

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2023

Country: Azerbaijan

Association: Azerbaijan Stomatological Association

Changes

No changes were made in the association and its organisation

Trends and developments:

A new Orthodontics Specialization department was recently established at the Azerbaijan Medical University and added to the dental education curriculum. Prior to this, Orthodontics was only available through a post-graduate residency programme, while students were studying the basics of Orthodontics within the Pedodontology programme. Now, the Specialization is independent and covers the basics of orthodontics, diagnostic methods, and observation of orthodontic treatment. The subject is currently taught over two semesters, but in the near future, it is planned to be expanded.

Corporate Dentistry

Corporate dentistry and dental chains are not practiced widely in public healthcare centres in Azerbaijan, however they are becoming increasingly popular in private clinics. While corporate dentistry may offer a wide range of services and provide a more affordable option, they may lack familiarity with individual patients' needs and preferences, and have a potential focus on profits, also patients may be concerned about the impersonal nature of these practices.

As an NDA, our position on corporate dentistry and dental chains is to promote the interests of patients, dentists, and the dental field as a whole. The benefits and drawbacks of corporate dentistry and dental chains should be discussed. The aim should be to ensure that

patients have access to high-quality dental care regardless of where they choose to receive it.

Private dentistry, on the other hand, may provide a more personal touch and may be better for those who want to establish a long-term relationship with their dental provider. Ultimately, it's important to weigh the pros and cons of both options and decide which one works best for patients.

Changes in fees: No changes in fees

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

Throughout the year we were promoting the World Oral Health Day and using its slogan for the 2023 “Be Proud of Your Mouth”. To promote the event, we distributed promotional materials such as posters, toolkits, factsheets, and chairside guides provided by FDI. Additionally, we promoted the event among students of dental faculties during classes and seminars, also dental clinic staff, and doctors of non-dental profiles.

On the occasion of WOHD2023, as every year our NDA organised a conference at the Azerbaijan Medical University. Oral health professionals highlighted the importance of preventive dentistry and oral health in the entire wellbeing of the body.

One of the main topics was about the influence of the oral health on the body posture. Another speaker talked about the oral health in patients with diabetes mellitus. Additionally, the rules and guides of the usage of means and methods of personal oral hygiene were covered at the conference program.

The conference was attended by the governance of the university, professors, teachers and students of the dental faculty of the Azerbaijan Medical University. The event was covered by the university's official pages, medical programs, and newspapers.

The report of the conference with relevant details was added into the Map of Activity.

Further information (activities):

In 1-3 of April, 2023 Azerbaijan Stomatological Association hosted the CME accredited XXIII International Dental Conference "Burning Issues of Dentistry" dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Stomatological Association. This event was conducted under the FDI Continuing Education Programme and Prof. Dr. Burak Cankaya was offered to become a speaker in this event by the CE Programme Director of Europe Prof. Hande Şar Sancakli.

During the first day of the event international speakers were speaking about usage of aligners in orthodontic treatment also Prof. Cankaya presented his topic on Reimplantation in Pediatric dentistry. The 2nd day local speakers presented their topics on prevention and treatment of periodontal diseases, usage of fluoride in prevention of dental decay, etc. On the 3rd day of the conference a hands-on course was conducted by participation of the international professionals, where participants could get involved into treatment with aligners and other peculiarities of aligner treatment were discussed.

What are your 3 main concerns?

Our main concerns are related to the organization of dental care in the country. There are more than enough private dental clinics, providing dental help for individuals, but in the governmental level there is no national program or oral health plan, which can make dentistry more affordable and accessible for the whole population. Additionally, only large cities of the country have access to the high-quality dental help, while in rural regions dental help is either insufficient in quality or sometimes even absent.

There is no national program on prevention of dental diseases in the country, although our NDA has a recommended preventive program.

The third concern is the adoption of teledentistry. While teledentistry has the potential to increase access to dental care and improve patient

outcomes, it's currently underutilized and there's a need for greater awareness and training among dental professionals.

3 points you would like to discuss

The effects of AI in future of dentistry.

How to create an effective communication and collaboration between NDAs and public health authorities.

The impact of socioeconomic factors on oral health, including income, education, and access to healthcare services, and how they can lead to disparities in oral health outcomes.