

Commonwealth Dental Association

Working for Oral Health in the Commonwealth

CDA BULLETIN

*The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Dental Association
CDA is supported by The Commonwealth Foundation*

FROM THE CDA PRESIDENT

Professor Jacob Kaimenyi

Dear colleagues

May I take this opportunity to salute all of you wherever you are in the Commonwealth. I thank all colleagues who have been very active either as CDA Executive members or ordinary members who have been instrumental in furthering the objectives for which CDA was established many years ago. It is because of these sons and daughters of CDA that CDA continues to be a vibrant Association whose presence is felt in all corners of the Commonwealth.

I am happy to let you know that since you elected me as your President, CDA has been as active as ever. We have held two electronic meetings in February and April 2007. During these meetings, we have discussed some matters which touch on policy and will have a far reaching impact in improving the way CDA is run. For example:

- ◆ *We have come up with guidelines for hosting CDA Triennial Meetings.*
- ◆ *We crafted a welcome pack for new CDA Executive members.*
- ◆ *We have started reviewing the CDA Legal and Financial Matters. In the coming months, we should be able to decide and agree under which laws the CDA should operate.*
- ◆ *We have crafted guidelines for the awarding of CDA awards. Even though CDA awards exist, we shall be deciding on the various categories of awards as well as the criteria for the said awards.*



We have also participated in some key activities the chief ones among them being the recent Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva on 13 May 2007. During that meeting, we lobbied for the support of the first resolution on oral health after twenty six years, which was to be discussed as Agenda Item 12.9 of the World Health Assembly, also in May. I am glad to let you know that this resolution was unanimously supported by the Ministers and other members during the World Health Assembly.

For any Association to succeed, it must have participation by all its members in different activities. It is for this reason that I kindly request all of you to continue participating in the activities organised by CDA. This is particularly important for the members of the Executive as well as the Vice-Presidents representing their regions in the Commonwealth. On our part as the Executive, we shall continue to inform you of our activities preferably in advance, so that you can make the appropriate arrangements to

participate. At the moment, we are in the process of making arrangements to hold a workshop on the Integration of Oral Health Personnel in Disaster Management. Once this is done, we shall communicate to you.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank the Editorial Board of the CDA Bulletin for their tireless effort in ensuring that this important publication remains afloat.

CONTENTS

From the CDA President	1
Acknowledgements	2
Editorial	2
Prioritise Health - Realise Potential	2
New President of the BDA	2
CHMM Geneva	3
WHO Resolution on Oral Health	4
Presentation to Brian Mouatt	4
Award for Martin Hobdell	5
Sir James Retires	5
News from the Regions -	
E, Central & Southern Africa	6-7
West Africa	7
South East Asia	8

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CDA thanks the Commonwealth Foundation for their funding and support. CDA also thanks the Commonwealth Secretariat for their support and encouragement.

The CDA is very grateful for the continued support of Dr Michael Knowles, Mr Andrew Quayle, GlaxoSmithKline, other sponsors and Corporate and Individual Friends of CDA.

Editor: Prof D Y D Samarawickrama
Designed and prepared by:
Julia Campion
Printed by:
Prontaprint Notting Hill, London, UK

FROM THE EDITOR

Professor D Y D Samarawickrama

The world is going through difficult and turbulent times with natural disasters, wars and terrorism affecting us on top of poverty, inequalities and injustices. They are global in their impact in devastating lives and communities every where. We need to reflect on these and try to make sense of it all so that remedial measures can be taken.



And life must go on. Thus, the CDA has been active as usual in getting on with its tasks. For a start, it has taken action to streamline its decision making process. Professor Kaimenyi has outlined these in his message (Page 1). The CDA will continue to be efficient and effective in its activities to promote oral health in the Commonwealth.

We are very pleased to report that Martin Hobdell, our previous Editor, is a recipient of the second annual Golden Global Award. The tribute on Page 9 highlights the nature of some of his work.

