

# Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future



## 2023 - 2024 Annual Review



Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future

## Welcome from the Global Chair



**Professor Nigel Pitts**  
Global Chair, Alliance for a  
Cavity-Free Future

Throughout this Annual Review we share with you the achievements and highlights from the past year. As you'll see we've had an impactful year of moving forward, with a global increase in awareness and action for the prevention of caries and cavities. Encouragingly, there has also been an unprecedented growth in interest for Policy Labs this year, right across the globe which is testament to the impact of our previous Policy Labs. We're working on how best to support multiple requests to allow Chapters and countries to affect change and progress in the world of caries and cavity prevention. We must also acknowledge the ACFF relies on the work of each Chapter to achieve our ambitious goals. Each year our Chapters demonstrate their passion and commitment to our mission of a cavity-free future, and the 2023/24 year was again no exception. Thank you to each and every one of you for contributing to the success of our activities and to our members for your continued support and interest. We are also grateful to our many partners for synergistic collaborations.

## Our Mission & Goals

### ACFF Declaration (from 2010)

"Global collaborative action is needed to challenge global leaders and other stakeholders - including country and community leaders, health and dental health professionals, public policy and education communities, and the public - to learn the importance of caries as a disease continuum and to participate in action toward the delivery of comprehensive caries prevention and management that can positively influence the continuing problem of caries. This action should ensure that primary prevention with appropriate fluoride strategies are in place, promote the preventive control of initial caries lesions through education to change human behaviour and the use of appropriate, evidence-based technologies."

#### Goal 1\*

Every child born in 2030 and thereafter should stay cavity-free during their lifetime.

#### Goal 2\*\*

ACFF and its Chapters will work towards ensuring that ninety percent of dental schools and dental associations accept the philosophy behind the "new" approach of "caries as a continuum" in order to improve dental caries prevention and management.

#### Goal 3

ACFF and its Chapters will work collaboratively with a broad range of organisations to achieve a reduction in caries inequality within and across countries, in the context of both oral and general health.

#### Goal 4\*\*

ACFF and its Chapters, members and partners should work to promote integrated comprehensive and locally appropriate caries prevention and management systems and monitoring approaches.

\* The ACFF Board has considered the time frame for the WHO Action Plan and its targets and has updated the year target for Goal 1 to 2030

\*\* Progress towards Goals 2 and 4 are assisted by joint links through the GCCM to the ICDAS Foundation and its ICCMS and CCI initiatives

## Overview



**Partnerships** - The ACFF has long standing relationships with key global and regional organisations as well as individuals in oral health and public health including:

- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Global Collaboratory for Caries Management (GCCM)
- International Caries Detection and Assessment System (ICDAS)
- International Caries Classification and Management System (ICCMS)
- CariesCare International (CCI)
- FDI World Dental Federation (FDI)
  - Chief Dental Officers and Dental Public Health Section (CDOs)
  - Vision 2030 Implementation Group
- European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH)
- European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA)
- Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe (PBOHE)
- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA)
- European Dental Hygienists Federation (EDHF)
- International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH)



**Driving Policy Development** - On 13 February 2024 The Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe successfully launched its 2024-2029 Manifesto in Brussels which Professor Nigel Pitts contributed to as the ACFF is an Associate Member of the Platform. Our Policy Lab reports from recent years are still driving policy development across the globe, more on this can be found in the Impact section.



**Support Local Chapters** - The ACFF has 28 Chapters across the globe as well as a Pan-Europe Collaborative Council. We've worked together to implement cariology curricula across the globe and have continued to raise awareness of caries and cavities prevention. Some of our Chapters share with us what they've been working on later in this Annual Review.



**Aligning on Best Practice** - This past year saw an encouraging update to the WHO Essential Medicines List which now includes more fluoride products than ever before, signifying a positive shift towards prevention and the vital role fluoride plays. The Economist White Paper 'Time to put your money where your mouth is: Addressing inequalities in oral health' was launched on 13 February 2024, more on this can be found in the Impact section.



**Building an Effective, Collaborative, Multi-Stakeholder Network** - The ACFF has over 4,300 members as of April 2024. From December 2023 the ACFF implemented a quarterly newsletter to its key stakeholders and membership mailing list and has seen growth across its LinkedIn and Twitter (X) following. The ACFF Expert Panel at the American Public Health Association (APHA) each year continues to develop inter-sectoral links and facilitates important discussions with key stakeholders. The Pan-Europe Collaborative Council fosters a collaborative network of shared experience and insights from across Europe.



