

IADR, San Diego, 6-9 March 2002

Undersigned was instructed by the Executive director to represent FDI at the annual congress of IADR March, in San Diego, California, USA. My assignment during the four days was to explore possible ways of joint FDI and IADR efforts to promote research in dentistry and of course to promote FDI and its working activities. My commitments were to (1) present a report at the council meeting, (2) meet with IADR executives to discuss possible practical interactions to disseminate research findings on the Internet and (3) present the FDI web site at the meeting of the International Collaboration for Evidence-Based Dentistry (ICEBD). *"A new network linking IADR/AADR members interested in this area of study with a focus on the "Design, Synthesis and Implementation of Clinical Research"*

About one week prior to the IADR congress it was decided that also the vice-chairman of the science commission should represent FDI. Undersigned was therefore joined by Professor Newell Johnson, who also submitted substantial input at all three meetings.

IADR council meeting, Wednesday 6th morning

A report was submitted by undersigned, with focus on several issues:

- FDI had approved and implemented their new strategic plan for the next decade. One of actions was to move the headquarters from London to France, to Ferney-Voltaire, and took place in January this year. Several key people remained on the staff and moved to France, so the head office has been fully operational since January and is running smoothly
- Dr Per Åke Zillén suddenly was forced to step down as executive director due to health reason with immediate effect in mid-February, and the acting executive director now was Dr Johann T Barnard. The notification of this vacancy for the position was on the FDI website and everybody was invited to apply
- The individual membership in FDI is abandoned and all members of the respective national associations are now considered as members of FDI. The information channels to the members has therefore been changed so the IJD journal is changed to carry more clinical type articles and general type articles, information on other groups of dental communities and on the web
- The changes of the FDI website aiming to become a clearinghouse for any information related to dentistry considered to be of relevance for our members and that the website is already now the most visited dentistry site on the web, besides ADA's site, according to the Alexa counting system
- Undersigned was engaged as science manager last fall, with the primary task to disseminate important new research findings to our member associations either directly on the website or following inquiries on specific issues coming from members. A central element will be to implement the concepts of evidence based medicine in practice in close cooperation with the science commission, which will continue to work as before and where the liaison contact between FDI and IADR is professor John Clarkson.

In addition, professor Newell Johnson promoted the wish to join efforts with IADR/FDI/WHO/ISO and bring forward oral health in a "global alliance for oral health".

The immediate feedback from individuals attending this council meeting was very positive and supportive. Present at this council are representatives from the different (subject matter) groups in IADR, who organised individual group meetings later during the congress. I've been informed from colleagues who attended different group meetings that FDI was brought up as a weighty topic in many of these group meetings. Perhaps the main reason was that Professor John Clarkson in his inaugural presidential speech at the opening ceremony very kindly highlighted and spoke positively about "new" FDI-IADR initiatives.

IADR Executive meeting Wednesday 6th afternoon

Professor Newell Johnson minuted this meeting, and his submitted report is included in the SC binder.

ICEBD meeting Saturday 9th lunch

During a lunch meeting with an estimated attendance of 70 people various developments on evidence-based dentistry internationally was presented and discussed. I had been given the opportunity to display our new FDI website, with a focus on the "dental resources" part of the site. One intention of this presentation was to invite colleagues in IADR to contribute to the guidelines database and to the science inquiries. Although I had not anticipated any immediate response I have received emails from some attendants who have signalled that they may contribute if requested. In fact, the overall response from people present at this lunch has been very encouraging, as first of all many were not aware of the FDI site, and secondly the concept that was presented seemed to appeal to many in this specific audience.

In addition to the three meetings, I had various personal engagements and demonstrations during the congress for about 20 colleagues who had attended the council, or the ICEBD, -meeting. These ranged from various interested colleagues and a few IADR group chairmen to the IADR deputy director Skip Collins. I had also several discussions with Professor Nigel Pitts who is the official representative of the BSHSR (Behavioural Sciences group – which is a separate official affiliate organization of FDI) and meetings with the editors of the two ebd journals presently in circulation. There has also been some direct communication with the IADR executive director Eli Schwarz and undersigned since the San Diego meeting to consider different strategies to implement a closer FDI-IADR cooperation.

