



TÜRK DİŞHEKİMLERİ BİRLİĞİ
TURKISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

No : 010-1.474
Subject : Turkish Dental Association
National Report

Date : 08.03.2019

Dear Monika Lang,

Please find the enclosed Turkish Dental Association National Report for the year 2018.

Should you need any more data, please contact with us.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Ali Gürlek
Secretary General
Turkish Dental Association

App.: TDA 2018 National Report

I. Changes:

- ***In the Association and Its Organization:***

17th Term Ordinary General Assembly of Turkish Dental Association (TDA) was conducted on 2-3-4th November 2018.

As a result of the elections, our colleagues whose names are below were elected for Supreme Board of Directors of Turkish Dental Association (TDA) for 2 years.

17th Term (2018-2020) Supreme Board of Directors of Turkish Dental Association

President	Celal Korkut Yıldırım
Vice President	Nebil Seyfettin
Secretary General	Ali Gürlek
Accountant	Hasan Yaman
Member	Feride Aktan
Member	Muharrem Armutlu
Member	Atilla Stephan Ataç
Member	Ali Rıza İlker Cebeci
Member	Mustafa Murat Çağlar
Member	Gülây Özdoğan
Member	Neslihan Sevim

II. Trends and Developments

- ***In professional policies***

Turkish Dental Association (TDA) aims at contributing to improvement of public general health by strengthening cooperation between medicine and dentistry within the context of relationship between oral and general health, prioritizing preventive dentistry, supporting improvement of oral and dental health of society.

TDA has professional opinion and approach that oral and dental health services in public should be assessed, planned based on dentists.

TDA continues to support that oral and dental health services prioritizing preventive implementations should be got from not only dentists working in public but also from dentists working in private sector and keeps this topic on the agenda.

Meanwhile, employment of dentists in the public is increasing.

Regulations which may lead to commercialize dental profession are also important.

Regulations regarding last year:

- Judicial process about regulation on dentists' giving personal data of patients to Ministry of Health is going on.
- Previously dentists could work in the second setting with the approval of the related dental chamber. With a legislative regulation, this was changed in a way that when dentists start to work in a second setting, dentists do not need the approval from the related dental chamber they only have to notify the dental chamber about this issue.
- Studies for forming Product Tracking System in the direction of tracking devices and consumable materials used by dentists by Ministry of Health are going on. In this regard, as TDA, we try to be more knowledgeable about this system.
- In addition to the 8 recognized dental specialty disciplines within the scope of career education, this year oral pathology is accepted as a speciality discipline, and so the number of dental speciality discipline has become 9.

- ***Education policies***

A. Undergraduate dental education: The number of dental faculties is increasing. The number of dentistry faculties is 86 in 2018. The number of graduates for 2018 is:
~ 5000

- Because optimal geographical distribution could not be achieved yet and non-completion of concurrently, necessary developments regarding infrastructure and all faculties having opportunities and facilities at different standards, increase of number of dentists does not seem to be effective enough to solve problems regarding the access to oral and dental health services totally, furthermore increase of number of dentists may negatively affect job opportunities of dentists.
- Efficient and comprehensive studies regarding the compliance of undergraduate dental education with expectations and needs in the field of oral and dental health, and also with the updated competences are necessary.

B. Continuing Dental Education: TDA continues its continuing dental education activities within the framework of TDA Academy. In addition, TDA continues studies on configuration of organization containing procedures regarding determining Professional Development and Professional Standards with the aim of creating basis to assess continuing dental education programmes. In 2018, TDA Academy-Dental Chambers organized 110 scientific activities.

III. Some other information:

- ***Solidarity Fund:*** In 2018, TDA helped to 15 dentists and their families with 16.720,85 USD from the Fund of Solidarity which aims to assist the dentists and their

families who have great difficulty to practice their professions by reason of natural disasters or serious illnesses.