**Looking forward** - With growing interest in Policy Labs across the globe, discussions are in place to bring these to fruition ensuring we can meet the demand while maintaining impactful outcomes.

## Contributions to International Meetings and Events

The ACFF attended the following meetings and events throughout this annual review year:

- International Association for Dental, Oral & Craniofacial Research (IADR) - June 2023
- European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA) - July 2023
- European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH) - September 2023
- FDI World Dental Conference - September 2023
- ACFF Expert Panel at the American Public Health Association - November 2023

## World Cavity-Free Future Day



**World Cavity-Free Future Day (WCFFDay)** takes place every year on 14th October. In 2023 we held our 8th WCFFDay bringing awareness globally to the importance of preventing caries and cavities through diet and nutrition, oral hygiene and the use of fluoride. Each Chapter promoted the day amongst their communities and networks to support our global goal of “Every child born in 2030 and thereafter should stay cavity-free during their lifetime”.

The most recent report from the World Health Organisation indicates 2 billion people, 513 million of which are children, suffer from untreated caries. Cavities and caries are the most prevalent Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and share synergies with other NCDs. Despite being preventable the problem still occurs throughout the lifecourse across the globe adversely impacting wellbeing and public health spending.



**Smiling for Life!**



# ACFF Chapters 2023-24

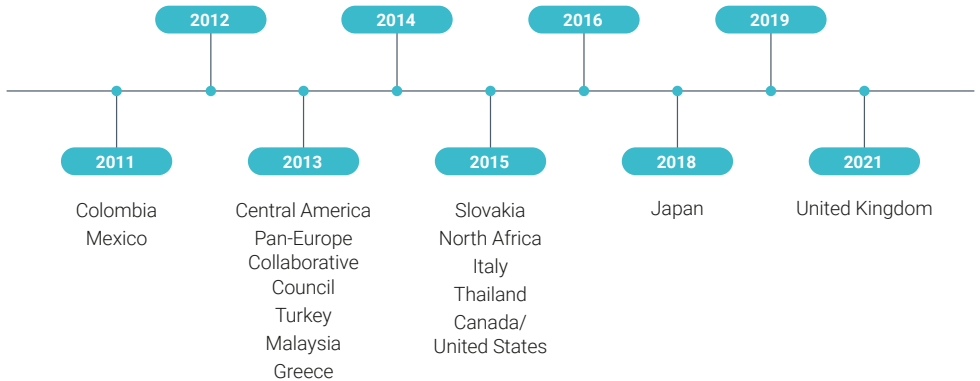


Australia/  
New Zealand  
India  
Philippines  
South Africa  
Central and  
Easter Europe  
Russia  
Nigeria  
Poland  
Czech Republic  
France

Brazil  
Venezuela  
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Spain



# Chapter Highlights

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## Brazil

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### **Chair: Professor Marcelo Bönecker**

In the past year, the Brazil Chapter has focused its efforts on various initiatives aimed at positively influencing four areas of society: child oral health, enhancing the knowledge of oral health professionals, training elementary school teachers in the public education system, and developing public policies.

Regarding child oral health, several educational actions were implemented, with the highlight being the distribution of over 1.9 million oral hygiene kits throughout the country in partnership with the Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Program. Additionally, webinars, clubcasts, and short-duration videos with practical tips were conducted and disseminated on platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok, aiming to promote oral health education.

Continuing education for oral health professionals focusing on dental caries was delivered through both in-person and online activities covering various dental topics, such as providing care for patients with disabilities, attending to pregnant women and infants, the Latin American consensus on dental caries and periodontal disease, and addressing caries education in Brazil.

In a partnership between ACFF, the Pediatric Dentistry discipline at the School of Dentistry of the University of São Paulo (FOUSP), and Colgate's Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Program, a survey was conducted with the purpose of developing, validating, and implementing an instrument to assess Brazilian dentists' knowledge about dental caries. Over 2,000 professionals from various regions and dental specialties participated in the study. Preliminary results revealed a significant gap in the knowledge of many dentists regarding guidance and prevention strategies for their patients against dental caries. These findings highlighted the importance of strengthening and expanding continuous education initiatives in oral health for dentists, who play a crucial role in guiding patients on the necessary care to maintain good oral health.