This issue also has a report on the Commonwealth Health Ministers meeting held in Geneva on the eve of the World Health Assembly, on 'Lifestyle Diseases: Health Systems Approaches' (Page 3). CDA has enjoyed Observer status at this important annual meeting and used the opportunity to lobby the health ministers on key issues faced by the member countries to good effect.

The WHO Resolution in Oral Health is an important development. The CDA lobbied the key decision makers on this issue. Please see

the CDA President Professor Jacob Kaimenyi's statement (Page 4).

'Bright Smiles Bright Future' is a programme to be launched by the Indian Dental Association in partnership with Colgate Palmolive India (Page 6). This ambitious programme aimed at children, their parents and their teachers, attempts to improve oral health of communities spread throughout India. We shall await the outcome of this programme with great interest.

Another example of partnership between organisations is the donation of books and journals to the Department of Dentistry, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (Page 7). The CDA and Quayle Dental Manufacturing Company are the facilitators of this scheme. We hope that as many as possible will donate books and journals to this scheme.

Over the years, the CDA has contributed to many continuing education programmes in the member countries. Therefore, it is appropriate that we publish a request from the President of the Tanzania Dental Association, Dr Flora M Fabian (Page 7). We hope that many of you would be able to take part in this workshop.

Thus, despite the dangers referred to at the beginning this message, we have been purposeful, thoughtful and on guard while continuing with our chosen work in the belief that what we do is quite relevant to us all.

PRIORITISE HEALTH - REALISE POTENTIAL

**Kampala, Uganda
19 - 20 November 2007**

organised by the:
Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA)
Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA)
Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF)
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA)
BasicNeeds Trust

Themes
Human Resources
Maternal & Child Health
Lifestyle Diseases
Safe Health Practices
Mental Health & Development

This workshop is taking place at the Commonwealth People's Forum in Kampala, Uganda which immediately precedes the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The outcome of the workshop will be a communiqué which will be taken forward to the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kampala prior to the commencement of CHOGM.

For further information please contact the CDA Administrator
JuliaCampionCDA@aol.com

Supported by the
 Commonwealth Secretariat

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Dr Josef L Rich OBE was installed as the 12th President of the British Dental Association (BDA) on 24 May 2007, at the British Dental Conference in Harrogate, UK. He will serve a 12-month term of office. Dr Rich was born and educated in Manchester and studied at the University of Edinburgh. In 1966 he founded his own practice in Eccles where he still cares for patients. He has served in different roles across the Manchester area and was also a lecturer at the University of Manchester. He has represented practitioners as Chair of the BDA's General Services Committee and as a member of the Council.

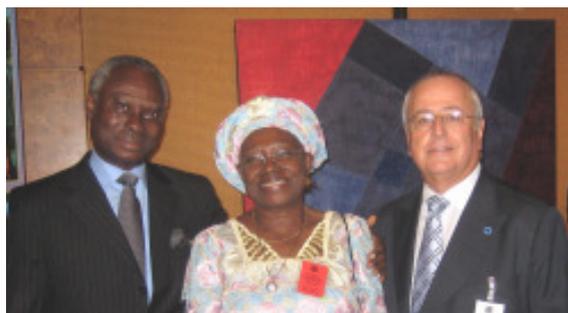


THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING (CHMM) Geneva, Switzerland - 13 May 2007

Dr Sam Thorpe OR (CDA Executive Secretary)

Introduction

The annual meeting of Commonwealth Health Ministers took place at the Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland on Sunday 13 May 2007, the eve of the 60th World Health Assembly (WHA).



(L to R) Dr Sam Thorpe, Minister of Health for Sierra Leone, Dr Anthony Kravitz

The meeting was organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and had as its theme: '*Lifestyle Diseases: Health Systems Approaches*'. It was preceded by a meeting of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health (CACH) on Saturday 12 May 2007 at the same venue.

Participants included Health Ministers and delegates of 40 Commonwealth countries and territories, as well as representatives from the Commonwealth Foundation, and other UN partners and regional and civil society organisations engaged in health and health related activities.

The Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) was represented by Professor Jacob Kaimenyi (President), Dr Sam Thorpe (Executive Secretary), Dr Anthony Kravitz (Treasurer) and Ms Julia Champion (Administrator).

