

2007 FDI Annual World Dental Congress



The beautiful city of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, a juxtaposition of dazzling modernity and Middle Eastern tradition, was the site of the 95th Annual World Dental Congress. This is the second time an FDI Congress has taken place in a Middle Eastern country. The first was in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1966.

Members of the official Canadian delegation were Dr. Wayne Halstrom, leader of the delegation and CDA immediate past president, Dr. Darryl Smith, CDA president, and Dr. Deborah Stymiest, CDA president-elect. Drs. Jack Cottrell, CDA past president, and John O’Keefe, editor-in-chief and CDA’s National Liaison Officer to FDI, were official alternate delegates.

Thousands of visitors attended the conference at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, a state-of-the-art venue for the FDI World Parliament’s business meetings, scientific program and exhibitions. The scientific program, titled “Dental Diversity in the Land of Tomorrow,” boasted an impressive line-up featuring more than 130 invited international speakers. Two Canadians presented during the scientific program: Dr. Debora Matthews was part of a panel discussion on “Oral Health and Diabetes,” and Dr. David Isen presented “Pain Management in Dentistry.” The program also featured specialty workshops and forums on oral health promotion. Dr. Peter Cooney, chief dental officer of Canada, discussed the process Canada is currently using to revise its fluoride policies in a presentation to the Science Committee Forum of the FDI Joint World Dental Development and Health Promotion Committee, Public Health Section.

This year’s World Dental Exhibition was one of the largest in FDI history, with more than 340 companies

showcasing advanced dental technology and current trends and product development in dentistry.

The 2007 Welcome Ceremony featured a spectacular light show with dance, music and local folklore presentations. Attendees also witnessed the symbolic installation of Dr. Burton Conrod of Sydney, Nova Scotia, as the first Canadian president of FDI. Dr. Conrod officially assumed duties as president for a 2-year term from Dr. Michèle Aerden at the end of the congress.

Dr. Burton Conrod Becomes FDI President



Dr. Darryl Smith congratulates Dr. Burton Conrod during the CDA reception in his honour.

CDA hosted a private reception in Dr. Conrod’s honour to celebrate his installation as FDI president. More than 100 people gathered to mark this significant achievement for Canadian dentistry. In addition, CDA’s annual Canadian Reception, always a popular event with official delegates, was held at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel and attended by 350 guests from over 50 FDI member associations and international organizations.

CDA would like to thank Procter & Gamble for its generous sponsorship of the CDA Canadian Reception. CDA is also grateful to GlaxoSmithKline for its sponsorship of the private CDA reception for Dr. Conrod.

Bilateral Relationships

While at the congress, the Canadian delegation strived to create new links and reinforce existing ones with national associations who face similar professional and political issues to those of CDA. There is great benefit to sharing information and resources related to common issues such as access to care, accreditation and dental workforce shortages. This endeavour began at the American Dental Association meetings in San Francisco in the fall, and the delegation had



Dr. Burton Conrod and Dr. Michèle Aerden look on as His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, deputy ruler of Dubai, cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the World Dental Exhibition.



From left: Dr. Piret Väli, president of the Estonian Dental Association, Dr. Burton Conrod, Dr. Kathleen Roth, immediate past president of the American Dental Association (ADA), Dr. Deborah Stymiest, president-elect of CDA, and Dr. Mark Feldman, president of ADA.

very good meetings with representatives of Australia, Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand and the United States. The intention is to forge and strengthen more of these relationships at future international venues.

Partnerships with Industry Leaders

The Canadian delegation also sought to establish or strengthen relationships with dental industry leaders in order to discuss their vision of the future of the profession. Meetings were held with 5 companies and the International Dental Manufacturers Association. These meetings provided valuable insights into how the dental profession and the dental industry can work together as key strategic partners.

Education Committee



Dr. John O'Keefe with Dr. Denis Forest, candidate for FDI's Education Committee.

This year, the Canadian delegation threw its support behind Dr. Denis Forest of Montreal, Quebec, in his bid for a seat on FDI's Education Committee. Dr. Forest is editor of the *Journal of the Order of Dentists of Quebec (ODQ)* and the director of the *Journées Dentaires of ODQ*. He is professor emeritus at the faculty of dentistry of the University of Montreal. No

stranger to working with FDI, Dr. Forest was chair of the local organizing committee for the 2005 FDI Congress in Montreal. The Education Committee's main role is organizing the scientific program of the Annual World Dental Congress and other continuing educational activities of FDI, as well as to address dental education issues.