- ***Incapacity Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance:*** Incapacity Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance, Daily Incapacity Insurance in the case of surgeries of carpal tunnel syndrome for the members, 18.000-20.000, whose names are notified by Chambers of TDA are arranged by Turkish Dental Association. Due to the Insurance, approximately 3000 USD for once only is paid to the relatives of the dentists who died or was injured in an accident and unable to practice their profession. In addition, for our colleagues unable to practice their profession temporarily, Turkish Lira equivalent to USD 15 is paid for a period not to exceed 200 days in a year.

- ***Scholarship of Students in Dental Faculties:*** Based on the implementation started in 2008, 20 students of dental faculties who have economic difficulty deserve education scholarship on condition that after graduation they have to refund it in 2-month instalments.

IV. Changes in Fees: Examination and Treatment Wage Tariff in private practice is determined and put into effect by TDA through the right of legislation according to the cost analysis based on scientific data.

V. International Congresses of the Turkish Dental Association: The 24th International Congress of Turkish Dental Association was held between September 27th and 30th, 2018 in Ankara with participation of 10.746 visitors and 110 companies. 958 abstracts were received to congress, which is a record number.

Special sessions held within this congress;

- Within the scope of Turkish Dental Association 24th International Dental Congress a session named Thematic Meeting on Dental Education about dentistry education was held. President-Elect, World Dental Federation (FDI) Dr.Gerhard Seeberger, ERO President Dr. Anna Lella, IFDEA President Prof.Corrado Paganelli and FDI Council Member Prof.Takashi Inoue and deans of many different dentistry faculties, TDA officials attended this meeting. In this meeting dental education changing in the global scale in the direction of technologic and scientific advances was evaluated with the global perspective. The meeting considered the common challenges dental education faces throughout the world in a constructive manner, and simultaneously evaluated the best practice models from different parts of the world as, to a certain extent; they could be inspiring for all educators and could provide them with a new insight. The meeting report was shared with FDI.
- Within the scope of this congress and ERO-FDI Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry Working Group, ERO-FDI sessions are held with the frame of inter-professional approach in congress scientific programmes, preparations for the next year congress scientific programmes are being done.
- 8th Meeting of Neighbouring Countries Dental Associations' Collaboration Platform was also held during this congress, regulations were completed. <http://ndacp.net/index.php>. The project of Rational Use of Antibiotics in Dentistry implemented within this scope was concluded and the first joint statement based on the data of this project was accepted. **“Click here for the joint statement themed “Rational Use of Antibiotics in Dentistry”.**

VI. Our 3 main concerns

- Working conditions of our colleagues: The opinion of the TDA is not sufficiently taken into consideration regarding the regulations determining the working conditions of the liberal dentists, no progress could be achieved at the point of receiving service from the liberal dentists and insufficient analysis of possible negative effects of performance system (e.g. stress on dentists, evaluations on the quality of treatment outcomes)
- Workforce planning: Increasing the number of dental faculties and dentists however optimal geographical distribution of dentists could not be achieved: in 2002 the number of dentistry faculties was 16, at the end of 2018 this number became 86. New faculties' infrastructure and academic features are not at the same level in quality. Based on the current data and trend, it is predicted that the current number of dentists which is 33.000 will reach to 64.000 in 2024. Lack of importance given to oral health in society , low frequency of dental visits , and increasing number of dentists is likely to reduce the opportunities for dentists to work outside public employment and increase competition in a negative way. On the other hand, in some regions there is one dentist for 385 people, while in some regions there is one dentist for 30,000 people. In other words, the increasing number of dentists cannot effectively improve the access to oral and dental health.
- Dental education: insufficiency of undergraduate dental education to meet changing expectations from dentistry, not achieving full compliance of dental education with the recently updated competences, not being active enough because of continuing dental education not having any regulation, and generally dental education placing less emphasize for preventive dentistry.

VII. 3 points we would like to discuss

- Trends having the potential to affect dentistry profession negatively
- Actions to be taken regarding sharing of the examples of best practices in Europe with ERO members effectively (e.g. best practices of distance learning)
- Positive and negative effects of the internet on dental profession