Opening

The meeting was chaired by the Hon Brig Gen Dr Brian Chituwo (Rtd) Minister of Health of Zambia. The Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Ransford Smith, opened the

meeting and introduced HE Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, who gave the opening address. He noted that lifestyle diseases continue to be of great concern for both developed and developing countries and that the migration of health workers continues to weaken the health system responses.

The keynote address entitled '*Health systems approaches to prevention and control of major lifestyle diseases in low and middle income countries*' was delivered by Dr Shanthi Mendis, WHO Senior Adviser, Cardiovascular Diseases.

Method of Work

The method of work included presentations and discussions at Plenary Sessions and Roundtable Sessions for four groups. Each group discussed one of the following topics:

- ◆ *Integrated approaches to health, sport, and physical activity;*
- ◆ *Using best practice in lifestyle diseases to strengthen the health system;*
- ◆ *Impact of nutritional changes on lifestyle diseases;*
- ◆ *Promoting a healthy lifestyle through the lifecycle approach.*

The CDA had been invited by the Commonwealth Secretariat to produce a discussion paper on the '*Impact of Nutritional Changes on Lifestyle Diseases*' for the roundtable. A supplement with the full discussion paper is included with this issue of the CDA Bulletin.

There was a lively debate on the reports of the roundtable sessions. The main points are being compiled

by the Commonwealth Secretariat and will be circulated soon.

In her address Dr Margaret Chan, the Director-General of WHO, gave an overview of WHO priorities.

Under Any Other Business (AOB), the following additional presentations were made:

- ◆ '*Extremely Resistant TB*' by Professor Felix Salaniponi (Ministry of Health, Malawi).
- ◆ '*HIV/AIDS vaccine and HIV/AIDS and Male Circumcision*' by Dr Wilfred Machage (Assistant Minister of Health, Kenya).
- ◆ '*HIV/AIDS related cancers*' by Dr Marjorie Ngaunje MP (Minister of Health, Malawi).
- ◆ '*Counterfeit Drugs*' by Mr Peter Longworth (Health Care Working Group, Commonwealth Business Council).



Dr Michele Aerden, President FDI (centre) with Delegates at CHMM 2007

After the above presentations, the Minister of Health for Sri Lanka informed the meeting about the forthcoming *International Conference on AIDS in Asia/Pacific (ICAAP)*.

Outcomes

(1) It was proposed that one of the following topics be considered as the theme for CHMM 2008:

- ◆ **E-Health** – particularly how it can be used to improve the development, organisation and management of health services and

improve the reach and efficiency of health workers' training;

◆ **Palliative Care** – linked to a wide range of chronic and communicable diseases;

◆ **Health Care Financing.**

(2) It was agreed that the Chairperson for CHMM2008 should be the Minister of Health of Antigua and Barbuda.

(3) The WHO Resolution (EB120/R5) on Oral Health entitled '*Oral health: action plan for promotion*

and integrated disease prevention' for the World Health Assembly, together with a letter signed by the CDA and the FDI World Dental Federation, was tabled at the meeting.

Conclusion

The Ministers and other delegates participated actively in the discussions, and the meeting was a success. The participation of CDA at the meeting provided an opportunity for its representatives

to interact with many Ministers and senior health officials.

After the day's proceedings, the Commonwealth Health Ministers and other delegates attended a Reception hosted by the Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA). In a bid to mobilise their support for the WHO Resolution on Oral Health, the President of CDA, Professor Jacob Kaimenyi, made a formal appeal to the Ministers at the Reception.

WHO RESOLUTION ON ORAL HEALTH

Statement by Professor Jacob Kaimenyi (CDA President)

I would like to use the opportunity of having so many key decision makers of Commonwealth countries here to mention to you an issue of great importance for oral health: '*The World Health Assembly will discuss the first resolution on oral health after 26 years*'.