There were 11 candidates for 4 positions, 2 positions voted on by the General Assembly and 2 by the Council. Unfortunately, although support for Dr. Forest was strong throughout the election, he did not win a seat.

Oral Health Policy Strategy

The FDI World Dental Parliament brings together representatives from FDI member associations to establish the organization's strategic direction and adopt policy statements that influence the world of dentistry. During the FDI General Assembly, delegates from member countries, invited guests and organization representatives discuss and review global policy statements on oral health. This year, CDA lobbied extensively for changes to the policy development process at FDI that would see policies written at a more global level. Individual countries would then fill in the details appropriate to their own jurisdictions, ensuring the resulting policies would be relevant and not in conflict with those of their countries.

University of Sharjah Joint Dental Education Project



Dr. Kathleen Roth, past president of the American Dental Association, Dr. Darryl Smith, CDA president, and Dr. Christopher Fox, executive director, International Association for Dental Research, look on as His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, speaks.

Dr. Johann DeVries took Dr. Darryl Smith and a small group of international delegates, including leaders from the Canadian, Australian and American Dental Associations on a tour of the facilities at the

University of Sharjah, located in one of the 7 emirates of the United Arab Emirates. Dr. DeVries is dean of the faculty of dentistry at the University of Adelaide, Australia, and former dean of the faculty of dentistry at the University of Manitoba. In 2005, the University of Adelaide and Sharjah University reached an agreement that saw the University of Adelaide provide the curriculum for the bachelor of dental surgery degree at Sharjah's new college of dentistry. Visitors were very impressed with the extremely modern and technologically advanced dental facilities at Sharjah University.

Resources Launched in Dubai

The congress was the site of unveiling for FDI's first *Dental Ethics Manual*. Intended as a resource guide for dental professionals, the manual is divided

into 6 chapters: principal features of dental ethics, dentists and patients, dentists and society, dentists and colleagues, ethics and research, and responsibilities of dentists and the future of dental ethics. Dr. John R. Williams, an adjunct professor in the faculty of medicine at the University of Ottawa and former director of ethics at the Canadian Medical Association and the World Medical Association, wrote the manual with the support of the FDI Working Group on Ethics and Legislation and an advisory panel. The manual can be downloaded from FDI's website.

In addition, with the assistance of the French Dental Association, the "Tobacco or Oral Health" advocacy guide, produced jointly by FDI and the World Health Organization, was released in French. The Chinese version of the guide was released last year at FDI's Annual Congress in Shenzhen, China.



Bridging A Gap That Probably Wasn't There

By Dr. David Isen

I was fortunate enough to receive an invitation to speak at this year's FDI World Dental Congress in Dubai. Although honoured to be asked, I have to admit that since I am Jewish, I had some reservations about travelling into an Arab country, as did some of my family and friends. However, upon discussion with people who had been there and a little research regarding the political climate, it appeared that it would be quite safe. So off I went, confident I would be okay, but still unsure about

what I would experience.

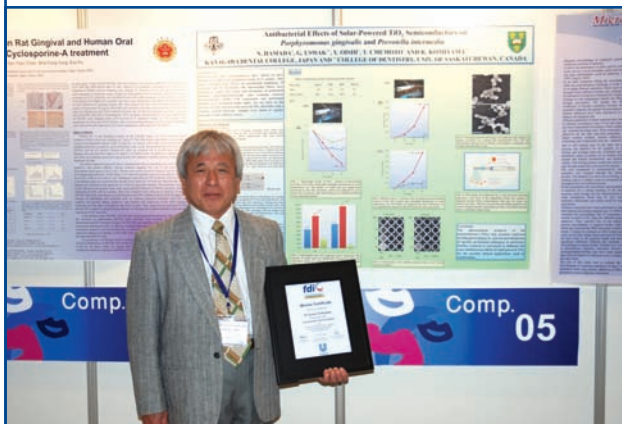
It became clear to me very quickly that Dubai is a city made up of many different faces. People from the Philippines, Pakistan, India and throughout the Middle East live among impossibly modern skyscrapers that overlook squalid neighbourhoods. The streets are filled with people clad in different national and religious dresses and the latest European fashions. At first, Dubai's seeming lack of identity because of all this contradiction made it seem a little cold. And then I started to get to know the people.