A specific initiative aimed at elementary school teachers in the public education system sought to train over 1,040 professionals, encouraging them to integrate oral health education into their pedagogical practices, such as in science classes, laboratory activities, and during children's snack times.

ACFF Brazil was actively engaged in the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA). The Cariology Group within LAOHA was coordinated by Professor Marcelo Bönecker (Chair of the Brazil Chapter) and Professor Fabio Sampaio (member of ACFF Brazil Chapter). This collaborative group contributed to the development of public policies. Brazilian and Latin American data on dietary habits and fluoride use were used as the basis for the development of strategies and policy recommendations aimed at reducing sugar consumption and to promote proper fluoride use. Professor Bönecker and Professor Sampaio were also the coordinators of a consensus for teaching dental caries in the Portuguese language at Brazilian dental schools.

Within this perspective of contributing to the formulation of public policies, the Chair, Professor Bönecker and Professor Sampaio participated in a deliberative dialogue promoted by FOUSP and Colgate based on the development of a synthesis of global scientific evidence on the importance of professional use of high-concentration fluorides for children and adolescents at high risk of caries in public services in Brazil. This event, which was attended by public and academic authorities, aimed to analyse the possibility of implementing this fluoride application measure on a large scale in the country.

ACFF Brazil is committed to continuing to expand and improve activities that impact different sectors of Brazilian society, with the aim of contributing to the improvement of oral health among the Brazilian population.

## Colombia

**Chair: Professor Stefania Martignon & Maria Del Pilar Cerezo**

### Cariology Group

The Colombia Chapter has been collaborating with other ACFF Chapters across Latin America on the Cariology Group with the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA).

Until 2020, the Latin America and Caribbean region had never discussed dental caries from a comprehensive regional perspective and at all stages of the life cycle, from children to the elderly. The region is composed of 33 countries and 15 autonomous territories, with an estimated population of 650 million inhabitants, representing approximately 9% of the world's populations. It is worth noting that this region has a high rate of urbanisation, around 82%, and consequently some economic problems and social inequalities.

In early 2020, four working groups were created with the purpose of collecting information on Latin America and the Caribbean regarding i) prevalence of dental caries & impact on quality of life; ii) risk factors; iii) preventive strategies; and iv) restorative strategies. Researchers, policymakers and stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean were invited to join these working groups, which included the Chairs of the ACFF Chapters in the region. Findings were discussed with society, and articles were written and published in Portuguese, Spanish, and English reporting the experiences found in the region. A fifth article was produced to summarise the findings and develop general and specific recommendations for the region.

In 2021, the LAOHA Cariology Group was established by some members of the four working groups and among the participants were also the Chairs of the ACFF Chapters in the region. Three actions to be carried out in the region were discussed and selected. Action 1: Situational Diagnosis of Latin America and Caribbean Policies on Sugar Reduction and Fluoride Use. Action 2: Latin American Consensus on Teaching Cariology for Dental Schools, in Spanish. Action 3: Developing a Consensus for Dental Caries Teaching for Brazilian Dental Schools.

The Cariology Group decided to publicise these initiatives and encourage participation in the region, leading to the creation of a Call for Action webinar, which took place on October 14th, intentionally held on World Cavity-Free Future Day, in a joint action with ACFF and with the participation of Professor Nigel Pitts. The year 2022 was intense in the development of the actions, and preliminary results were presented in October at the second edition of the Call for Action event, again in conjunction with ACFF's global action for World Cavity-Free Future Day, and once again with the presence of Professor Nigel Pitts.

In the third edition of the Call for Action in October 2023, the results of the three actions developed were presented. The consensuses on teaching dental caries in Spanish and Portuguese were elaborated, presented for public consultation, and approved by Latin American and Caribbean dental education institutions and Regional Associations for Dental Education, such as ABENO (Brazilian Association of Dental Education) and also, the cariology curriculum in Spanish for LatAm, starting in Colombia where the Cariology Group partnered with the ACFF Colombia Chapter.



ACFO, the Colombian Dental Schools Association is supporting us and many deans have already expressed interest to participate in this 4-year project in implementation science. It is crucial to emphasise that ACFF Chapters in the region were actively involved in these two initiatives. For action one, information was obtained from 18 countries, and we had the collaboration of 96 respondents who provided a lot of information. The main information obtained was: i) water fluoridation and salt fluoridation were present only in three and seven countries respectively; ii) seven countries recommended the use of fluoridated toothpaste with at least 1,000 ppm since the eruption of the first teeth, and four countries recommended that the amount of toothpaste be according to age; iv) eight countries had a policy on information about excessive amounts of sodium, sugar, and fat in packaging.

The year 2024 has been productive so far. A type of short-duration webinar called Oral Health Club Cast was launched, with interviews with experts. The first guest was Professor Richard Watt from University College London (UCL).

Our upcoming plan includes the publication from the three actions in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. More importantly, actions regarding sugar consumption policies and the use of fluoridated toothpaste involving countries in the region are being planned for implementation.

### **The Cariology Group includes:**

Amaury Pozos

Ana Maria Acevedo  
*(Chair of Venezuela Chapter)*

Bernal Stewart

Carol Guarnizo

Fabio Sampaio

Jorge Castillo

Marcelo Bönecker  
*(Chair of Brazil Chapter)*

Miriam Bullen

Ninoska Abreu

Pedro Ricomini

Rodrigo Giacaman

Saul Paiva

Stefania Martignon  
*(Chair of Colombia Chapter)*

Vicente Aranguiz

Viviana Avila

Zilson Malheiros

### National Brushing Day celebration

During the National Brushing Day celebration on November 17th and 18th, the Colombia Chapter with teams from UNICA – Caries Research Unit, INVOCA - Public and Community Oral Health Research, and the Creciendo con Amor y Alegría Foundation, conducted oral care activities centred on dental brushing practice.

Activities were conducted with children from Institución Educativa Técnica Jiménez de Quesada and Institución Educativa Técnica Instituto Armero Institutions; Fundación Creciendo con Amor y Alegría, and township Méndez. We developed activities that focused on three ideas regarding brushing:

- Brushing teeth at least twice a day with fluoridated toothpaste
- Not rinsing the mouth after brushing
- Consuming only water after nighttime brushing.

According to these three ideas, a song was created (contributed by the foundation) and cups with printed messages (previously designed by UNICA) were distributed. At each site, separate sessions were held with preschool and primary school children. The activities began with a session teaching the song and explaining the content of each verse, followed by the distribution of oral hygiene kits provided by Colgate. Subsequently, the population was divided into groups, and supervised community dental brushing was conducted by the team. Providing cups that would only be used for rinsing brushes, while rinsing the mouth is habitual, made the importance of the protection offered by the toothpaste even clearer. The activity was documented through photographs and videos.

During the activities, cooperation and exchange of ideas among the participating boys and girls were encouraged (questions and opinions about the activities). Clear instructions were provided to avoid confusion regarding the guiding ideas of the activity. As a team, we consider this a valuable activity that we hope will continue to strengthen with support for this municipality, which is our working centre as part of the Alliance.



## Japan

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### **Chair: Professor Mikako Hayashi & Professor Nobuhiro Hanada**

The Japan Chapter completed the ICCMS e-learning in Japanese after three years in development. The e-learning is available from the ACFF Japan website: [acffjapan.org](http://acffjapan.org). The Chapter refined the contents following three sessions with Japanese university teachers, clinicians and hygienists. They received feedback from approximately 100 professionals who treat dental caries in their daily clinics.

In December 2023 they hosted an e-learning training and learning session for university faculty members who teach clinical cariology to their undergraduate students. A total of 20 out of Japan's 29 dental schools participated, allowing for tweaks to the final revision to include important comments and suggestions from participants. The feedback indicated that 94 per cent of the participants felt the e-learning was important for dental education and 91 per cent said they would include the e-learning in their teaching programmes.

The Japanese Dental Hygienists Associations has already started to use the e-learning for the specialist in clinical caries management qualification.

## Malaysia

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### **Chair: Professor Rahimah Abdul Kadir & Professor Tuti Ningseh Mohd Dom**

For World Cavity-Free Future Day (WCFFDay) 2023 the Malaysia Chapter held a Scientific Symposium on 29 - 30 October 2023 at the IPG Campus Gaya and Auditorium Sabah Government Administration Centre, with co-hosts The Ministry of Health, Sabah Dental Division and collaborators; Malaysia Dental Association (MDA), Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists (MADPHS), Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPaeds).

The symposium focussed on "Healthy Body Healthy Smile" and included Professor Madya Dr Budi Aslinie exploring "What's with Fluorides and Dental Caries?", Dr Rusli Ismail exploring "Re-fluoridation in Terangganu Issues & Challenges" and Dr Thaddius Herman exploring "Fluoride Mouthrinse Initiative in Sabah".

The Malaysia Chapter's collaborative partners include Oral Health Division Ministry of Health Malaysia, Malaysian Dental Dean's Council, Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists, UKM Medical Centre (UKMMC), Malaysian Dental Association (MDA), Malaysian Dental Training College and Malaysian Association of Pediatric Dentistry.

## North Africa &amp; Middle East

Chair: Professor Ihsane Ben Yahya



The Chapter along with the oral surgery department of the Dental Consultation and Treatment Centre of Casablanca, headed by Professor Ben Yahya, focussed on raising awareness of the importance of oral and dental hygiene among cancer patients by launching a major campaign on 25 to 27 October 2023. The campaign focussed on prevention and screening in both haematology and oncology services, with the objective to promote the importance of oral hygiene among cancer patients through appropriate awareness and prevention messages, relating to oral health and the impact this has on general health.

Oral dental screening was carried out with the aim of detecting cavities, periodontal disease and determining whether treatment was necessary. Patients who were candidates or undergoing anti-cancer therapy and presenting a dental emergency were systematically referred to the dental office of both haematology and oncology services. Brushing kits as well as informative brochures were distributed to beneficiaries whose number exceeded 500. This initiative wouldn't have been successful without the support of the ACFF and the commitment and dedication of Professor Ben Yahya and her team to improve oral health in Morocco.

## Spain

**Chair: Dr Miguel Hernández, Dr Elena Martínez & Dr Teresa Almerich**

The Spain Chapter has been working on actions to disseminate the importance of oral health care at all stages of life. These actions have been aimed at patients, dental professionals (dentists and hygienists), future professionals (universities), other health professionals (nurses, doctors, pharmacists) and schools. The main strategies and achievements of the Chapter over the past year have been:

### 1. Expand the use of the ‘Stop Sugar - Stop Caries’ programme:

Throughout 2023/24 the Chapter worked to expand the dissemination of the ‘Stop Sugar - Stop Caries’ programme. This programme aimed to raise awareness, to the public and health professionals, of the negative effect of the abuse of added sugars on our oral and general health while also offering healthier dietary alternatives. During the last year, the hidden sugars panel, and other resources from the programme, have been introduced in dental clinics, medical clinics, health centres and hospitals in most of the country’s autonomous communities (Aragon, Madrid, Murcia, Valencia, Castilla-La Mancha, Andalusia, Catalonia etc.), both in public and private settings, with special relevance in many NHS offices.

A campaign was also carried out in pharmacies thanks to collaboration with the association of professional pharmacists: “The Pharmacist as a Health Agent” and training for dental hygienists, both online and in person with the aim of joining awareness in other health professionals in the importance of a healthy diet low in free sugars. A pilot program survey has been carried out on 350 people to measure the impact of this program and to adjust strategies according to the needs and responses of the population.

Thanks to the collaboration of Chapter and programme members, the materials have also been included in the oral health campaigns that have been carried out in schools in several regions of Spain, where training for parents and students from pre-school to secondary school has been held along with health fairs.

University professors collaborating with the Chapter have used these materials in different Spanish universities in subjects such as Preventive Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry and Conservative Dentistry, in order to raise awareness among future dentists.

This programme has also been distributed through different information channels such as news in local and national media, not only in the dental sector media, but also in the general press, which ensures a wide and diversified dissemination, and in information events organised by important information agencies such as Europa press.



In June 2023 the programme was presented as a scientific communication at the 29th IAPD Congress, where it was chosen as a finalist for the best community health promotion programme of the International Association of Paediatric Dentists (IAPD). All programme materials have been translated into English and can be freely downloaded from the ACFF Spanish Chapter website and they can also be found on the SESPO (Spanish Association of Epidemiology and Oral Public Health), SEOP (Spanish Association of Paediatric Dentistry) and SEOII (Spanish Association of Integrated Children's Dentistry) websites.