I wish to draw your attention to agenda item 12.9 of the World Health Assembly that starts tomorrow. The strategic principles mentioned in the report issued by the Executive Board are fully in line with what the Commonwealth Dental Association identified as key areas of action to promote oral health worldwide. Let me first of all stress the importance of an increased integration of oral health into general health.



Prof Jacob Kaimenyi (R) with the Minister of Health for Sierra Leone

It is important to address oral diseases from the promotional and preventive side based on common risk factors.

Three approaches are of greatest importance for every oral health promotion programme or policy:

- ◆ Firstly, the promotion of healthy diets with reduced intake of sugars;
- ◆ Secondly, eating diets which are rich in proteins and carbohydrates;
- ◆ Thirdly, the promotion of the use of fluoride for dental health, which should be made affordable and available to all.

These and many other aspects of preventing oral diseases will be part of the Assembly's agenda. I sincerely hope that you and your country delegations will give the proposed resolution the highest importance. The CDA, together with our colleagues from the FDI, World Dental Federation and the WHO Global Oral Health Programme, are at your disposal should you need any further information or support.

Let me conclude by expressing my hope that the adoption of the oral health resolution by the World Health Assembly will help to bring more attention to oral health in all Commonwealth countries and the world. The CDA remains your committed partner in this important health endeavour.

Thank you.

*Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting (CHMM)
Ramada Park Hotel Geneva - Sunday 13 May 2007*

Editor's Note: On 23 May 2007 the WHO World Health Assembly adopted a resolution entitled '*Oral Health: action plan for promotion and integrated disease prevention*'

Press Release:

http://www.fdiworldental.org/public_health/Archives/20070524_60WHA.html

Resolution: http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA60/A60_R17-en.pdf

PRESENTATION TO BRIAN MOUATT CBE

At a dinner held at the Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva and hosted by the CDA, on the occasion of the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva on 13 May 2007, Brian Mouatt was given a presentation in recognition of his long and devoted service to the Commonwealth Dental Association.



Dr Brian Mouatt (L) with Prof Jacob Kaimenyi

Brian's first connection with the CDA was in the early 1990s. He was elected Vice-President for the European Region in 1994. A post he held for 3 years until he was elected President-Elect in 1997. He was installed as President in the year 2000 at the CDA 4th Triennial Meeting in New Delhi. During his 3-year term of office he introduced many Distance Learning programmes, whereby the CDA sent training manuals in the form of books, videos and CDs to the developing Commonwealth countries. He also introduced the CDA Executive electronic meetings, which are conducted by email. Brian had been Chief Dental Officer in Zambia for 5 years and had a great affinity to the African countries.

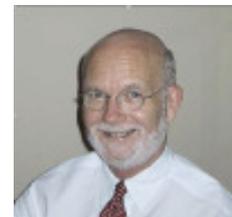
AWARD FOR MARTIN HOBDELL

Martin Hobdell has been awarded the *Golden Apple Award* by Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO). As part of World Health Day observances, HVO created this award to recognise the extraordinary educational contributions of volunteers to sites abroad.

Martin was nominated in recognition of his leadership in creating and implementing graduate level certificate and masters training programmes in dental public health at the University of Health Sciences in Cambodia and at the Faculty of Odonto-Stomatology in Vietnam.

"Dr Hobdell's enthusiasm is contagious and appears inexhaustible" states Dr Sally Hewett, Chair, HVO Steering Committee. *"His connection to the local faculty and students is warm and remarkable. According to testimonies from peers, it is evident that Dr Hobdell is admired, respected and loved by the dentistry community abroad"*.

Martin works extensively in the African countries on Continuing Education programmes. He is currently in Sierra Leone undertaking an assignment for the Commonwealth Secretariat.



SIR JAMES RETIRES

Dr Anthony S Kravitz OBE (CDA Treasurer)

The dental profession in the Commonwealth is proud and honoured to have among its membership a very distinguished colleague, Sir James Carlisle GCMG BDS FDSRCS(Edin), the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda from 1993 until July 1st 2007.



