



Letter from the President

Delivering progress on global oral health priorities

In recent weeks, FDI has taken meaningful steps on some of the most pressing issues shaping the future of oral health. From contributing to global decisions on dental amalgam to engaging in sustainability and climate discussions and supporting the response to antimicrobial resistance, our community continues to show what is possible when we act with purpose and unity. These efforts demonstrate our collective commitment to protect patients, strengthen our profession, and contribute to a healthier and more resilient world.



Attending the German Dental Days in Berlin

I was honoured to represent FDI at the **German Dental Days**, a significant gathering that brought together the leaders of our profession, policymakers, and partners committed to advancing oral health. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the German Dental Chamber for its gracious hospitality and to Prof. Dr Christoph Benz, President of the Chamber, for his kind invitation and his exemplary leadership.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by the Honourable Ms Nina Werken, Minister of Health of Germany, and Ms Ellen Haußdörfer, State Secretary for Health and Care of Berlin, whose presence underscored Germany's strong engagement in oral and public health. It was a privilege to address this distinguished audience and to share insights on the outcomes of the UN HLM4, where oral health was formally recognized as an integral part of the NCD agenda.

The German Dental Chamber is an important and highly valued member of FDI. Its active engagement and commitment to advancing oral health continue to enrich our global community. I look forward to continuing our close collaboration as we work together to elevate oral health as a global priority and to advance the shared mission of our Federation.



Celebrating the last edition of SmileCon in Washington D.C.

At the end of October, I joined colleagues and our members of the American Dental Association (ADA) at their **last edition of SmileCon** which took place in Washington D.C. I very much enjoyed valuable conversations with, now already Past President, Dr Brett Kessler, Dr Richard J. Rosato, who took over the ADA Presidency at this congress, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Dr Elizabeth Shapiro, and her international relations team. We all very much enjoyed valuable conversations and the quality time shared during informal meetings.

I had an opportunity to address many old friends and some new friends at the President's international reception which was a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate our achievements, not only with the ADA delegates, but also with our Past President Dr Greg Chadwick, and our American members serving in FDI Council and in FDI Standing Committees.

The ADA House of Delegates along with the Board of Trustees took up several measures including: reaffirming the ADA's commitment to the global dental community, protecting clinical autonomy, elevating clinicians' wellness, and launching a Future of Dentistry task force. Newly installed President, Dr Richard J. Rosato said, *"we are strongest when we*

unify in our mission to help dentists succeed and advance public health. That is why every voice matters.”

I would like to thank the past ADA leadership and to once again, congratulate the new President, Dr Richard J. Rosato. As they transition from SmileCon to future “ADA Scientific Sessions” I wish them every success, and I look forward to continuous collaboration in our common mission.



Mexican Dental Association Congress: a valued moment of engagement

From 5 to 8 November, I had the pleasure of attending the **Mexican Dental Association’s (ADM) Congress**. ADM remains one of FDI’s committed members, with many representatives who contribute actively to our committees and have done so for many years.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Dr Sergio Curiel Torres, President of ADM, and Dr Jaime Edelson Tishman, Chair of the ADM Congress, for their generous invitation and warm hospitality. Addressing the General Assembly was a real privilege. I highlighted the long-standing relationship between FDI and ADM, including the multiple congresses and mid-year meeting ADM has hosted over the years.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony offered a valuable opportunity to share timely advocacy updates, including developments around the UN HLM4 and FDI’s position ahead of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP6).



Driving the oral health and climate conversation forward

I was grateful for the invitation to participate in **the 4th Global Oral Health and Climate Action Conference** hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. My thanks go to Prof. Mark Wolff, Prof. Michael Glick, and Dr Julian Fisher for their leadership in convening this important gathering. Under the theme “Dentistry in a Changing World,” participants explored how oral health, climate action, and leadership intersect during a time of global uncertainty. This conversation is among the most important of our times, and I was proud to contribute through a pre-recorded message.



Minamata Convention on Mercury – 6th Conference of the Parties (COP6)

The discussions at **COP6 on dental amalgam** were complex and required careful consideration. An initial proposal called for a global phase-out by 2030. Many countries voiced clear concerns about the feasibility of this timeline, citing limited infrastructure, resource constraints, and the potential impact on patient care. Throughout these negotiations, FDI consistently emphasized the need for a timeline that supports equity and safeguards clinical practice.

I am pleased that Parties ultimately agreed to a more balanced global phase-out date of 2034. After that year, the manufacture, import, and export of dental amalgam will no longer be permitted. The Decision also includes an exemption which ensures that even after phase-out of dental amalgam it can be used “when its use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.”

I welcome the fact that the final decision reflects the principles FDI and IADR have long advocated. The inclusion of a crucial exemption allowing dental practitioners to use dental amalgam when they determine it is necessary for the patient is essential. This preserves clinical autonomy and ensures that all communities retain access to appropriate care during the transition.

The nine-year implementation period now available to Parties gives countries the space needed to adapt their national strategies and healthcare systems to this new framework. This aligns closely with our long-standing position that a coordinated and equity-focused phase-down is the most responsible path forward, particularly for low- and middle-income countries working to build capacity and technical expertise.

I invite you to read our joint press release with IADR on the COP6 decision on dental amalgam: https://fdiworlddental.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/COP-6_News-alert_FINAL.pdf



Strengthening global action on AMR during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

This year’s **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)** carries a powerful theme: Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the most pressing threats to global health. Without strong, sustained action, we risk losing the effectiveness of antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents that underpin modern medicine, including oral healthcare.

WAAW 2025 builds on commitments made during the 2024 UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on AMR. It calls on governments, health professionals, and communities to move from political promises to concrete action. As a global oral health community, we

share responsibility for stewarding antimicrobial use and safeguarding the future of patient care.

I encourage you to help raise awareness and strengthen efforts to tackle AMR by using and sharing FDI's dedicated resources: <https://fdiworlddental.org/preventing-amr-and-infections>