

2003, an active year for DENFAC

Dentists for All Children (DENFAC), an outreach project of IAPD, had a very active year. Poland, Turkey and Romania were visited in 2003.

The DENFAC format usually involves three visits. The first is a site visit. During this visit, the infrastructure of the host university is assessed. Reasonably good clinic, laboratory and lecture facilities have to be available to support the teaching program. A half-day seminar is provided which allows discussion of many areas of dentistry. Universities are asked to make brief presentations to describe their paediatric dentistry programs. Toward the end of the visit, the university representatives must decide (1) if they would like a further DENFAC visit, and (2) what they would like the content of a future workshop to be. If the host nation expresses a need for further involvement with the project, the groundwork is laid for a future one-week workshop and a timetable is drafted.

The second visit is a one-week workshop. Led by two experienced academicians, the program is guided by the draft outlined at the first visit. Upon completion of the workshop, the leaders and the attendees complete evaluation forms. In addition, attendees of the workshop are expected to speculate on the impact of the program and its likely effect on the teaching of paediatric dentistry in the host nation. If a second workshop is planned, an outline may be drafted at this time.

A second one-week workshop (third visit) is not automatic. The host nation has to demonstrate that the previous workshop was useful and brought about positive changes in the participants' academic programs. Workshop leaders on this second occasion may be the same or they may differ, depending on their availability and the needs of the host nation.

Poland received a two-day initial site visit from Gerald Wright, Secretary General of IAPD. The meeting was hosted by Dr Alexander Remiszewski, Head of Paediatric Dentistry, Warsaw University. A core group of five Polish universities were represented. In the future this will be expanded to include all dental faculties in Poland as well as representatives from the Minsk Medical University in Belarus.

During the two days, the facilities of the Paediatric Dentistry Department of Warsaw University



Denfac in Poland: Dr Remiszewski discusses a point during a seminar.

were assessed. They were found to be quite good and able to support clinical and preclinical teaching for future workshops. An 'Overview of Behaviour Management' was provided by Professor Wright and this led to discussions in a variety of clinical areas. Presentations were made by each university representative who outlined their programs and indicated what they would like to receive from a workshop. A draft outline was made for a future one-week workshop in 2004. Teaching will begin with selected clinical topics and eventually will be directed toward delivery of service.

Following a preliminary visit to Turkey in 2002, a single one-week workshop was planned. The workshop was held in September and hosted by Dr Nil Altay of Hacettepe University, Ankara. Through her efforts, eight Turkish universities were represented by paediatric dentistry faculty. Workshop leaders were Dr Robert J. Musselman of the USA and Dr Anna Fuks from Israel.

The Ankara workshop focused on both clinical and pedagogical topics. From all reports it was very successful. Those attending felt they had benefited in several ways. They would be able to employ more sophisticated methods for teaching behaviour management such as using more audiovisuals. They learned to apply and teach rubber dam and utilize four-handed dentistry in their clinics. They developed a preclinical course for students. They also learned how to prepare cases for teaching students.



Denfac in Turkey: Anna Fuks demonstrates use of rubber dam to students.



Denfac in Romania: Work in the simulation laboratory.



Denfac in Turkey: Dr Nils Atay who arranged the workshop.

The first Romanian workshop was held in 2002. Romania has since demonstrated the impact of the program through several positive changes. Most Romanian universities had a re-development of charting procedures. There has been a greater use of local anaesthetic and rubber dam. IAPD is pleased that assistance could be given to advancing the teaching of paediatric dentistry in Romania. Enhanced teaching can only contribute to improvements in child dental health in the country.

A second one-week workshop was hosted by Professor Adam Maxim, Head of Paediatric Dentistry,

at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy 'Gr. T. Poppa' in Iasi, Romania. Because of the success of the first workshop, the host nation requested that the leaders, Professors Eliezar Eildelman of Israel and Liza Papagiannoulis of Greece return for the second workshop in September 2003. Lecture topics for the second Romanian workshop included early childhood caries, traumatology, and periodontal disease in children. Sessions were also held in the preclinical laboratory to provide hands-on experience in fabrication of splints, restoration of fractured incisors and reinforcement of rubber dam placement that had been introduced in the earlier workshop. Local anaesthesia techniques were reviewed in the clinic.

Preparing and participating in a one-week workshop is no small feat. Workshop leaders volunteer their time. The participants and Board of IAPD congratulate them on the fine programs that have been presented. Their efforts are appreciated by everyone connected with this project. It also must be pointed out that most sponsors of Dentists for All Children – Colgate, 3M, Oral B, GC Corporation and Air Liquide – have made efforts to assist us locally by providing supplies, equipment and hospitality. We would not be as successful without their help. Thank you, again.

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