All in all, it appears to be a very definite attitude in the IADR community towards a reinforced and joint cooperation between FDI and IADR to bring forward dental research to the dental community in a fast and reliable manner. Although this aim is not new, an examination of the minutes from the IADR councils during the last ten years indicate that there has been a lack of solutions to accomplish this in practice. The minutes from previous science commission meetings are even less detailed on this issue. It is with this background that the advent of new information technology mediums may open up for new ideas and possibilities for an operational relationship. It is perhaps not realistic to expect that concrete joint working concepts will emerge right away, but it is important and encouraging that positive attitudes with regard to this prevail. Undersigned will continue to strive to find practical interactions towards this goal.

Asbjørn Jokstad
Science manager

FDI-IADR relations

The positive developments that have recently been initiated between FDI and IADR continue. We appreciate very much the very positive attitude to this cooperation demonstrated by the acting president John Clarkson (who has also been the IADR acting representative in the FDI Science commission), the past general secretary Eli Schwarz, the acting general secretary Skip Collins, and we anticipate a close working relationship with the next general secretary Christopher Fox. Two issues have specifically developed since the FDI meetings in Vienna in October, 2002.

1. An invitation was extended from the editor of the Journal of Dental Research, Dr Mark C. Herzberg, to write an editorial in this journal. This offer was promptly accepted and expedited. An editorial authored by A Jokstad, JT Barnard and E Reich will be published in the March issue of JDR. A copy of the editorial is attached.

2. FDI World Dental Federation will organize a Lunch and Seminar at the 2003 IADR General Session in Göteborg. An invitation will be extended exclusively to all officers of the twenty-one IADR special groups and executive officers of IADR. The objective is to focus on transfer of new dental research information to the practicing dental community.

A long term strategy is to build a close working relationship with the core groups in IADR that have the first hand knowledge about what is going on in cutting edge dental research. It is anticipated that this can greatly benefit the work the science commission and thereby increase the scientific output to the FDI members.

The time is allotted on the Wednesday 25th June immediately after the IADR council meeting to be completed in good time before the IADR opening ceremony. Thus, a standing lunch begins at 12.30 followed by presentations will be given from 13.30 to 15.30. Attached is a letter sent to all officers of the special groups, which describes the format and aim of this event. Each member of the FDI science commission will be assigned to specifically maintain a communication link with three to four special groups before, during and after the event.

Professor John Clarkson have informed that he will be available at the luncheon to speak on behalf of IADR on the need for collaboration between the two organizations. The plan is that also the FDI executive director as well as a FDI council representative will give a short speech during the luncheon on the same topic.

Beyond this, a minimum core group consisting of the science commission members who anyway will be attending the IADR meeting (i.e. with no added travel expenses costs for FDI) and perhaps other council representatives should represent FDI. The FDI Communications Manager should also be present. Per February, most of the SC members have signalled that they will attend this meeting, which apply also for John O'Keefe in the Communications Committee and Kathryn Kell in the Congress & Education Committee. An email will be sent to all officers in the FDI with an invitation to come and represent FDI at this session in case they will be attending this IADR meeting. We hope to demonstrate a significant "research dimension" of the FDI in Göteborg.

The direction needs to debate how many FDI executives should attend the IADR meeting. Regarding eventual sponsoring of the event we will need to see how this comes out the first time and some experience how to proceed next time. I believe personally that this event should be very attractive for potential sponsors, but one should be careful about any long-term agreements at this stage.

Oslo, 20 February 2003
Asbjørn Jokstad
Science manager

Letter sent to all IADR special groups on 14/1/2003

IADR-FDI Lunch/Seminar 25th June, Göteborg, Sweden

We are happy to announce that the FDI World Dental Federation will organize a Lunch and Seminar at the 2003 IADR General Session exclusively for the officers of the IADR special groups. The event will follow immediately after the IADR council meeting on Wednesday 25th June. The objective is to focus on transfer of new dental research information to the practicing dental community.

We will provide more detailed information about the event later, since all details about the IADR congress are not finalised yet.

The FDI World Dental Federation is the umbrella organization for more than 150 national dental associations and these represent about 700,000 dentists worldwide. One of FDI's missions is "to advance and promote the art, science and practice of dentistry". FDI is not an organization where actual scientific research is being carried out, but the FDI Science Commission undertake the responsibility to synthesise and evaluate oral health research so that new and important research findings can be conveyed to the practicing dental community. One of the venues where this is done is at the FDI's Annual World Dental Congress, which attracts some 10,000 to 40,000 registrants.