My first social encounter occurred the night I arrived, when I was invited to dinner with a number of FDI delegates. I broke bread with 9 others from Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Egypt and, boy, did we have a great time! They knew I was Jewish because we discussed politics a little, yet still they treated me with open arms and camaraderie. During the evening, many of them gave me their business cards and invited me to their countries. The fellow from Oman offered to take me on a tour of his country the next morning!

My next beautiful experience was with a Syrian man who works for a dental company in Dubai that was exhibiting at the show, who took it upon himself to act as my host. He drove me here and there, took me on a desert safari and, best of all, invited me into his home and introduced me to his wife and children. His family was so warm, hospitable and engaging. I don't think they could have fed me enough chocolate and Syrian coffee. I was very touched by their generosity and gestures of friendship. That encounter is the best memory of my adventure.

This trip reinforced for me that politics do not have to influence relationships. It should be only the inherent good in each of us that draws us together. This is possible for everyone should they choose this path. I think that the vast majority of people in the world are inherently good, despite the political climate in which they live. However, this is hard to see when we are inundated daily with sad news stories based on the hate, greed and killing that politics can breed. What amazes me about my experience in Dubai is that it took a dental convention to bring these thoughts forward in my mind. The community of dentistry is alive and well and FDI offers us a great opportunity to travel around the world and experience this unity. If we can, we should all take advantage of it. As Depeche Mode sings, "People are people. . ."

Canadian Professor Wins Prize at International Poster Contest



Dr. Komiyama, professor emeritus at the University of Saskatchewan, stands before his winning poster at the FDI/Unilever Poster contest.

Dr. Kunio Komiyama, professor emeritus at the University of Saskatchewan College of Dentistry, was the winner of the 2007 FDI/Unilever Poster Award. Dr. Komiyama's project was on the antibacterial effects of solar-powered TiO₂ semiconductors on *porphyromonas gingivalis* and *prevotella intermedia*. Of the 170 posters presented, 12 were chosen as finalists and 6 were selected as winners. Each winner received free registration to a future FDI congress and a monetary prize toward their participation.

Future FDI Congresses

The 2008 Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, from September 24 to 27. The 2009 congress will take place in Singapore and the 2010 congress will be held in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil.

For more information about FDI World Dental Federation, visit www.fdiworldental.org.

International Audience for Canada's Fluoride Policy



The appointment of Dr. Peter Cooney as chief dental officer has provided Canada with a voice in a variety of international dental fora, namely the FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2006, Dr. Cooney was appointed chair of the International Chief Dental Officers Public Health Section of FDI. It was in this role that he was asked to speak to the Science Committee Forum of the Joint World Dental Development and Health Promotion Committee, Public Health Section in Dubai about the process Canada is undertaking to revise its fluoride policies. Dr. Cooney's presentation was very well received by forum attendees.

In spring 2006 Health Canada initiated a review of exposure to fluorides from drinking water and its potential health effects. Three scientific reviews were provided to Health Canada in 5 specific areas: the total daily intake of fluoride, dental fluorosis, other health effects, risk assessment, and the risks and benefits of water fluoridation. Specialists in fluoride research and policy experts were brought together for a 2-day consultation to discuss evidence-based recommendations. The meeting participants reached a consensus and Health Canada's federal, provincial and territorial stakeholders are now vetting the resulting recommendations.

The Office of the Chief Dental Officer has used the results from the scientific research and resulting recommendations to help facilitate the formation of consistent national fluoride guidelines between Health Canada and CDA. The 2 organizations have already reached an informal agreement to release uniform fluoride statements in early 2008.

At the same time that Canada initiated its review of fluoride, a global review of fluoride and oral health was also taking place. This global consultation, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2006, was jointly organized by FDI, the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) and WHO. The goal was to discuss the development of effective legislation, necessary directives and programs to ensure access to fluoride for oral health in all countries. The consultation reaffirmed the efficacy, cost-effectiveness and safety of the daily use of fluoride and that universal access to fluoride is part of the basic right to health. These results not only support the use of fluoride internationally to improve oral health, but also reinforce Canada's fluoride policy work.