FDI congress gets off to a promising start

New products and clinical developments in dentistry presented at Istanbul Congress Center

With the playing of the Turkish national anthem and the handover of the presidential chain from Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva to the president elect, Dr Tin Chun Wang, as only two of the highlights, the FDI Annual World Dental Congress was officially opened yesterday at an opening ceremony in Istanbul. Local flavour was added through performances by Turkish percussionist Burhan Öçal and his group, followed by Fire of Anatolia, a ballet. The audience was addressed by the Turkish Minister of Health, Mehmet Müezzinoğlu, who took the opportunity to thank the organisers.

More than 12,000 dental professionals are expected to attend the four-day event which is held in the Istanbul Congress Centre.

The congress will see some key debates in politics; for example, the implications for the dental profession of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to be signed in October. This is of interest to dentists because of its special provisions for dental amalgam.

According to Monteiro da Silva, the congress will see the launch of new initiatives intended to help improve oral health worldwide, such as the Observatory for Oral Health Prevention and Control project (see page 3 of this edition) and the FDI’s Strategy for Africa. “This Annual World Dental Congress is a reflection of what the FDI represents in the world today: relevant, influential, well-informed, ubiquitous,” Monteiro da Silva said.

The congress will continue today with presentations on preventive dentistry and implantology, among other topics. Clinical methods and technologies will be discussed at the Dental Tribune Study Club Symposium in the exhibition hall at Booths B32 and B66. Between 11:00 and 18:00, well-known experts will present on minimally invasive cosmetic dentistry and the benefits of CBCT.

Unfortunately, Worldental Daily was not able to include picture from the opening ceremony before this edition went to print. For photos from the event, around-the-clock news and information about the congress, please visit the Dental Tribune website at www.dental-tribune.com or scan the QR code at the bottom left corner of this page.
FDI launches its Observatory for Oral Health Prevention and Control

The FDI World Dental Federation is launching its Observatory for Oral Health Prevention and Control today at the Annual World Dental Congress in Istanbul. Inspired by the format of the European Global Oral Health Indicators Development project in Europe and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the pilot project is set to begin in January next year and will see the organisation distributing tablets to selected dentists worldwide containing a series of questions for their patients.

They will have a sociological and medical core, dealing with oral hygiene habits, understanding of oral hygiene, behaviour, nutrition and a number of others, with a focus on the state of patients’ oral health. The Android-based tool also contains questions for the dentists themselves concerning clinical data, such as the number of natural teeth, periodontal status and cancerous lesions.

In a world awash with data and information, what prompted the FDI to launch this initiative? FDI President Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva responded to this question: “There is a lot of available data on oral health, including in our Own Oral Health Atlas, but the question is what does that data tell us?”. "The World Health Organization seeks to monitor trends and determine in the field of noncommunicable diseases and evaluate progress in their prevention and control. Our work with them on oral health has made it clear that the current data cannot anticipate in a dynamic way future challenges for the profession and public that readily translate into indicators and targets. It therefore has limited value for national dental associations and oral health policy makers. We have to rethink and move quickly. That is what we are doing now.”

The FDI Observatory for Oral Health Prevention and Control programme is one of two items identified from FDI Vision 2020 for immediate implementation. The other is intra and interprofessional collaborative practice as a means of better integrating dental medicine into the medical community for the benefit of patients.

FDI Vision 2020 maps the threats and opportunities facing oral health and oral health care in the coming decade in five key areas: meeting the increasing need and demand for oral health care, expanding the role of existing oral health care professionals, shaping a responsive educational model, mitigating the impacts of socio-economic dynamics, and fostering fundamental and translational research and technology. It was launched in September 2012 at the 100th AWDC in Hong Kong.

Reaching young mothers with oral health education

Thousands of mothers in Morocco and Egypt are learning how to encourage their children to adopt good toothbrushing habits for life, as part of the Live. Learn. Laugh. (LLL) partnerships between the countries’ national dental associations and Unilever Oral Care brand Signal.

In Morocco, the partnership between the Association Marocaine de Prévention Bucco-Dentaire and Signal aims to improve knowledge of oral health among pregnant women and emphasise that it is important for parents to take their children to the dentist regularly, so that parents act as role models and teach their children about the importance of a good oral care routine at an early age. To encourage them to think about oral health, parents are asked to complete the dental section of their children’s health record, which motivates parents to take their children to the dentist regularly for their record to be reviewed.

“One of the highlights of our LLL partnership this year was the activities we arranged for World Oral Health Day on March 20th. We organised educational games and activities for children where they learned how to care for their teeth and avoid caries, and about the relationship between a healthy mouth and a healthy body,” Dr Habila Kiani, LLL project coordinator in Morocco, said. “The project is having a great impact: our participants are very interested in improving their oral health and we have been successful in encouraging good oral care habits like twice daily toothbrushing. LLL provides a great opportunity to advance oral health in Morocco, especially in reducing caries in young children.”

The Egyptian partnership, between the Egyptian Society for Pediatric Dentistry and Children with Special Needs and Signal, aims to make brushing twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste a habit through oral care educational programmes led by school teachers. Project leaders met with and trained teachers in oral health education, explaining the details of the project and demonstrating an effective brushing technique with the aid of posters, videos and booklets. A free toothbrush and toothpaste are given to all participants during meetings with parents, and local dentists provide free check-ups to treat existing problems, with follow-up appointments to evaluate the success of the programme.

Remember to visit the LLL partnership stand on Level 2 to find out more about their oral health improvement projects taking place around the world.
Concerning dentine hypersensitivity, Prof. Nicola West, from the University of Bristol, and Dr Denis Bourgeois from the University of Lyon, demonstrated good coping mechanisms for dealing with pain, 28 per cent felt that certain factors significantly affected their lifestyle, as they avoided certain kinds of foods, for example. The prevalence of dentine hypersensitivity was highest in Italy (over 50 per cent) and lowest in Finland (less than 30 per cent). Again, heartburn and an acidic diet were identified as risk factors.

Surprisingly, no statistical difference was noted in this study between male and female participants for any of the subjects dealt with in the study. There was also no evidence that toothbrushing time or technique affected the results.

The research was supported by a grant from dental consumables manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline.