attend the AWDC for the first time.
- The FDI's Continuing Education programmes further developed during the year. On average, the FDI supported a CE programme once every two weeks.
- The work of the FDI's committees, working groups and task teams resulted in a variety of publications, policy statements, workshops and forums.
- The FDI advocated the importance of oral health in the European Union by contributing to the debates on amalgam and fluoride.
- The International Dental Journal is now available online.
- As President, I promoted Oral Health as part



of General Health and advocated for the dental profession. I reinforced the political role of the FDI President by meeting with the highest political and dental authorities. Furthermore, I went beyond the dental world to address multinational stakeholders in different forums.

In this new year, many exciting projects will come to fruition, including the publication of a Guide on Dental Ethics and of course the AWDC in Dubai in October.

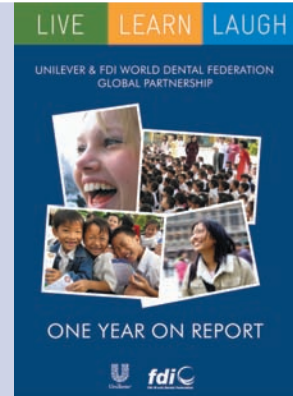
The FDI is a magnificent organisation doing great work around the world. The FDI is strong because of its dedicated members, volunteers, staff and supporters worldwide. These people all help the FDI advance "from good to great" and accomplish our vision of "Leading the World to Optimal Oral Health".

I wish everyone a very happy and successful 2007.

With kind regards,

Michèle Aerden  
President  
FDI World Dental Federation

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 ORAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS



## GLOBAL CONSULTATION ON ORAL HEALTH THROUGH FLUORIDE

In November 2006, the FDI, along with the World Health Organization and the International Association for Dental Research organised the Global Consultation on Oral Health through Fluoride.



The Consultation, which aimed to consider the actions needed to effectively reduce the global burden of dental caries by drawing on the organisers range and areas of expertise, took place close to the FDI Head Office in neighbouring Geneva, Switzerland and Thoiry, France. The Consultation, two years in the making, was attended by more than 70 experts from around the world.

In the declaration that resulted from the Consultation, the experts urged government and other influential bodies to develop effective legislation, necessary directives and programmes to ensure access to fluoride for dental health in all countries.

"While fluoride in various delivery systems is widely available in many developed countries, it is estimated that globally only 20 percent of the world's population benefit from appropriate exposure to fluoride," said Dr Poul Erik Petersen, Chief of the Oral Health Unit at the World Health Organization (WHO). "Regrettably, particularly people living in developing countries and disadvantaged communities are deprived of fluoride for dental health."

"The FDI fully supports the promotion of fluoride worldwide. Representing nearly one million dentists worldwide, the FDI will use the strong messages from the experts and translate them into tangible advice for all oral health professionals. There is an urgent need to take action in order to ensure that optimal fluoride is available and affordable for all," said Dr JT Barnard, Executive Director of the FDI.

"It is very important that research knowledge is translated into tangible action because this is

the only realistic way to improve oral health at a worldwide scale," added Prof J.M. ten Cate, Vice President of the IADR.

The adopted declaration will guide the work of the alliance and various international action groups that were established during the consultation. It can also be used by advocates as a tool when speaking to stakeholders and opinion leaders. The full text of the declaration is available at [http://www.fdiworldental.org/public\\_health/3\\_7fluoride.html](http://www.fdiworldental.org/public_health/3_7fluoride.html).

## SAFE DENTAL PRACTICES PREVENT THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS

From high-tech dental offices to simple village health posts, oral health professionals are at risk daily of both spreading and contracting HIV/AIDS.

Invasive interventions, performed regularly by dentists, can expose practitioners to the virus. Only effective infection control measures in all clinical settings can prevent the spread of the HIV virus and other highly infective diseases. In a press release issued on World Aids Day in December 2006, the FDI encouraged effective and routine hygiene measures and the development of ways to prevent cross-infection with any disease.

There are strong links between oral health and HIV/AIDS both for early diagnosis and therapy. The oral manifestations of the infection have a high impact on the quality of life of patients and their nutrition status. Helping them by controlling these oral lesions is an important role of the dentist and his team.

"The FDI promotes equal access to oral health care for HIV infected patients. Every patient should receive adequate and safe dental treatment. Cross infection through dental treatment is prevented by the use of correct infection control protocols," said Dr Michèle Aerden, FDI President. "These measures also effectively protect the oral health professional from accidental infection at work."

The FDI promotes safe dental practices and the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS through a number of activities, including its cooperation with the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures, the issue of Policy Statements, publication of guides such as, "Infection Control for the Delivery of Basic Oral Emergency Care" and participation in the World Health Organization's Safe Injection Global Network.

HIV/AIDS is a preventable disease. With caution and effective measures, oral health

professionals can help control the spread of this deadly disease.

To see the full text of the press release, please visit [http://www.fdiworldental.org/federation/7\\_1latest.html](http://www.fdiworldental.org/federation/7_1latest.html).

