

# ERO

## NEWS 46



## Report on the FDI World Dental Parliament and ERO Plenary Session

## Introduction:

The FDI World Dental Federation convened its annual World Dental Parliament, held in conjunction with the World Dental Congress at the National Exhibition & Convention Center in Shanghai from 9–12 September 2025. Delegates from national dental associations and global oral health leaders gathered to deliberate on key policies, elect new leadership, present awards, and review strategic initiatives shaping the future of global dentistry.

## Governance and Elections:

The General Assembly held elections for several key leadership roles and committee memberships. Highlights of the election results include:

- President-elect: Prof. Young Guk Park (Republic of Korea)
- Treasurer: Dr. Carol G. Summerhays (USA)
- Councillors: Prof. Yi M Liu (China), Dr. Gabriela Ramírez Mendoza (Mexico)
- Membership Liaison and Support Committee: Dr. Makiko Iwasaki (Japan), Dr. Dasom Kim (Republic of Korea), Dr. Amanda Johnston (New Zealand), Dr. Sarkis Sozkes (Türkiye), Assist. Prof. Antoine Choufani (Lebanon)
- Dental Practice Committee: Dr. Stefanie Tiede (Germany), Dr. Marijan Denkovski (North Macedonia), Prof. Dr. Yan Si (China), Dr. Antonieta Muñoz Solís (Costa Rica)
- Education Committee: Prof. Dr. Katalin Nagy (Hungary), Dr. Meshari Faraj Alotaibi (Saudi Arabia)
- Science Committee: Prof. Dr. Verica Pavlic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



## New Policy Statements:

The General Assembly adopted nine new policy statements aimed at guiding advocacy, practice, and education worldwide. These statements reflect FDI's commitment to tackling both emerging and longstanding issues in oral healthcare.

1. Advertising in dentistry
2. Alignment of oral health care with ISO Standards
3. Caries management with Silver Diamine Fluoride
4. Digital dentistry
5. Electronic health records
6. Noma – eradicating a preventable disease to save lives
7. Specialization in dentistry
8. The Role Of Supervision In Dentistry
9. The Use of Topical Fluoride for Caries Prevention



## Awards and Recognition:

The 2025 FDI Smile Awards were presented during the Assembly. The awards celebrated impactful community initiatives that advance oral health and preventive care. Award recipients are:

- Australian Dental Association Dental Health Foundation – 'Smiles Without Borders'
- Philippine Dental Association La Union Chapter – 'Little Doctors'

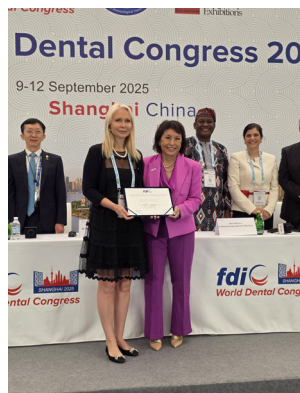


This year, FDI proudly honored three winners for their leadership and commitment to advancing sustainability in dentistry. The awards were presented at the FDI World Dental Congress in Shanghai on 10 September 2025, celebrating the achievements of these sustainability champions on a global stage:

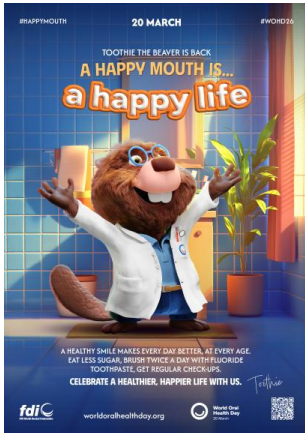
- Healthpoint Hospital (United Arab Emirates)
- Australian Dental Association (Australia)
- Dr Hindol Das (India)

