



TURKISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

2011 NATIONAL REPORT

COUNTRY : TURKEY
ASSOCIATION :Türk Dişhekimleri Birliği/Turkish Dental Association
VENUE : Ankara / TURKEY
YEAR : 2011

I. Changes

- In the Association and Its Organization

Board of Turkish Dental Association

TDA Board of Directors which was formed on November 5-7th, 2010 during the 13th Annual General Assembly in Ankara has continued its mission since then in 2011 without any changes.

13th Term Board of Directors of Turkish Dental Association

Prof. Dr. Taner YÜCEL	President
Kadir Tümay İMRE	Vice President
Ahmet Tarık İŞMEN	Secretary General
Bilge ŞİMŞEK	General Accountant
Süha ALPAY	Member
Ufuk ARALP	Member
Muharrem ARMUTLU	Member
Neşe DURSUN	Member
Rukselan SELEK	Member
Cengiz TAMTUNALI	Member
Mustafa YILDIZ	Member

II. Trends and developments

- In professional politics

Employment of dentists in public

Personnel rights of dentists and public's receiving services from clinics

The unrealistic policy that public will receive the oral care services of the population of 73 million from Oral and Dental Care Centers of Ministry of Health whose number is 123 is still in use. As the patients cannot reach to the dentists, the demand of Turkish Dental Association for getting services from the private dental clinics which are in almost every neighborhood has been tried to be transmitted to the government also in 2011.

Ministry of Health, also in 2011, tried to continue to increase the employment of dentists in public sector. The Minister of Health has been trying to equalize the numbers of the self-employed dentists and dentists working in public sector.

Ministry of Health employs our colleagues with an annual contract based employment without a job security. In addition, not the qualified treatment but the care for more patients in number is encouraged by the practice based on performance. Although the skewness in the system has been put into words, the legal struggle has also been continuing.

Preventive Practices for Public Oral Health Care

There are a variety of activities of preventive practices for public oral care. But as these activities are not performed in a realistic organization, the people of our country face with some kind of oral health parameters that they do not merit.

Turkish Dental Association has been continuing to work on performing the structural organization of “*National Preventive Dentistry Project*” by forming a “*The Board of National Preventive Dentistry*” under the leadership of Ministry of Health which consists of a lecturer related to the subject from each faculty of dentistry, this year too.

- In educational politics

Continuing Dental Education

A total of 141 scientific activities were submitted to the Higher Commission of Turkish Dental Association on Continuing Dental Education in the year of 2011. 140 of these scientific activities were credited. 116 of these activities were organized by Local Dental Chambers, 7 by the Dental Faculties, 5 by Scientific Societies, 4 by the Oral and Dental Health Center, 2 by the other institutions and foundations and 6 were held by Turkish Dental Association. In our country to get a Continuing Education Certificate, a dentist must complete 160 credit points in 4 years time.

Dental Faculties

In Turkey, by the year 2011, there are 40 Dental Faculties. Currently, there is education in 29 of these faculties.

In the last 5 years, while the population of our country increased 6,87 %, the number of dental students increased 95%.

Due to the continuation of the opening of the new Dental Faculties without proper workforce planning, lack of the geographical distribution of the workforce and poor dental visits, our colleagues face a serious unemployment problem.

Specializations in Dentistry

The regulation Specialty Training in Medicine and Dentistry which determines the Branches of Specialty of Dentistry is entered into force by publishing in the official gazette with the number of 27292 and the date of 18.07.2009.

According to the regulation, the specialty training in the fields of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Endodontics, Orthodontics, Pedodontics, Periodontology and Prosthodontics is agreed.

But, like our Association and many other scientific dental societies and dentists, it is sued for cancelling of this regulation.

As a result of these cases, Supreme Court revoked the regulation on the date of 02.07.2010 by underlining the reason that the legal or de facto situation for creating a new Specialty Branch is not clearly specified and it is not also presented with scientific data and reasons which criteria is based on while Ministry of Health determines the main branches of specialty. On the basis of the decision of the Supreme Court, Ministry of Health started to work again in order to reorganize specialty fields in dentistry in 06.04.2011 through the law presented to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. The reason behind the legal regulation is to prevent the right to sue of Turkish Dental Association and our colleagues. Along with the legal regularization in Turkey;

- **Some Other Information**
Solidarity Fund

In 2011, we have helped to our 13 dentists and their families 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.

Besides, owing to the heartbreaking earthquakes occurred in our country in 19.05.2011 and 23.10.2011, we aided financially to our 48 colleagues.

The income of the Fund is composed of the fee that our members pay to their Chambers.

Medical Fee in Dentistry

Minimum Examination and Treatment Fee Scale determined by Turkish Dental Association through the right of legislation according to the cost analysis based on scientific data and seen as the quality guarantee of the services in liberal dentistry, used to become valid once they were approved by the Ministry of Health and published in the Official Journal and while collecting fee under the Scale was permitted, there used to be several penalties to those who did.

Ministry of Health canceled the obligation of obeying the Scale in 02.11.2011. The Scale has been turned into a "Guide".

Incapacity Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance

It is arranged by Turkish Dental Association the Incapacity Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance for the members whose names are notified by Chambers of TDA. Due to the Insurance, it is decided to pay approximately 10.000 USD for once only to the relatives of the dentists who has died or has been injured in an accident and unable to practice their profession. Also for the colleagues who has unable to practice their profession temporarily, Turkish Lira equivalent to 50 Euro is paid for a period not to exceed 200 days in a year.

Changes in Fees

Fees of the Dental Health Care Services

The charge of service price of the dentist in private practice is determined with the authorization given by the Turkish Dental Association Law and becomes effective after the approval of the Ministry of Health and after published in Official Gazette. The minimum wages for the year 2009 and 2010 have been prepared and submitted to Ministry of Health however the Ministry has approved both of the wages by reducing them to the level of 10 year ago. As this is a one-sided decision and an arbitrary treatment of Ministry of Health, it is not accepted by us and we did not let it published in the Official Gazette. For this reason, the minimum wages for 2007 which was published in the Official Gazette have become valid also for 2010.

Turkish Dental Association Minimum Wage Rates of Consultation and Treatment has been determined according to the cost analysis depending on scientific data.

III.Further new information

- International Congresses of the Turkish Dental Association

The 18th International Congress of Turkish Dental Association was held between May 26th and 28th, 2011 in İstanbul, Turkey with the participation of 2336 dentists. 109 companies have participated to the Expo-Dental 2011 which took place over an area of 3000m² within the scope of the Congress.

Turkish Dental Association's 19th International Dental Congress will be held between May 28th and June 02nd 2012, in Ankara.

- Full Time Law

As dentists and doctors in public sector used to be able to practice in their liberal clinics after the end of their shift in public, now there is a law which prohibits public practitioners from working in liberal clinics.

Along with a exception for the academic staff, for the ones who wish to continue practicing in their liberal clinics after 17.00 o'clock, the right to provide only educational service has been given, without the right of patient examination and patient treatment.

Türk Dişhekimleri Birliği /Turkish Dental Association

Contact Information

Address:

Ziya Gökalp Cad. No:37/14 Kızılay – ANKARA - TURKEY

Tel:

0090 312 435 93 94 (pbx)

Fax:

0090 312 430 29 59

E-mail

tdb@tdb.org.tr