Sir James Carlisle (centre) with Dr Victor Eastmond, CDA Past President (left) and Dr Suomi Gupta, Antigua (right)

James Carlisle was born in 1937 in Antigua and was brought up in a relatively poor household, in which his mother struggled to bring up five children on her own – his father having been killed towards the end of the Second World War, fighting as a member of the British Forces.

He had his early education in Antigua - following which he joined the RAF in the UK. He was allocated to the medical services division. It was his occasional work in the dental department, as an assistant, that started his interest in dentistry. He left the Forces after 5 years and self-funded his study for A-levels at

the Northampton College of Technology. He was accepted for Dundee Dental School and entered into dental training in 1967.

After graduation in 1972 he joined the British Dental Association (BDA) and worked in general dental practice, before returning to Antigua in 1979. He returned to England in 1980 to work again in a practice in Suffolk.

In 1981 he again returned to Antigua, where he built up what was to become a successful dental practice. He also served as a Dental Officer in the Public Service. He developed a Fluoride Programme for children and instituted a scheme for free dental service for children and senior citizens. He helped to start an Antiguan Dental Association and became its Vice President. He also immersed himself into various community and national projects, including becoming Chairman of the National Parks Authority, Chairman of the Tabitha Senior Citizens Home and a member of the Medical Board.

In 1991 He graduated from the American School of Laser Dentistry and also became a member of the International Society of Laser Dentists.

On 10 June 1993 he was sworn in as the second Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, the first native born Antiguan to be appointed to the office. He was appointed to be a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (GCMG) later that year and was invested at Buckingham Palace in July 1994. As Governor-General, Sir James became titular head of more than 30 charitable and benevolent organisations, and hosted many functions on their behalf. He is the recipient of a number of Honorary Degrees. These include the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Andrews University in Michigan, USA, and a Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.

Sir James sold his practice, of course, on becoming Governor-General but retained his name on the dental registers of both Antigua and the UK – only resigning from the latter in 2003. He remained a member of the BDA until recently. Following his retirement he has promised to take some role in dental matters again and will be taking an interest in the Commonwealth Dental Association.

Sir James is married to Nalda Amelia and he has three boys and two girls. His youngest daughter is following in her father's footsteps by looking to enter dental school in North America later this year.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

EAST, CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AFRICA

ORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Gaborone, Botswana
1-3 June 2007

Dr Clement Luhanga

President Botswana Dental Association
CDA Vice-President (E C S Africa)

The 8th annual congress was held in conjunction with the Dental Therapists and back-to-back with the Dental Surgery Assistants. The theme of the congress was 'Evidence-Based Dentistry in Developing Countries'.



Dr Clement Luhanga

The emphasis was infection control for the oral health team. This was a reflection of importance of the team work which faces all kind of infections in work places. We invited Dr V Yengopal from the University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), Prof Sue Naidoo from the University of the Western Cape, Prof Y Osman (UWC), Dr Sathie Naidoo from the University of Pretoria and Prof Herman Bernitz, Professor of Forensic Dentistry.

Dr Yengopal spoke on the importance of evidence-based dental practice in making the best possible decisions in the case of individual patients. He defined it as a process which guides clinicians to express a clinical problem as a question, employ a systematic framework to locate and evaluate research and integrate this information to base clinical decision

and management protocols. Furthermore managers and decision makers in the government are able to provide better health services consistent with best practice and evidence of efficiency so that optimal use of limited resources, which are allocated for oral health care, is made. Hence standard care and protection protocols against these are highly recommended and emphasised.

Dr Sathie Naidoo lectured on various ways to deal with difficult pediatric patients especially whose possible use of Nitrous Oxide and other available sedatives which do facilitate proper treatment procedures.

The congress was graced with a guest lecture given by Professor Herman Bernitz. BODEA invited other disciplines, i.e the Police Department, Forensic Scientists, Director of Public Prosecution. The gist of his presentation dwelt on the:

◆ *Modern techniques in matching bite marks to possible culprits after rape, child abuse, etc. The dentist's role is to ensure good dental records, to take photographs of the bite marks, take impression as early as possible. It was advised to work closely with police forensic department.*

◆ *The second part of the lecture was identification of victims of mass disasters which fall into:*

(1) *Open and large scale whose identification is complex and difficult e.g the tsunami.*

(2) *Closed victims well known and easily identified, e.g. a motor vehicle accident of a hired vehicle.*

(3) *Mixture of the above, for example the Kenyan aircraft crash in Cameroon.*

Professor Osman spoke on the ideal dental materials for developing countries and also the management of missing teeth. He advised that materials cannot be categorised differently. It all depends on availability and affordability.

