

President's Column

MONTREAL IS READY FOR FDI



Dr. Jack Cottrell

The 2005 FDI Annual World Dental Congress is drawing closer, and beginning August 24, Montreal will be ready to host members of the global dental community. This event seemed quite far away when I was helping with promotions at the 2004 FDI Congress in New Delhi, India. Now that it is almost here, I am excited at the prospect of welcoming dentists from across this country and around the world to this grand dental showcase.

My welcome would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the individuals and organizations who are turning a vision into reality. First and foremost, I would like to recognize the work of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The LOC chair, Dr. Denis Forest, executive director of Les Journées dentaires internationales du Québec, has been leading a dedicated team of volunteers and professionals. He has worked closely with

FDI and CDA representatives, including CDA past-president Dr. Louis Dubé, to showcase Montreal and Canadian dentistry to the world.

This collaborative effort between the Order of Dentists of Quebec and CDA, along with the exceptional promotional support of the Quebec Dental Surgeons Association, is a prime example of Canadian organizations working together toward a common goal to the ultimate benefit of organized dentistry. Combined with the efforts of the FDI staff and volunteers, these groups have provided an ideal forum for their colleagues to learn and interact with fellow professionals.

The substance of an FDI Congress is often found in its scientific program. This year's program has been assembled under the guidance of Dr. André Prévost from the University of Montreal, in communication with FDI volunteers. The variety of lectures and workshops should pique the interests of a broad range of dental professionals. Sport dentistry, risk management in practice, esthetic dentistry and oral medicine are just a few of the topics on offer. The smaller, hands-on workshops will examine such issues as practising dentistry in remote geographical areas, the financing of oral care and working with an expanded oral health care team.

On top of the scientific program, the 2005 FDI World Dental Exhibition will be the largest trade show of dental materials, devices and equipment ever held in Canada. National and international distributors, designers and manufacturers will be displaying the latest in dental equipment and technology.

Another key element of the FDI Congress is the World Dental Parliament, where delegations from FDI member countries discuss oral health issues of global importance and

put forth statements for debate and endorsement. By having a strong voice at these sessions, Canada is able to influence the wording of the FDI position statements.

This year's FDI elections will also be significant as CDA past-president Dr. Burton Conrod is looking to become the first Canadian to serve as FDI president. Dr. Conrod has excelled in his role as a member of the FDI Council and is hoping to take his involvement with FDI to the next level, as a candidate for FDI president-elect in 2005–2006.

All of these elements should combine to make the 2005 FDI Congress a truly relevant and unique dental event. As CDA president, I am honoured to have the chance to debate the issues that directly affect my Canadian colleagues with other leaders, and work toward finding practical solutions to these problems. Issues that affect dentists at a local, provincial or national level in Canada often arise in other countries as well. It is not only vital to formally debate these issues, but to also engage in more informal discussions on a colleague-to-colleague basis.

It is in this spirit of putting our minds together to develop innovative solutions that I would like to personally invite all Canadian dentists to attend the 2005 FDI Congress. I encourage you to experience first-hand the camaraderie, the sense of professional community, the opportunity for continued learning and the new developments in the dental industry.

It is time to play host to our international partners and demonstrate with pride the many successes of delivering optimal oral health care in Canada. I look forward to seeing you in Montreal.

Jack Cottrell, BSc, DDS
president@cda-adc.ca