## FDI BRINGS SMILES TO THE NEEDY

While the FDI emphasises on healthy smiles through oral health prevention and maintenance, recently, the FDI brought smiles to the needy in another way.

After the FDI Annual World Dental Congress in September in Shenzhen, China, the FDI donated a quantity of its congress attendees' backpacks to the Shenzhen Society Welfare Center and to the deaf students at Shenzhen Yuanping Special Education School. Nearly 600 children enjoyed receiving their gift and felt part of the Shenzhen congress.

Letters of thanks were written by the students of the Yuanping Special Education School and a silk banner was presented by the Shenzhen Society Welfare Center to the FDI expressing their gratitude.

Countries that hold FDI congresses benefit in many ways and this is just another example of its positive impact. Other benefits include the elevation of the country's oral health status, oral health promotion, continuing education courses for oral health professionals, dental check-ups for the community, opportunities to network with local and international trade, increased tourism and other economic benefits for host countries.

## LIVE.LEARN.LAUGH. ONE YEAR ON

Thirty-two projects have already been approved and started.

A little more than a year after the launch of the *Live.Learn.Laugh.* programme, the FDI and Unilever are closer to achieving the vision to improve oral health globally through health education and community projects around the world. In the past year, a range of exciting and innovative projects have been agreed and implemented in four continents.

Progress in recent months includes the launch of the China country project at the FDI Annual World Dental Congress in September and the Greece country project at the Pan Hellenic Dental Conference. Two more country projects, one for Morocco and one for Algeria, are scheduled to launch in February.

"We are immensely proud of what the partnership has achieved so far and we are excited about the opportunities that are still ahead of us. We believe that together we can achieve our joint vision and make a difference to the lives of millions of people all over the world," said Dr JT Barnard, FDI Executive Director, and Sebastian Lazell, Senior Vice President of Unilever Oral Care Category, in a joint statement published in the "Live.Learn.Laugh. - One Year On Report".

The "Live.Learn.Laugh. - One Year On Report" provides information on the current status of the programme. It is available on the FDI website at [http://www.fdiworldental.org/public\\_health/4\\_3LLL.html](http://www.fdiworldental.org/public_health/4_3LLL.html). A list of the participating countries and their projects is also available on this page of the website.

### LIBERAL DENTAL PRACTICE IN EUROPE

**The FDI European Regional Organisation (ERO) recently conducted a survey on "Liberal Dental Practice in Europe".**

The results of and statistics from the survey will be used by National Dental Associations to communicate to national and/or European Union health authorities the specific inner situations that affect the free competition in dentistry, showing the positive situations from other states and trying to modify each of their own national legislation accordingly.

The survey stemmed from a request for the information by many of the delegates at the ERO FDI Plenary Session in Porto. Answers from 32 National Dental Associations were considered in the results.

To obtain a copy of the survey, please contact Monika Lang, ERO Secretariat, at [erosekretariat@ssso.ch](mailto:erosekretariat@ssso.ch).

### 1ST INTERNATIONAL DENTAL CONGRESS OF MERCOSUR

**As reported by Dr Aña Pereira, FDI Programme Manager, Latin America.**

The long-awaited First International Dental Congress of Mercosur took place in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 9-11 November. The Congress was held in the Mar del Plata Sheraton Hotel, where a very happy and festive mood prevailed amongst the large number of dental professionals, who took part in this important event.

The level of the scientific programme was excellent and the prestige of the Congress was enhanced by the presence of many renowned speakers and leaders of dentistry from the countries that make up Mercosur.

The FDI played a prominent role, as an FDI Day was organised during the Congress as part of the FDI Continuing Education Programmes for Latin America. The theme of the FDI Day was "The Era of Aesthetic Dentistry".

The presence of Dr Michèle Aerden, FDI President, who travelled specially to be with us on this occasion, brought lustre to the Congress.

The Opening Ceremony of the Congress took place in the Auditorium of the city of Mar del Plata. The ceremony began with the National Anthem, played by the orchestra of the Navy, and this was followed by the display of the flags of all the countries participating in the Congress. After the formalities and the opening speeches, the evening came to an end with a magnificent tango show.

The Mercosur Congress will take place on a rotating basis in all the countries that are signatories to the Mercosur agreement. The Confederación Odontológica de la República Argentina (Dental Confederation of Argentina) was involved in this Congress's debut, which was undoubtedly, and by all accounts, a great success. The next Mercosur Congress will be held in November 2008 in Uruguay.



*The FDI would like to congratulate Dr Pereira and her organising committee on a successful Congress. We would like to further congratulate her on her recent award of an Honorary Membership by the Argentine Dental Association.*

### DR DA SILVA ELECTED PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN DENTISTS

**The FDI would like to congratulate Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva, FDI Councillor and President of the Portuguese Dental Association, on his election as President of the Council of European Dentists, formerly EU Dental Liaison Committee.**

In a press release issued by the Council of European Dentists, Dr da Silva outlined his aims for the three-year presidency, including, above all, the promotion of oral health for all of Europe, with the direct dentist-patient relationship at heart. He also commented on the European Commission's recently launched consultation process on community action on health services, saying that "the dental profession is based on quality, autonomy and independence, and these core elements must be safeguarded in any future EU action on health services. Guaranteeing patient safety will be equally essential in the current reflections on cross-border health care." The FDI wishes Dr da Silva every success in his presidency and looks forward to future collaboration with the Council of European Dentists.