Mr Johan Thuysnma, a dental technologist, talked about good communication between dentists and technicians in order to provide satisfactory laboratory work

This congress could not have been held without the support of the private sector. The Millners Dental Suppliers, Colgate Palmolive, Standard Chartered Bank and Botswana Insurance Company all provided financial support which was highly appreciated.

CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Tanzania - 28-30 November 2007

Dr Flora M Fabian

President Tanzania Dental Association

The Tanzania Dental Association (TDA) is the professional association for Oral Health Scientists and Clinicians in Tanzania.



Dr Flora M Fabian

Among its major objectives are to:

- ◆ *Oversee processes for members to advance their scientific knowledge and practice;*
- ◆ *Enhance and advocate for the welfare of their members;*

EAST, CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AFRICA

- ◆ *Liaise with local and international associations for mutual benefits;*
- ◆ *Facilitate dissemination of science and technology for research and information.*

The Tanzania Dental Association is recognised as a body that advises the Government and other organisations on matters of professional disciplines, and ethics.

The Tanzania Dental Association, together with the FDI World Dental Federation, is holding a Continuing Education Workshop in parallel with the TDA's 22nd Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting. The theme is '*The HIV/AIDS Pandemic and Provision of Quality Oral Health Care in the Developing World*'. Eminent international and local speakers will discuss the latest evidence based approaches to tackle today's local and global health challenges.

We invite you to attend and present a paper at this important meeting. For submission of abstracts and information about the meeting visit www.muchs.ac.tz and go to 22nd TDA Scientific Conference. Or send an email to:
Dr Flora M Fabian
ffabian@muchs.ac.tz
or to Dr Febronia Kahabuka
fkahabuka@muchs.ac.tz

Arusha is close to Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, and to several game reserves. There is an exciting social programme for delegates and accompanying persons. The magnificent wildlife, exotic cuisine, cool atmosphere and a distinguished culture will make your stay a memorable occasion.

We look forward to seeing you in Arusha in November 2007.

LIBRARY APPEAL

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY

P.O. Box 7062, Kampala Tel: 256-41-532803 Email: dentistry@med.mak.ac.ug

The Department of Dentistry, Makerere University Medical School in Kampala, Uganda, was established in 1982. It started with an annual intake of 15 students. It currently trains Dental Surgeons and is in the process of starting postgraduate training of dentists next academic year.

The population of Uganda is approximately 27 million and there are currently 170 practising dentists in both the public and private sectors.

The Department of Dentistry recently benefited from a generous donation of dental equipment from Rotary Club of Alberta, Canada and now seeks assistance in updating its library. Dental books and journals are expensive and the internet has proven a useful and cost effective means of keeping up to date but access is limited by the number of computers available, high cost of internet services and intermittent power supplies. For our students and teaching staff, hard copies are still an invaluable source of information.

One of our suppliers in the UK, Quayle Dental, has agreed to assist by collecting and shipping any dental books and journals which may be surplus to your requirements. The scheme is being facilitated by the Commonwealth Dental Association, please contact: JuliaCampionCDA@aol.com

As you may know the Commonwealth Heads of Government will be holding their meeting this year in Kampala so we would welcome any delegates attending to visit us at Makerere University, Department of Dentistry.

Kind regards.

