FDI World Dental Congress in Prague

Strong in terms of content

The FDI World Dental Congress 2026 in Prague proved to be one of the most substantive scientific congresses of recent years. With a wide range of lectures, workshops and discussion formats, the FDI placed a clear emphasis on evidence-based dentistry, prevention and global quality of care. The scientific sessions reflected the key challenges facing modern dentistry—from materials science and prevention to digital transformation and global public health.





The BDIZ EDI had organised a lunch meeting on the fringes of the FDI Congress at the O_2 Arena in Prague. An exchange between BDIZ EDI President Christian Berger and the President of the Czech Dental Chamber, Dr Roman Šmucler—which was significant from a European perspective—was just one of the discussions at the meeting, which was characterised above all by the participation of many young dentists from all over the world. Another meeting took place with the President of the Croatian Dental Chamber, Dr Hvroje Pezo. Also present were Dr Erion Cerekja from Albania and Dr Wolfgang Neumann, a member of the BDIZ EDI Executive Board.

The 2026 FDI World Dental Congress brought together dentists, researchers and policy-makers from around the world. The scientific programme, developed in collaboration between the FDI, the Czech Dental Chamber and scientific and clinical experts from all fields of dentistry, covered both established clinical disciplines and current areas of development and topics of professional relevance, such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital technologies and workflows, advanced surgical technologies, prevention and sustainability. Responsible for the content: the chairs of the scientific programme, Prof. Falk Schwendicke, Germany, and Dr Roman Šmucler, president of the Czech dental chamber, supported by Dr Antonio Estrada from Venezuela, a member of the FDI Education Committee.

Programme coordinators: Schwendicke and Šmucler

Prof. Schwendicke was responsible for the programme's structure—with a focus on, amongst other things, AI diagnostics, digital dentistry and clinical evidence—as well as for the involvement of international experts. He is regarded as one of the most prominent German scientists in the field of digital dentistry on the international stage and played a key role in shaping the European perspective within the programme.

The president of the host Dental Chamber, Dr Roman Šmucler, was responsible for setting the regional priorities and integrating local expertise and helped to

shape the clinical and surgical sessions. Šmucler represented the European host perspective and ensured the integration of international and regional content.

Focus: evidence-based treatment and minimally invasive dentistry

A key area of the scientific programme was the further development of minimally invasive treatment approaches. In this regard, the FDI presented the new MIICM policy paper, which lays the scientific foundation for tooth-preserving caries treatment.

Key topics centred on remineralisation as an alternative to invasive procedures, new diagnostic methods for the early detection of caries, and clinical evidence regarding non-invasive and micro-invasive techniques. The sessions clearly demonstrated that minimally invasive dentistry is not merely a trend, but a global paradigm shift.

Focus: radiation protection and digital imaging

With its new FDI Statement on Radiation Safety in Dentistry, the organisation has placed the spotlight on safety in radiological diagnostics. Topics discussed included: the ALARA principle and its practical implementation, quality control of digital imaging systems, AI-assisted image analysis, and radiation protection in paediatric dentistry. The scientific presentations made it clear that digitalisation and safety must be considered together.

Focus: materials science and bisphenol A

Another key focus was the assessment of dental materials—in particular, the debate surrounding bisphenol A. Key topics included: the latest evidence on BPA exposure, alternative materials and their clinical performance, regulatory developments in various regions of the world, and communicating the risks associated with these materials to patients. The FDI aims to send a strong message in support of transparency and patient safety.



Focus: prevention and lifelong oral health

The scientific programme drew on the content of the new "Lifelong Oral Health" statement and highlighted the importance of preventive strategies across all stages of life. Topics discussed included prevention in early childhood, oral health in older people and in care homes, interdisciplinary care approaches, health literacy and public health strategies. There was a particularly strong focus on international public health contributions, which shed light on global differences and challenges.

Focus: training and academic integrity

With two further policy documents, the FDI set clear scientific standards: "Basic Dental Education" and "Research and Scientific Integrity". The focus was on competence-based curricula, quality assurance in teaching, integrity in research and publication, the handling of conflicts of interest, and requirements regarding study design and data quality. The sessions demonstrated that the FDI regards the scientific credibility of dentistry as a strategic issue for the future.

International trends in research

The poster sessions provided a broad overview of current research: biomaterials and adhesive technologies, AI-assisted diagnostics, epidemiological studies on global oral health, implantology and peri-implantitis management, and prevention programmes in resource-limited countries. The strong presence of young scientists, who are increasingly shaping the international research landscape, was particularly striking.

Conclusion

The scientific programme of the 2026 FDI Congress showcased a field of dentistry clearly guided by evidence, prevention and global responsibility. The six new FDI policy papers provide the framework for the coming years—and the scientific sessions made it clear that the international dental community is ready to continue along this path with determination.