Entrevista con el nuevo presidente de FDI, Dr. Orlando Monteiro da Silva

“Los proyectos de FDI mejoran la vida de las personas”

El nuevo presidente de FDI, Dr. Orlando Monteiro da Silva, derecha, con los presidentes de AMIC Dental y de ADM durante la Fiesta Latina de Dental Tribune en la exposición IDS.

¿Cuál es la importancia del Congreso Mundial de FDI?

La odontología y la medicina oral siempre han sido una de las profesiones más organizadas del mundo. La FDI usa esa estructura a nivel internacional: las reuniones anuales de la profesión sirven para discutir temas políticos, científicos y profesionales relacionados con la salud en general y la odontología en particular en un contexto global.

¿Cuál es la importancia de la educación continua?

La educación continua es fundamental para calidad de la práctica. La profesión, la ciencia y el arte de la odontología han evolucionado de manera significativa en la última década. Una plataforma de educación continua es de gran valor para la profesión y para el público. Es muy importante que cuando un paciente va al dentista esté seguro de que se le está dando la mejor atención. La FDI juega un papel muy importante en la educación.

¿Cuál es el impacto de FDI?

Tenemos proyectos muy importantes en todo el mundo que están marcando una diferencia en la vida de la gente en África y en el oeste y este asiático. Todos los proyectos de FDI se adaptan a las necesidades de las poblaciones locales. Su objetivo final es promover la salud oral en todos sus aspectos, no sólo en lo que respecta a educación y prevención, sino también en cuanto a tratamiento y rehabilitación.

La caries y la enfermedad periodontal afectan actualmente a un 90% de las personas de todo el mundo y la FDI puede contribuir a reducir su incidencia en generaciones futuras apoyando a nuestros miembros nacionales para sensibilizar a gobiernos y público sobre la importancia de la salud bucal en la salud pública. La buena prevención y las campañas de educación son cosas que se quedan para toda la vida.

Expanding Dental Markets in Latin America

Boosted by capital inflows, by record prices for exports, by sound policies and by an expansion in domestic credit, Latin America saw economic growth of 6% last year and is on course to notch up close to 5% this year, stated the influential magazine The Economist.

The main motor of growth for Latin America has been China’s demand for its minerals, foodstuffs and other raw materials. That looks set to continue. Secondly, the growth increasingly comes from consumption by Latin Americans themselves, as tens of millions edge out of poverty and benefit from newly available credit.

Mexico, which suffered more in 2009 and is vulnerable to slower economic growth in the United States, has more scope than others in the region to expand domestic credit. Chile has gone further. Thanks partly to tax rises, it will cut its fiscal deficit to 1.8% of GDP this year, despite extra spending after a big earthquake last year, said its Finance Minister. Brazil is curbing its deficit this year, but plans big pension and public sector wage rises next year.

What is the significance of the FDI Annual World Dental Congress?

Dentistry and dental medicine have always been one of the best-organized professions in the world. FDI uses that national structure internationally: the profession comes together once per year to discuss political, scientific and professional issues related to health in general, and to dentistry in particular, in a global context.

How important is continuing education?

In terms of quality, continuing education is crucial. The professional science and art of dentistry have evolved significantly, especially in the past decade. Providing a platform of continuing education for dentists and other oral health professionals is of tremendous value to the profession and indirectly, of course, to the public. It is very important that when a patient goes to the dentist, he or she is sure that the best practices are being applied. FDI has a very important role in that.

Is FDI making a real difference?

We have extremely valuable projects all over the world that are making a difference to people’s lives in Africa and in West, South and East Asia; all projects are tailored to local population needs. The ultimate goal is to promote oral health in all its aspects, not just education and prevention, but also treatment and rehabilitation.

Tooth decay and periodontal disease currently affect 90% of people around the world, and we can contribute to lower their incidence among future generations by supporting our national partners in raising awareness among governments and public on the importance of oral health in public health. Good prevention and education messages stay with you all your life.
El creciente mercado dental en América Latina

Chile ha ido incluso más allá. Gracias en parte a una subida de impuestos, redujo su déficit fiscal a 1,8% de su PIB este año según su ministro de Economía, a pesar del gigante extra provocado por el terremoto del año pasado. Brasil por su parte ha reducido su déficit este año y está creciendo de tal forma que planea grandes aumentos de pensiones y salarios del sector público el próximo año.

Los datos económicos de América Latina son una buena noticia para la industria dental y para los más de 350,000 profesionales de la odontología. Los dentistas latinoamericanos están experimentando una gran demanda de sus servicios, que abarcan desde citas regulares a complejos y caros procedimientos estéticos. Esta situación, unida a una mayor cobertura dental, ha traído una gran bonanza para muchos profesionales. Uno de los signos más visibles de este nuevo clima económico es el creciente número de congresos y exposiciones dentales en toda la región. Mientras que hace algunos años congresos como CIOSP en São Paulo (Brasil) eran el referente exclusivo de la industria dental en América Latina, ahora muchos países tienen sus regular exposiciones internacionales, a las que asisten reconocidos conferencistas de América y Europa. En una reciente reunión en Bogotá (Colombia) re- fue presente toda la plana mayor del Congreso Internacional del Implantoología Oral (ICOI), incluyendo su presidente, Kenneth Judy y su director ejecutivo, Craig Johnson. (Consulte la cobertura del evento en la sección latinoamericana de www.dental-tribune.org).

