



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS

**President's Update**  
**July 13, 2011**

Hello all,

I hope you are having a nice summer. As you know by now, the IFDH has a new website. It has taken some time, and while the bulk of the material is on the site, there are still some pages to be completed. I want to encourage you to review the website and give any feedback you deem necessary.

This letter is an update on my activities and other events you may find interesting.

President Elect JoAnn Gurenlian asked to share this resource.  
**HRH Global Resource Center Launches eLearning Program**

The HRH Global Resource Center, CapacityPlus's digital library of human resources for health (HRH) information, is excited to announce the launch of its eLearning program. The GRC offers free courses developed by technical experts in the fields of HRH, health informatics, and health service delivery to build the capacity of country-based users in critical skills development. Future course offerings will include topics such as monitoring and evaluation, gender issues in HRH, and using a rapid discrete choice experiment (DCE) tool for determining health workers' motivational and retention preferences.

The first course developed for the GRC eLearning ! program is an iHRIS administrator training designed to meet countries' demands to build their information technology capacity. The course was collaboratively developed with the iHRIS team and is based on training materials created and field tested by iHRIS technical experts in Ghana and Tanzania. The course provides instructions on the basic skill set needed to administer and customize CapacityPlus's human resources information system (HRIS) software, iHRIS Manage and iHRIS Qualify.

Visit the new GRC eLearning page to sign up for courses.

Sign-up for the newsletter to receive information on new resources, articles, and features free from the GRC.



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### **Travel to the Slovak Republic Dental Hygienists Association (ASOCIÁCIA DENTÁLNYCH HYGIENIČIEK NA SLOVENSKU)**

I recently had an opportunity to visit the Slovak Republic and to learn about dental hygiene in the Slovak and Czech Republics, previous Communist countries. Many thanks to the Slovakian Dental Hygienists Association and President Marta Križanová, and Dr. Paul Kraus, adviser to the ADHS. While in Bratislava, our delegation of Marta Križanová (Slovak Republic), Viera Panáková (Slovak Republic), Corrie Jongbloed-Zoet (the Netherlands), Annelieke Papadaki-Kromkamp (the Netherlands), Ellen Bol-van den Hil (the Netherlands), Dr. Paul Kraus, and me, had the opportunity to visit the office of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. There were several representatives at the meeting that lasted for one hour and thirty minutes, even though we were only promised thirty minutes. Among the representatives of the Ministry were: Ján Porubský, State Secretary; MUDr. Tibor Hlavatý, PhD., Generálny riaditeľ Sekcia zdravotia; a professional interpreter; a dentist; and a few other individuals from the Ministry office. PhDr. Viera Panáková, dipl.d.h. actually sat on the side of the table as the Ministry, as she has recently been appointed as the dental hygiene expert to advise Ministry of Health on the subjects of prevention, dental hygienists, and dental hygiene care. This is a *huge* step for dental hygiene in Slovakia.



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Our message was simple. We explained the role of dental hygienists around the world, our role in prevention of oral and systemic disease, and how prevention of disease and focus on wellness saves money. We also elucidated the necessity of protecting the public by writing the scope of practice of dental hygienists and their educational requirements into law. An educated dental hygienist is far different from one who has a two-week course and calls themselves a dental hygienist! The Ministry brought up the fact that the Dental Chamber is anxious that dental hygienists will steal their business. We discussed the different types of dental hygiene practice, supervision, autonomy, and ways that dental hygienists work with dentists around the world whether in a dental practice, a dental hygiene practice, a hospital, or other setting. We also stressed that the ADHS is a member of the IFDH, and that the Slovak Republic has three educational programs that meet “international standards”.

We made quite an impression on the Ministry, and had a very interactive session. Many questions were asked and answered, and they were impressed that representatives from the Netherlands and the IFDH would travel to their country to support dental hygiene and dental hygienists. It was a very successful meeting, and the Secretary encouraged the ADHS dental hygienists to follow-up and report back to them after their meeting in Nový Smokovec.

From there Marta, Paul, and I visited Theodore Sedgwick, Ambassador Embassy of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic. We were greeted warmly and asked if the USA Embassy could help in any way with our mission. We explained our goals and what we thought was needed to protect the public, such as writing the dental hygiene scope of practice into law. Mr. Sedgwick said he may be able to assist through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was another successful meeting.

We then drove to the high mountains (tatra) and the meeting of the ADHS. There were over 100 dental hygienists in attendance, and the meeting was extremely informative and professional. The meeting spanned a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with Saturday devoted to foreign speakers with an interpreter.

### **Czech Dental Hygienists Association**

While in Europe, I had the opportunity to meet Petra Křížová,



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President, Asociace dentálních hygienistek České Republiky (ADH ČR), or the Czech Dental Hygienists Association. Their goal is to become an IFDH member but they have problems with volunteers in their small country. They will continue to work on this objective.

### **AIDI Meeting in Milan**

I was invited to attend the AIDI meeting in Milan by the President of the Associazione Igienisti Dentali Italiani (AIDI), Marialice Boldi. I will deliver the Keynote Lecture, as well as provide an additional course (CME). The theme is "30 anni di sorrisi con AIDI", or "30 year of smiles with AIDI". For more information, visit the website: <http://www.aiditalia.it/>.