### FDI APPOINTS DENTAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

**The FDI has appointed Dr Peter Swiss as the part-time Dental Practice Committee Coordinator.**

Dr Swiss has a long history with the FDI and knows the organisation well. He is excellently qualified in the field of dental practice – not least through his work with Military Defence Union and Denplan in the UK and other countries. He has proven himself to be an excellent administrator, a hard worker and committed to any task given to him. The way in which he is currently coordinating the development of the Ethics Guidelines is testimony of his abilities. He has excellent skills in written English which will be of great assistance to the committee when it comes to drafting papers and statements.

The FDI wishes Dr Swiss a warm welcome on board in this new capacity and every success with the extensive duties in supporting the Dental Practice Committee.

## DR CHUAN RESIGNS AS PROGRAMME DIRECTOR FOR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

After 20 years of being involved with the FDI on its Continuing Education (CE) programmes, Dr Choo Teck Chuan will begin relinquishing his responsibilities by first stepping down in March from his six-year post as Programme Director for FDI Scientific Programmes. His tasks will initially be taken over by the Education Committee and the FDI Head Office.

Dr Chuan, who is also Programme Manager for Asia Pacific, will continue this role until April 2008. He will also work closely with the Education Committee and the Singapore Local Organising Committee on the Scientific Programme for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Singapore.

"Dr Chuan has been instrumental in helping the FDI develop its CE programme and providing its Member Associations with the support and expertise needed to organise CE programmes in their respective countries," said Dr JT Barnard, FDI Executive Director. "Dr Chuan's retirement will be a great loss to the FDI. However, we wish him everything of the best and good health for the future."

## PROF TYAS RECEIVE AWARDS

Prof Martin Tyas, Chairman of FDI Science Committee, receives Alan Docking IADR Science Award and Honorary Life Membership of the Australian Dental Association (ADA).

The Alan Docking Award is granted to recipients as a consequence of outstanding scientific achievement in the field of dental research over a period of time. The Alan Docking Science Award is the highest honour of the International Academy for Dental Research Australia and New Zealand division and is awarded to highly distinguished researchers in dentistry. *Source: ADA News Update*

Both the Alan Docking Award and the Honorary Life Membership recognise Prof Tyas' long standing and valuable contribution to dentistry. The FDI would like to congratulate Dr Tyas on these well-deserved honours.

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*Editor-in-Chief: Christina Lee Thorsen, Communications Coordinator, Editorial Assistant: Laurence Jocaille.*

## RELIVE THE 2006 CONGRESS

### FDI Shenzhen Congress Photos

You can now relive the 2006 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Shenzhen by browsing through our online photo gallery at <http://www.shutterstock.com/pro/FDI/2006FDIshenzhen>. There are photos from the General Assembly, Exhibition, Scientific Programme, Welcome Ceremony, Gala Dinner, Shenzhen Night, Speakers Reception and Special Lunches just to name a few.

Keep these memories in your personal photo albums by ordering these prints online or do something a little more special and put your favourite FDI Shenzhen Congress photo onto a note card, magnet or coffee mug.

### Welcome Ceremony DVD

Who can forget the breathtaking Welcome Ceremony on the opening day of the FDI Shenzhen Congress? Well, now you won't ever have to.

The FDI is offering the 2006 FDI Annual World Dental Congress Welcome Ceremony on DVD for €20. See the Welcome Ceremony all over again from the comfort of your own home. Order today and share this unforgettable event with your family, friends and colleagues.

To order, please send an email to [congress@fdiworldental.org](mailto:congress@fdiworldental.org).

## GET A HEAD START ON DUBAI



October will be here before you know it...

The FDI Annual World Dental Congress and Exhibition 2007 will be held in the exciting city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (24 – 27 October). The Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre will be home to the event, where the FDI will welcome thousands of dental professionals and companies from around the world. This venue offers state-of-the-art meeting rooms and exhibition halls as well as a wealth of other services for congress participants.

*The editor-in-chief reserves the right to edit all text submitted.*

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The scientific programme, poster and free communication information, social programme, tour schedule, visa information and list of hotels for FDI Dubai 2007 are available for viewing online. You can already register directly online or by printing off the registration form from our website. Get organised and plan ahead for this not to be missed event.

For more information, about the 2007 Congress, please visit <http://www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/dubai/congress1.html>.

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Reference:  
1. Szóke J, Bánóczy J, Proskin HM (2001) Effect of after-meal sucrose-free gum-chewing on clinical caries. *Journal of Dental Research* **80**(8): 1725-29.  
2. Edgar WM, Bibby BG, Mundraff S, Rowley J (1975) Acid production in plaques after eating snacks: modifying factors in foods. *J Amer Dent Assoc* **90**: 418-25.