Expanding Dental Markets in Latin America

The economic data on Latin America is indeed good news for the dental industry and for over 350,000 dental professionals, many of who have enjoyed an unprecedented interest in their services from patients.

From regular appointments to complex and expensive esthetic procedures, Latin American dentists are experimenting a large demand for their services. Coupled with an expanding dental coverage, the economic climate has brought a bonanza for many professionals.

One of the most visible signs of this new, rich economic climate is the increasing number of dental congresses and exhibitions now taking place throughout the region. While a few years ago shows like the massive CIOSP in São Paulo, Brazil ruled the dental business in Latin America, now many countries have their own international expos, attended by top American and European speakers.

At a recent meeting in Bogota, Colombia all the major players of the influential International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) were in attendance, including its chairman Kenneth Judy and executive director Craig Johnson. (See coverage under Latin America at www.dental-tribune.com or choose the spanish-language e-paper edition of Dental Tribune Latin America.)

ICOI will sponsor a Mexico City, November 3 - 5, 2011 meeting at UNAM, the largest and most prestigious university in Latin America, a sign of ICOI’s interest in the region.

Just the Esthetics Program at the upcoming November meeting of the Argentinean Dental Association (ADA) in Buenos Aires will have as speakers Sasha Jovanovich, Newton Fahl, Stephen Chen or Galip Gürel, among many others. The new FDI president as well as all presidents of Latin American national dental associations will have a parallel meeting there on dental public policies, if you are interested in growing your business, Latin America is where to invest now.
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Does the FDI have an impact in people’s lives?
Yes, in quite specific ways, from the dental materials used by the dentist to a number of issues on dental practice and ethics. FDI’s continuing education programs have an impact on the good art of the profession, as do other FDI issues such as waste management in dental practices, guidelines, good practice recommendations and public information messages. All of these together have a tremendous impact on health professionals – but on also patients, both directly and indirectly.

What’s the role of FDI on health and dentistry in a global context?
FDI deals directly with the United Nations in a general way, but more specifically with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is very important to be globally present and to make sure that the interests of the profession, and of the public, are well represented, promoted and defended.

We are part of an alliance of non-governmental organizations called the World Health Professions Alliance or WHPA and our recent focus has been in noncommunicable diseases. This issue has come to the surface in the past few years due to the health burden they represent. FDI has founded the WHPA campaign and recently made very specific recommendations at a Civil Society Hearing in New York. We have also created a health toolkit, which was launched just a few days ago.

Are these recommendations for all health professionals?
FDI’s particular goal is to have oral diseases listed among noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). The current WHO list refers only to cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular and respiratory disease. Yet people all over the world – governments, politicians, important bodies like WHO and others – are becoming increasingly aware that oral health is part of general health. Oral health has a huge impact on the general health of individuals and other systemic diseases, especially NCD’s. FDI is working to have this reality reflected in official UN and WHO NCD policy and statements.

What is the principle issue at UNEP?
UNEP is in the process of developing an international treaty for mercury, one of the components of dental amalgam. FDI is ensuring that discussions are based on the best available science. It and seeks to facilitate solutions that do not compromise endanger public health, particularly in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, both within developed and developing countries, nor should they hinder the necessary development of countries in transition and low income countries.

At the 2010 AWDC General Assembly, FDI’s membership approved a motion by 84%, which placed health promotion and disease prevention as the primary principle underscoring the position of FDI and that of its membership in the negotiating process. The motion resolved that “FDI World Dental Federation as the worldwide, authoritative and independent voice of the dental profession calls on governments to foster and ensure the phase up of effective prevention for dental caries and associated health promotion programmes. This should be linked to preventive disease management, which will result in the phase down of use of current restorative materials, including dental amalgam. These measures will ensure optimal oral health, particularly for those most disadvantaged and in need of treatment.”

The second element of the 2010 GA Motion stated the safety of dental amalgam and that no ideal alternatives currently exist: “Amalgam is a safe and highly effective restorative material. To maintain and protect global public health, a phase down of amalgam will be only appropriate when an alternative and suitable restorative material is available”.

Dental amalgam has been in use for well over a century and we do not yet have a product that is as tough – an amalgam filling can last for 25 years or more – or as cost-effective: other materials with a shorter life cycle are at least three times as costly. It is important for us to find a workable solution.

What is your personal goal as FDI President?
I would like to give more visibility to some Portuguese-speaking countries like Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, East Timor and São Tomé and Principe. These countries have tremendous needs in terms of oral health professions and in terms of the oral health needs of the millions of people that live there.