XXI CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AIDI  
**30 ANNI**  
di sorrisi  
con AIDI  
Milano, 22-24 settembre 2011

GIOVEDÌ 22 settembre 2011 / POMERIGGIO

On page three of the official program, the history of AIDI is presented, and as AIDI turns 30, it can be compared with a very beautiful woman. This has presented the opportunity to conduct a beautiful Congress. Buon compleanno, or Happy Birthday, AIDI!

# **Buon compleanno, AIDI!**

### **Russian Dental Hygienists in Moscow**

I was invited to bring greetings and present courses for the Russian Dental Hygienists the V Congress of Russian Dental Hygienists by the vice president of Russian Dental Association, Oles Schevchenko. A second conference will be held in the



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Ukraine, organized with the Ministry of Health of the Ukraine. The Ministry understands the important role of dental hygienists and suggested this meeting be organized. It will be held at the Scientific Research Dental Institute in Odessa, Ukraine.

### **Swiss Dental Hygienists**

I received an invitation to attend the 36th Annual Congress of the Swiss Dental Hygienists 11-12. November 2011, in St. Gallen. I am not sure I am able to attend, but am appreciative of the invitation.

## **Swiss Dental Hygienists**

Their daily work is a continuing challenge. Although their tasks in principle have remained the same as over 30 years ago, their daily work differs significantly from that of a dental hygienist in the beginnings of the profession. In their program, they state that the complex knowledge of human health and continuous new discoveries in medicine make lifelong learning and expansion of basic knowledge unavoidable. It is their daily task to take into account diseases, drug interactions, changes in the oral cavity, and to use knowledge and information to refer the appropriate specialist, if needed. They discuss their role in early detection and prevention of oral cancer, and new allergies that affect dental hygiene practice.

A social event will allow insight into the daily business of the textile city where the meeting will be held. St. Gallen, whose history is as old as the city itself, presents an attractive, visual cross-section of the great activity in St. Gallen through decades of the textile industry.

Together with the numerous exhibitors and top speakers, they are convinced that they will provide new insights for your daily dental hygiene business. Nicole Honegger, President, Eastern Section, Grisons, wishes all two diverse and informative days.

### **Potential New Association Members**

With the help of Professor Kim Wonsook of Korea, and Lillian Caperila, RDH, MS of the USA, we may have a new Association Member. They met with members of the Mongolian Dental Hygienist's Association.



While they were together, Lillian shared her experiences about the International Symposium of Dental Hygiene (ISDH) in Glasgow. She explained the growth of the IFDH and explained that the ISDH is held in different locations throughout the world every three years. They were very interested in membership and the next conference. I will forward the necessary forms to them.

While at the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Session and Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) in June, 2011, I had the pleasure of meeting Naeema Al Bulushi, RDH, BSc, who graduated from University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene. Naeema works as a head of Dental Assistant Department in Oman, while studying for her MSDH at the Fones School. She is currently involved in teaching in Oman and worked as a student teacher in US. Naeema conducted tutorial sessions for instrumentation and dental radiology at Fones School.

After being exposed to US environment, Naeema realized that they are far behind with the dental hygiene profession in Oman. After making contact with the ADHA, she realized that no matter where they are, in which corner in the world they are located, dental hygienists must be recognized as oral health professionals. We need to educate and create awareness in our communities about dental hygiene, and our role in prevention. Naeema conducted research as part of her master's degree program and identified the need for a professional dental hygiene program in Oman.

I had the opportunity to inform Naeema about the IFDH. She is looking forward to learning more about the IFDH and ADHA, and how she can start an association for dental hygienists in Oman. She is working with a team in establishing the first curriculum in dental hygiene and hopes to establish the program in Oman in Sept 2012. Naeema had a successful meeting with all the Omani dental hygienists on June 30, 2011. She formed a taskforce to determine concerns or challenges faced by the dental hygienists in Oman. The head of the oral and dental health portion at the Ministry of Health is very supportive and he attended the meeting. Naeema discussed many issues, and one of them is becoming a member of the IFDH! There was much interest, and I will assist them with the proper forms and documents, when they meet the requirements for membership. I look forward to hearing of their progress, and looking forward to working closely with them.



**American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Session and Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL)**

While at the ADHA meeting, I had a "Marketplace Table" where I sold the IFDH business card holders and USB memory sticks. I had the IFDH banner, and the Marketplace served as a public relations vehicle to tell those that visited about the IFDH.

**2nd North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference**

The National Center for Dental Hygiene Research & Practice is pleased to announce the 2nd North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference to be held three days, October 20 through October 22, 2011 in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, at the DoubleTree Conference Center Hotel. The conference is being held in collaboration with the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) and the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA). The theme for this year's conference is "Inspiration, Collaboration and Translation." For information about the 2nd North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference see the following website.

([http://www.adha.org/research/research\\_conference.htm](http://www.adha.org/research/research_conference.htm)) Please reserve early, as the block of rooms is selling out and the early registration deadline is looming, July 15, 2011.

President Elect JoAnn Gurenlian and I will attend with the IFDH banner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Maria Perno Goldie'.

Maria Perno Goldie, RDH, MS,  
IFDH President