L M Muwazi

Head, Department of Dentistry

17 June 2007

WEST AFRICA

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR KOFO SAVAGE

Kofo Savage has been appointed Professor of Periodontology in the Department of Preventive Dentistry at the College of Medicine in Lagos. She qualified as a Dental Surgeon (BDS) at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, in 1979. She has a Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree from the same university and a Master of Science (MSc) in Periodontology from the University of Bristol, UK. She is a fellow of the Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and the West African College of Surgeons. She is the Immediate Past President of the Nigerian Dental Association. She has written and supervised several dissertations, published articles in learned journals and co-contributed a chapter of a book (Nova Science Publishers NY). She is the first Professor of Periodontology in Nigeria and one of the three female Dental Professors in the country to date. Kofo has been CDA Vice-President for the West African Region since 2003.



SOUTH EAST ASIA

‘BRIGHT SMILES BRIGHT FUTURE’

An Oral Health Programme launched by the Indian Dental Association (IDA) and Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd

Submitted by Dr L K Gandhi CDA Immediate Past President

“Bright Smiles – Bright Future”

is the theme that is now set to revolutionise school education in India. The Indian Dental Association (IDA) has joined hands with Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd to launch this programme, which is the first of its kind to involve children’s education in the country, not only to raise awareness among the masses, especially the teachers, parents and school children about dental health care, but to throw a new light on the National Oral Health Care Programme. Colgate deserves the best commendation for its thoughtfulness in sponsoring the programme in association with the IDA. The campaign also falls in line with the CDA’s and the Commonwealth Foundation’s aims, objectives and vision for achieving the *Millennium Development Goals* in the member countries of the Commonwealth.

The promotion of dental health of a community is only possible through prevention and early control of diseases. The impression of this fact on the masses is of paramount importance and can be achieved only with a team effort from all concerned. The IDA has always been a pioneer of this noble cause. What has strengthened the base of the programme is that Colgate consented to continue the very fruitful and productive association it has established with IDA over the last 30 years and agreed to sponsor this elaborate programme which is scheduled to start from June 2007 all over the country.

While the focus is on increasing the dental health awareness amongst teachers, parents and school children in particular, efforts will be made to widen its horizon so

that a larger section of the population can benefit from this. The details are outlined below.

School Dental Health Education

Whilst all branches of the IDA are familiar with school dental health education activities, this programme is set to target around 80 lakhs of children throughout the country. The programme will be conducted by trained dental professionals. Each team, consisting of one dentist presenter and one helper, will cover around 1,000 children per day in one or more schools. Their responsibilities will include detailed preparation by studying the programme material for smooth and simple presentation, adapting to the needs of the target audience and demonstrating correct tooth brushing methods using interactive techniques with models/children. It will also include question and answer session, handing over educational materials for use of the school and ensuring proper distribution of free samples and literature to the children. The main target will be children in the age group of 6-9 years.

Teachers Training Programme

To maintain continuity of the programme, it is imperative that the teachers are trained to impart proper oral health care education in the class rooms. Primary school teachers selected from the participating schools will undergo one-day training which would be arranged prior to the commencement of the Education Programme. The programme will cover a maximum number of 100 teachers per batch and each IDA Branch will handle one batch. The training will be conducted by a trained dental surgeon. A Certificate of Participation will be given to each teacher

attending, for which prior permission from the Education Department will be obtained.

Parents Orientation Programme

The Parents’ Orientation Programme will be synchronised with the School Education Programme through parent-teacher meetings. The IDA Branches will hold a maximum of two programmes, which will include 500 to 1,000 parents. The programme material will include parent orientation booklets.

Colgate’s Collaboration with the Indian Dental Association

Colgate will co-ordinate with all IDA Branches giving complete details of the programme, duties and responsibilities for implementing personnel, remuneration, financial commitments to the programme, inauguration etc well in advance. Wherever necessary, Colgate’s representatives will visit various locations for briefing and liaising with the IDA Branches and making arrangements for stock delivery and inventory maintenance etc.

Every effort will be made by Colgate to provide programme materials such as Dental Health Packs well in advance, with a view to complete the same within four weeks of the launch.

This campaign will be undertaken as a Voluntary Oral Health Care Programme of national importance and as part of social responsibilities by the IDA.

The IDA takes this opportunity to express its grateful thanks to Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd, once again, in shouldering an enormous responsibility to make the programme a great success.