“Member Supports Member” Project (MSM) provides a possibility to the NDAs to help their fellow members which find themselves in a financial predicament by paying their membership fees or covering the expenses related to the participation in the FDI World Dental Congress. 5 National Dental Associations’ representatives supported their fellow Members by covering their membership fees through the MSM 2025 initiative. The representatives of the donor Associations receive appreciation certificates for their contributions to the “Member Supports Member” project:

- Bulgarian Dental Association to Bulgarian Scientific Association of Dental Medicine by paying its 2025 membership fee
- Dr Michael Sereny - Bundeszahnärztekammer (BZAEK) to Association des Chirugiens-Dentistes du Bénin by paying its 2025 membership fee



- Prof. Ihsane Benyahya - Association Marocaine de Prévention Bucco-dentaire (AMPBD) to Association des Odontostomatologistes du Mali (AOSMA) by paying its 2025 membership fee.
- Dr Irene Marron-Tarrazzi from American Dental Association provided support to Federación Odontológica del Paraguay by paying its membership fee
- Dr Carol Summerhays from American Dental Association provided support to Botswana Dental Association by paying their 2025 membership fee.



## Strategic and Programme Highlights

Several major initiatives were reviewed and launched during the Shanghai meetings, reinforcing FDI's commitment to shaping global oral health by 2030. Key highlights include:

- Vision 2030 – Mid-point review: evaluation of progress at the halfway mark and alignment with WHO's Global Oral Health Action Plan (2023–2030).
- World Oral Health Day 2026 campaign launch, with the theme 'A happy mouth is a happy life'.
- Oral Health for an Ageing Population (OHAP) Project – Season III (2024–2027), focusing on frailty assessment tools and integrated care models.

## NLO Forum – Shanghai 2025

The National Liaison Officers (NLO) Forum was also convened during the meetings in Shanghai. The Forum headed by Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea, Chair of MLSC, served as a platform for FDI's member associations to exchange experiences, strengthen networking, and coordinate advocacy efforts. Highlights from this year NLO Forum:

- Review of successful case studies and community outreach programmes shared by member associations.
- Discussion of national-level challenges in implementing global policies, particularly regarding electronic health records and digital dentistry.
- Planning for World Oral Health Day 2026, with NDAs encouraged to adapt the campaign theme 'A happy mouth is a happy life' to local contexts.
- Strengthening the role of liaison officers in ensuring that FDI policies and initiatives are effectively communicated and implemented within their respective countries.



Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea presented the Membership Liaison and Support Committee report and the MLSC Chair report. She also handed out the "Member Supports Member" Appreciation Certificates. The following lectures from NDAs was also presented to the audience:

- Integrating the NLO position in the NDA structure (Success story), by Dr. Dave Excell, New Zealand Dental Association
- Ageing Population, by Asst. Prof. Dr. Antoine Choufani, Lebanese Dental Association
- Advertising in dentistry, by Dr. Stefanie Tiede, Bundeszahnärztekammer (BZAeK)
- Education of dentists about modern forms of tobacco consumption, by Dr. Vesna Barac-Furtinger, Croatian Dental Society
- Sugar use reduction, by Dr. Rob Beaglehole, Vision 2030 Implementation and Monitoring Expert Group
- Sugar use reduction, by Dr. Kei Joe Leong, Malaysian Dental Association





The 2025 Travel Grant Recipients was: Afghanistan Dentists' Association, Bangladesh Dental Society, Ordre Nationale des Chirurgiens-Dentistes de la République Démocratique du Congo, Ethiopian Dental Professionals' Association, Kenya Dental Association, Lebanese Dental Association, Association Marocaine de Prévention Bucco-dentaire (AMPBD), Myanmar Dental Association, Nepal Dental Association, Association Rwandaise des Chirurgiens-Dentistes et Stomatologues, National Dental Association of Somalia, Sri Lanka Dental Association and Uganda Dental Association.

