

Report from the FDI Section Women Dentists Worldwide

FDI Congress and Parliament, Shanghai, China 11.September 2025

The FDI WDW Section took place on Thursday, 11.9. from 9:00-13:00 in the West Hall, South Wing, Ground floor. Over 140 participants were welcomed at the event, many from them subscribed as members of the section. We were honored by the presence of several past presidents of the FDI: Michele Aerden, Prof. TC Wong, Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya as well as several FDI Councilors. With gratefulness was received the presence and speech of the new President of the FDI Nick Sharkov, who remembered the times in the FDI when WDW was called to the life.

The motto of the meeting was: „Pioneering Women in Dentistry- A Legacy of 25 years- Shaping the future of Dentistry together. The WDW Chairwoman Makiko Iwasaki from Japan opened the meeting and announced the program.

The Program has been as follows: 1. Scientific session and career development 2. Panel discussion 3. Celebration of the 25th. Anniversary of WDW 4. Business meeting with elections.

The Scientific program was very successful, there were 5 outstanding international speakers: Prof. Fang Bing from China, Ashwini Bahlerao from India, Karin Irani from the USA, Assoc. Prof. Phophi Kamposiora from Greece and Henriette Lerner from Germany. The lectures were having professional topic from Dentistry yet have been very motivating and inspiring for the women audience. Following twenty minutes were reserved for the Panel discussion. Beside the speakers from that morning, the Past President of the FDI and former WDW Chairwoman, TC Wong from Hongkong accepted invitation as the Panelist. WDW Board member Simona Dianiskova has moderated the Panel discussion, as well as the scientific part of the event. We have got many questions from the auditorium and the panelists delivered sophisticated answers to all of them. Some young participants mentioned, how important the success stories of the leading ladies in the dental profession are for their own carrier considerations.

Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the WDW was special occasion of this year. It has been prepared by WDW Board members Amanda Johnston from New Zealand and Nokukhanya Makwakwa from South Afrika, with a significant support of the WDW Chair Makiko Iwasaki who handed out Certificates of Recognition for the activities in favor of the WDW Section to the Honorary Chairs and Pioneers of the women's movement in Dentistry : Madame Michele Aerden from Belgium (the Founder of WDW and FDI Past President), Past-President of the FDI, TC Wong, Juliane von Hoyningen-Huene and Vesna Barac-Furtinger.

The last part of the WDW Section was the Business meeting, led by the Chairwoman Makiko Iwasaki. The agenda for today and the Minutes from the previous business meeting from 2024 were approved. In her report, Chairwoman spoke about the highlights of the activities during the last year and held the financial report. Elections to the Board followed.

The new WDW Board members are:

1. Dr. Patricia Gonzales, Mexico - re-elected to 2nd term
2. Dr. Yolande Koffi, Côte d'Ivoire - 1st term
3. Dr. Jung Hoi-In, Republic of Korea - re-elected to 2nd term
4. Dr. Ewa Siewierska-Chomeniuk, Poland – 1st term
5. Dr. Vineeta Chugh, India – 1st term
6. Prof. Katalin Nagy, Hungary -1st term

+ ViceChair: Dr. Louisa Nokukhanya Makwakwa, South Africa - re-elected to 2nd term

+ Chair: Dr. Simona Dianiskova, univ.assoc.prof., Slovakia - 1st term as Chair

There are 2 vacancies in the Board, one of those two reserved for candidate from Latin America only, to be filled in the elections during the next WDW section general meeting during the FDI WDC in Prague, 2026.

The meeting of the WDW Section has been ended by a short address by the incoming Chair, who thanked to all participants and congratulated to the newly elected Board.

The vision for the next years is to amplify the voices of women in dentistry, to build strong networks of support, mentorship, and education and to create a global community across borders, cultures, and generations.

Report written by Simona Dianiskova.

19.September 2025