



## World Dental Congress and FDI General Assembly in Sydney

# New President of the FDI

On the occasion of the 2023 World Dental Congress, FDI held its parliament meetings to make decisions on key matters by voting members of the General Assembly and Council.



The famous Harbour Bridge of Sydney during night-time.

The General Assembly (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.

With the return of an in-person World Dental Congress, FDI also held its parliament meetings—an integral part of the organisation in Sydney, Australia. At the GA held on 26 September, voting members and council made significant decisions through their votes. This included the appointment of council and committee members during the GA and council elections, approval of the 2023 policy statements, approval of the FDI organisational strategy, as well as the approval of the FDI position on free sugars.

### Council members

President-Elect—Assist. Prof. Nikolai Sharkov, Bulgaria  
 Treasurer—Prof. Young Guk Park, Republic of Korea  
 Member—Prof. Dr Hiroshi Ogawa, Japan

## Science committee

Chair—Prof. Jeffrey Platt, United States of America

Member—Dr Walter Lam Yu Hang, Hong Kong SAR China

## 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:

1. Collaboration between oral health professionals and other health professionals
2. Mental health and well-being for oral health professionals and dental students
3. Alternative direct restorative materials to dental amalgam
4. Tooth wear
5. Alcohol as a risk for oral health
6. Perinatal and infant oral health care
7. Social and commercial determinants of oral health
8. Oral health for healthy ageing

## Sustainability Champions at the 2023 World Dental Congress

At a sustainability-dedicated symposium, FDI applauded the remarkable efforts of individuals and dental practices striving to improve their environmental footprint. Meet the Sustainability Champions.

The first-ever FDI Sustainability Awards have been presented at a session dedicated to Sustainability in Dentistry during the 2023 World Dental Congress in Sydney, Australia.

These awards aim to promote sustainability in dental practices and encourage individuals as well as dental teams to play an active role in reducing dentistry's environmental impact on our planet.

The Sustainability Award celebrates and rewards those who can demonstrate that they implemented sustainable initiatives within their dental practices. This year, winners in two categories were celebrated: Individual and Dental Practice. These awards are a recognition of their outstanding commitment of adopting best-practice measures to the overall sustainability of their dental practice.

In the individual category, the deserving winner is Ignacia Vial from Chile. FDI acknowledged her remarkable efforts to improve sustainability in dentistry by presenting her with a reward of CHF500. FDI wholeheartedly congratulates this Sustainability Champion for her dedication and hopes more individuals will follow in her footsteps.

In the dental practice category, there are two winners, each receiving a reward of CHF1,000. The winners are Clinica Odon-



Scientific programme along with dental exhibition at the Convention Center of Sydney.

tologica Alama/Odontoruteros from Chile, and Ars Salutaris from Croatia. "Congratulations to these dental practices for their commitment to implementing sustainable practices that contribute to reducing dentistry's environmental impact," said the jury.

## World Oral Health Day campaign

The World Oral Health Day (WOHD) 2024–2026 campaign was officially launched during FDI's World Dental Congress, in Sydney.

World Oral Health Day (WOHD) is celebrated globally every year on 20 March. Its purpose: to empower people with the tools and knowledge to prevent and control oral diseases, which affect nearly 3.5 billion people worldwide. WOHD encourages people to look after their oral health by adopting a good oral hygiene routine and managing risk factors. Preserving oral health can help keep the mind and body healthy too, as well as protect against the spread of infections.

WOHD 2023 marked the culmination of the three-year "Be Proud of Your Mouth" campaign, which was launched in 2021 with the aim to inspire lasting and positive change by educating people on the vital role a healthy mouth plays in our lives. The campaign received an overwhelming response from people globally who actively participated in sharing the WOHD messages.

The newly adopted policy statements will be available for consultation on the FDI website soon.

Source: FDI