The number of submitted NLO reports was growing. 114 NLO reports from 105 countries have been received and they allow FDI to better understand the needs of the Dental Associations and to align its activities accordingly. NLO certificates have been sent to the NLOs who submitted their reports. The Forum was, as usual, concluded by regional group discussion sessions with the participation of the FDI CE Directors.



## ERO Plenary Session – Shanghai 2025

The European Regional Organization (ERO) of FDI held its Plenary Session in Shanghai alongside the World Dental Parliament. This session brought together representatives of European national dental associations to discuss pressing issues in the region and align with the broader global agenda. Key discussion points included:

- Strategies to advance oral health equity across European countries.
- Harmonization of education and training standards within Europe.
- Updates on policy initiatives, including alignment with FDI's new policy statements on digital dentistry and caries management.
- Strengthening collaboration between European NDAs to support the implementation of Vision 2030 and WHO's Global Oral Health Action Plan.



ERO President Dr. Edoardo Cavallé presented the Report of the Board, ERO Ethic Code and Constitution Amendments. ERO President Elect Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea and Councilor Dr. Ariel Slutsky presented the report of the Social Media Task Team. The Working Groups reports was presented by:

- Dr. Jean-Philippe Haesler – WG Ageing Population
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thomas Wolf – WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe
- Prof. Dr. Mare Saag - WG Relations between dental practitioners and universities
- Prof. Dr. Ilshat Yuldashev – WG Integration

- Prof. Dr. Hande Sar Sancakli – WG Continuing medical education in Dentistry
- Dr. Kristjan Gutman - WG Dental Team
- Prof. Dr. Roman Smucler - WG Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence



Next ERO meetings will be the Spring Plenary session 2026 in Sofia – 24/25 April 2026 and the Autumn Plenary session 2026 in Prague, during the WDC 2-9 September 2026.



## FDI President - Asst. Prof. Dr Nikolai Sharkov



In Shanghai, Asst. Prof. Dr Nikolai Sharkov assumed the presidency of FDI World Dental Federation, setting out his vision to advance global oral health through trust, unity, resilience, transparency, and people-centered action, while driving Vision 2030 priorities of prevention, sustainability, and innovation.

*"Dear colleagues, partners,  
friends-dear dentists from every corner of the world,*

*Standing here in Shanghai, a city where ancient wisdom meets modern momentum, I accept the honor and responsibility of serving as President of FDI World Dental Federation. I extend heartfelt thanks to our hosts, the Chinese Stomatological Association for their leadership and hospitality. Your commitment showcases the energy and excellence of our profession in China and across Asia.*

*As I begin this journey, I want to set out the values that will guide my presidency: trust, unity, harmony, resilience, field work, and transparency. What I mean by this is to build trust between patients and dentists; unity across borders and disciplines; harmony in how we balance science, ethics, and the environment; resilience when challenges test our resolve; field work that brings care to communities; and transparency in how we lead and are held accountable. These are not slogans, they are daily practices.*

*FDI's mission is clear: optimal oral health for all-no person left behind. Vision 2030 is our roadmap to embed oral health within universal health coverage, to integrate oral health across health systems, and to elevate prevention as the foundation of care. With nearly 200 national dental associations in some 130 countries-representing more than a million dentists-FDI is uniquely positioned to turn this vision into results through partnership with governments, the WHO, academia, and industry.*

...

*Together-with trust as our bond, unity that creates strength, harmony as our guide, resilience as our habit, field work as our method, and transparency as our promise-we will shape a future where oral health is a right realized for every person.*

*Thank you, Shanghai."*



## Conclusion

The 2025 World Dental Parliament in Shanghai marked a pivotal moment in the global oral health agenda. With the adoption of new policy statements, the election of diverse leaders, recognition of innovative community projects, and progress reviews of strategic initiatives, FDI continues to shape the direction of global dentistry. The outcomes from Shanghai will influence national dental associations, policymakers, and practitioners as they work together to improve oral health outcomes worldwide.

On behalf of the ERO Board,  
Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea  
President-Elect