A standing lunch will be provided for all special groups officers immediately following the IADR council. What we plan to achieve following this lunch is that one representative from each of the special groups present a five minutes synopsis of the current activities within their specific research field. The five minutes should specifically address:

1. Events during the past year that should be of concern for general dental practitioners (which includes publications of any kind, symposia, special activities, etc)
2. Planned activities for next year in the research area that should be of interest for general practitioners
3. What the hottest research issues are in the research area
4. Suggestions for a lecture topic targeted for general practitioners at a future FDI World Congress (and suggestion for potential speakers)
5. Suggestion for the need of one or more (systematic) reviews on a specific subject in the research area

All invitees to the lunch are of course also welcome to attend these presentations.

In parallel, you may be aware that the IADR has initiated a new "programme" for each of the IADR Groups at the Göteborg meeting. Each group will be contacted to nominate a speaker to present a "state of the art/field" 25 minutes overview of their discipline at one of the Group sessions. Although this presentation will be targeted primarily for researchers, it seems reasonable to assume that some of this information can be abridged for the FDI Lunch/seminar.

We are happy that IADR centrally supports our initiative, and look forward to an active and mutually beneficial interaction with you. We hope also that the event may become a regular occurrence at the IADR congress in the forthcoming years.

Asbjørn Jokstad
Science manager

REPORT 2004

International Association for Dental Research (IADR)

The liaison between FDI and IADR, the global research association in dentistry, remains mutually receptive. The IADR has the right to appoint one person to serve on the FDI's Science Commission. Currently, the representative is the IADR President, Prof John Clarkson. The FDI is represented in the annual IADR Council by the chairman of the Science Commission, presently Prof LP Samaranayake, and the FDI Science Manager. Both organisations recognise the mutual benefit of this liaison and aim to maintain and further develop the state.

The science commission organized the midyear meeting during the annual IADR congress, this time held in Honolulu in March. The event and venue creates excellent opportunities to interact with IADR officials. A joint meeting was held between the members of the IADR council and the FDI executive director JT Barnard, chairman of the Science Commission, presently Prof LP Samaranayake and undersigned. The agenda was discussions about potential future joint activities. One appeal from IADR was to work together with FDI to promote their "outreach program", i.e. a pursuit to promote and assist dental research activities in underdeveloped areas globally.

The second FDI-IADR Science Transfer lunch seminar was also organized during the IADR congress. As for last year in Göteborg, also this year's lunch was considered a great success. The attendance was excellent including representatives from all 21 IADR special groups, most of the members of the IADR board and some sixty other invited guests attending the event. The 21 special groups in IADR monitor the vast research activity within the various fields of dentistry. The intention of this seminar is to inform about the current cutting edge dental research. It is anticipated that this will be helpful for the two FDI Commissions when planning future projects, for the FDI Congress & Education Committee when planning future congress programme topics and selection of speakers and for future formal and informal contacts between officers of the FDI and individuals within the research community.

A separate report will be published in the International Dental Journal focusing on the cutting edge research activities within IADR.

One of the outcomes of last year and this year's IADR-FDI lunch presentations is the suggestions for excellent speakers for our WDCs. Undersigned is on an ongoing basis in contact with the programme director, Teo Choo Soo and the chair of the CEC, Kathryn Kell, regarding identification of speakers for future WDCs.

Prof Asbjørn Jokstad, FDI Representative to the IADR

REPORT 2005

International Association for Dental Research (IADR)

The IADR has the right to appoint one person to serve on the FDI's Science Commission. Currently, the representative is the IADR President, Prof John Clarkson. The FDI is represented in the annual IADR Council by the chairman of the Science Commission, presently Prof LP Samaranayake, and the FDI Science Manager, Prof Asbjørn Jokstad. Both organisations recognise the mutual benefit of this liaison and aim to maintain and further develop the state.

The current working relationship with IADR is very good and the IADR Board is supportive of the interactions between the two organisations. FDI hosted another well attended science transfer lunch seminar during the IADR meeting in Baltimore in March 2005. Representatives of all the 21 IADR special groups and several members of the IADR board as well as by members of the FDI Science Committee took part in it. The results of these seminars are very valuable to the FDI Education Committee which uses the information in determining topics and speakers for future Annual World Dental Congresses. The information is further disseminated to all national dental associations.

A report on the first two science transfer seminars has been published in IDJ 1/05.