

The FDI – World Dental Federation

The FDI (Federation Dentaire International), was founded in 1900 and is a federation of National Dental Associations. The three missions or aims of this organization, as stated on the website, are to 'bring together the world of dentistry, to represent dental professions in the world and to stimulate and facilitate the exchange of information across all borders with the aim of optimal oral health for all people'. The website for this international organization is located at <http://www.fdiworldental.org>.

The homepage for this organization is divided into four separate sections; *Federation*, *Resources*, *Public Health* and *Congress and Partners*. The Federation section provides the mission statement, organizational structure and membership information for all levels of members. It is provided in many languages including English, Spanish, Dutch, Japanese, Portuguese, French and Russian. This section also serves as a link to continuing education opportunities, policy statements and contact information.

The section on *Resources* houses databases for international guidelines, meta-analyses and reviews which provide valuable resources on many topics. Some of the topics included are patient issues, materials, techniques, education, public health issues and dental office precautions. It also includes a section on facts and figures for individual countries, publications, continuing education news and a list of dental schools, implant manufacturers and FDI/IADR Science Transfer Seminar information.

The *Public Health* section begins with pertinent public health news in an inset box. This section is divided into the following links: Archives, Global Oral Health, Advocacy Activities, Development Projects, Tobacco, Partners and Public Health Committees. The Archives section provides a historical

path of public health news. The Global Oral Health link provides us with data on the global burden of oral disease, approaches and resources for combating this burden. The Advocacy Activities provides us with policy and conference/workshop information on oral health. The Development Projects has access to descriptions of worldwide projects and funding resources for emergency situations. The Tobacco section is a resource for professionals about tobacco risks and control. The Partners section provides links to other organizations which collaborate with FDI. The last section, Public Health Committees, is a resource for links to FDI committees pertaining to public health.

The last section of the website *Congress and Partners* is a link to all the congresses of the organization. These congresses serve to provide a platform for education, communication and development worldwide. This link gives us access to the location and, in recent years, the statistics about the FDI World Dental Congresses. There are also links to Partners, Corporate partners, Recognition partners and Associated Events.

This website is fairly easy to navigate. It provides a tremendous amount of global information ranging from international dental schools to policies and procedures in the dental office. Its aim is to provide a worldwide voice for organized dentistry and reaches out to provide a wealth of information in all aspects of oral health.

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