



FDI World Dental Parliament

Coming home to Geneva

The 2022 FDI World Dental Parliament returned to Geneva (Switzerland) from 19 to 24 September 2022, welcoming more than 400 delegates from 74 countries under one roof. An integral aspect of FDI, the event allowed for major decisions to be taken by voting members of the General Assembly (GA) as well as the Council. This year's FDI World Dental Federation Parliament was held face-to-face—for the first time since 2019 but still without the “Big One” multi-day event complete with GA and Committee meetings.

The composition of the FDI Executive Committee has remained unchanged. Just last year, Professor Ihsane Ben Yahya (Casablanca, Morocco) had taken over the helm of the World Dental Federation from Dr Gerhard Seeberger. She presided over a harmonious 2022 General Assembly that adopted three new FDI policy statements and revised another two:

New policy statements

FDI policy statements, which detail FDI's position on issues of interest within the oral health community, are put together through consultation, discussion, and consensus among leading dental experts from around the world. This year, the GA adopted five policy statements:

- **Bioactive restorative materials**

Regarding the concept of bioactive restorative materials, FDI specifies five criteria to be met for their use, including mechanism of action, scientifically documented effect, duration of effect, side effects and primary purpose (e.g., for use in restoring the form and function of lost tooth structure).

- **Noma**—eradicating a preventable disease to save lives
FDI calls for global action to combat noma (cancrum oris). This noncommunicable necrotising disease typically occurs in young children living in extreme poverty. Early treatment can prevent suffering, disability and death. In its Memorandum of Understanding, FDI supports research into a better understanding of the factors leading to the development of noma and recommends that all health and social care professionals in regions with high noma prevalence should emphasize the immense importance of optimal oral hygiene and nutrition and conduct educational campaigns on noma for local populations.
- **The role of vaccinations in protecting the dental team**
FDI emphasizes the importance of vaccination in protecting the members of the dental team, who are at risk of contracting an infectious disease from patients in their practice. National dental associations could play a role here, working with public health officials to raise awareness.

The policy statements on prevention in sports dentistry and on mouthguards in sports issued in Poznań in 2016 and in Stockholm in 2008 were also updated.



Election results: newly appointed officers and approved policy statements

The GA is the supreme legislative and governing body of FDI. The GA gathers once a year and sets FDI policies, the strategic plan, missions and aims, and monitors progress on their achievement. Despite the unfortunate cancellation of the 2022 World Dental Congress, FDI held its parliament meetings and conducted a successful GA, where some key decisions were taken.

This included the appointment of council and committee members during the GA and council elections, as well as approval of the 2022 policy statements. The results are as follows:

- Council members: Dr Carol C. Summerhays (USA), Dr Nahawand Thabet (Egypt)
- Dental Practice Committee: Dr Mick Armstrong (UK, Chair), Stefanie Tiede (Germany), Professor Kinga Grzech-Lesniak (Poland), Dr Juna Lee Linton (Republic of Korea)
- Education Committee: Professor Katalin Nagy (Hungary), Dr Meshari Faraj Alotaibi (Saudi Arabia)
- Membership Liaison and Support Committee: Professor Paula Perlea (Romania, Chair), Dr Makiko Wasaki (Japan), Professor Yi M Liu (China), Dr Manuel Sergio Martínez (Mexico), Dr Oluwanrotimi Akanbi Clement (Nigeria)
- Public Health Committee: Dr James Taylor (Canada)
- Science Committee: Dr Jeffrey Platt (USA), Dr Samira Osailan (Saudi Arabia)

Additionally, the Council approved:

- Dr Wendpoulomé Aimé Désiré Kabore (Burkina Faso) as the new CE Programme Director for Africa.
- Dr James Taylor (Canada) as the newly elected Chair of the Chief Dental Officer/Dental Public Health Section.

The next FDI World Dental Congress will be held in Sydney (Australia) in 2023, where a scientific congress will finally be part of the event again.

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Source: FDI

