

International Speaker Development Program (ISDP)

TEXT: Dr. Mark Antal, President of YDW

“Leading the world to optimal oral health.” This is a sentence that has been around the globe for a while and has a meaning for every dentist. Taking FDI’s mission to the dentists is the responsibility of the current members and stakeholders of FDI. This had and will have an impact on the present and the not too far away future, but going one step forward, for a vision to come true, plans have to be done for the coming decades as well.



The Ideas of ISDP

Finding a partner for these plans is never easy, but, in the cooperation with Nobel Biocare, an internationally recognized partner was found, sharing visions and missions in global healthcare. Young Dentists Worldwide has been working on this for almost a decade, and now the outcome seems to be closer than ever. The main goal is to contribute to improving global oral health by establishing a global network for the next generation oral health profession opinion leaders, through the development of an international speaker development program. Creating a program for a few young dental professionals might not be realistic, but connecting this with local inputs of the mission, and delivering the vision to future FDI congresses, events and, even further, reaching a much wider target group via web-based platforms and education is the way to go.

The Beginning

The history of this program goes back several years. Already in 2005 we were discussing a possible cooperation with FDI with a similar idea. In 2007 in Dubai, the leaders of YDW were pushing this plan to the new members of the FDI head office. Thanks to one of the YDW founders, Stephen Smith, the program was a well structured and a really innovative plan. It was warmly welcomed by FDI stakeholders and discussions led to an agreement with Nobel Biocare. The sponsorship was for the first version of the ISDP that was launched in Stockholm in 2008. Unfortunately, the global economic crisis had reached FDI and Nobel as well and there was a major stop of the progress. The original idea had to be canceled and costs had to be cut.

Where we are now

Today we are at a stage where, hopefully next year, we could finally make the last step and restart the program in the current, updated, more popular and cost-effective version. FDI's

Education Committee and Council have to make their approval of the current version and, if everything goes fine in Mexico and during the next midyear meeting in Geneva, first participants can start the three-year program in Hong Kong in 2012, which is where FDI will have its 100th Annual Congress.

The Program

The basic plan is a combined program including nine separate modules. Each module has an independent structure. Some of the modules will be organized as part of the Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC), mainly as elective pre-congress courses. Suggestion is to let these modules be accessible separately from the International Speaker Development Program (ISDP). The whole curriculum is separated into two parts: one is to be organized during the FDI congresses and all the remaining knowledge can be gained via an online education course.

The current version of the ISDP is based on the cooperation with Nobel Biocare, but can also become a long-term successful and self-supporting program. Although the money for the program has been received years ago by FDI, up until now, no expenses have been made by YDW. Hopefully all of the sponsorship will be accepted and spent on the ISDP, and in the not too far future it might be

possible to develop it into a Master of Science (MSc) program.

Modules to be organized during the AWDC:

- Photo and documentation module
- Oral presentation module
- Health promotion/prevention

Modules to be organized online:

- Poster editing module
- Presentation software (ppt/keynote)
- Appearance and lecture structure
- Article preparation
- Web based and e-learning
- Literature and content review

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Dr. Mark Antal has been the YDW President since 2009 and is an honorary lifelong member of IADS. For years he has been active in the work of FDI.

In his home country Hungary he is working in the university of Szeged and in his own clinic.

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