In conclusion, the "Stop Sugar - Stop Caries" programme stands out for its multidisciplinary and collaborative approach to the prevention and promotion of dental caries and other NCDs, proving its worth in multi-pronged public health campaigns. Its recognition by the IAPD underlines its potential to make a significant difference to community dental health nationally and internationally.

## 2. WCFFDay 2023 campaign:



For the WCFFDay 2023 campaign the Spanish Chapter launched 3 short videos in reel format, to share via their social media profiles on Instagram and Facebook. Under the slogan translated as "Let nothing stop you, brush your teeth throughout your life" these videos followed the ACFF Global "let's brush" campaign line and show images of the postcards that were created for this campaign together with images of people brushing at different moments of their lives: pregnant women, babies, pre-school children, teenagers, adults, and seniors. The videos were published and are available on the profile of the Spanish Chapter and were shared by many profiles including professionals, Dental Scientific Associations, Professional Associations, Dental Schools, Dental companies, and dental and medical media, among others. Spain Chapter is especially grateful for the collaboration of the three scientific societies SESPO (Spanish Association of Epidemiology and Oral Public Health), SEOP (Spanish Association of Paediatric Dentistry) and SEOII (Spanish Association of Integrated Children's Dentistry) in this campaign.

## 3. Dissemination of the mission and actions of the Spanish Chapter and the ACFF Global at the Spanish Dentistry Week (Online Summit organised by Maxilaris: a Spanish Dental media company)

Dr. Teresa Almerich Torres presented a paper at this event in March 2024 explaining the lines of action of the Spain Chapter and promoting the mission of ACFF Global. Other collaborators of the Spain Chapter included Dr. Yolanda Martínez Beneyto and Dr Miguel Hernández who also participated as speakers in this virtual event.

## Thailand

### Chair: Professor Prathip Phantuvanit & Dr Sutha Jienmaneechotchai

This year the Chapter promoted oral health through professional care, community care and individual care. A tooth brushing campaign titled "Brushing teeth all across the life course" was developed to encourage tooth brushing across all age groups. This campaign was launched across Thailand covering Saraburi, Chiang Rai, Phrae, Bueng Kan, Songkhla, Lampang, Nan, Trang, Mukdahan, Uthai Thani, Phitsanulok, Tak, Satun, Surat Thani and Krabi.

Other oral health prevention, promotion and dental services included the provision of oral examinations, scaling and polishing to pregnant women and topical fluoride application to early childhood and school children at risk of caries. The Chapter developed appropriate tooth brushing facilities for children and introduced after lunch tooth brushing activities. Oral examinations were carried out at 1,326 kindergartens and 1,106 schools. Educational events were also introduced to educate parents of children in kindergarten on oral health. Oral health educational programs were also developed for children, teachers and dental health personnel.

The Chapter also worked on the promotion of oral health among the working age group by providing oral health education to informal workers entitled to the universal coverage scheme in 10 provinces and employees entitled to the social security scheme at 35 workplaces. In addition, clinical oral examinations were delivered within workplaces. For working age diabetic patients oral health education activities were integrated with other physical health education activities at the Non-Communicable Diseases Clinics.

Thailand is classified as an aged society and the proportion of elderly people in Thailand is increasing. The goal is for elderly people to have at least 20 natural teeth remaining. Services supporting the elderly received enhanced oral health literacy at 244 clubs and delivered oral cancer screening as well as preventive and essential dental treatment at home, primary care units and more advanced dental services, including complete dentures and implant retained overdentures at hospitals.



**กิจกรรมรณรงค์ดูแลสุขภาพช่องปาก**  
BRUSHING TEETH ALL ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

**รวมผลงานกิจกรรม โรงพยาบาลสามงา**

**กิจกรรมรณรงค์เด็กโตและวัยรุ่น**  
เพื่อสร้างพฤติกรรมสุขภาพช่องปาก และเสริมแรงบวก  
ส่งเสริมสุขภาพช่องปาก และป้องกันโรคฟันผุ  
-ผู้เข้าร่วมโครงการ 51 คน  
-ผู้ให้บริการทั้งหมด 10 คน

**บริการทันตกรรมผู้สูงอายุ**  
รับ 10 คน จาก 2500 คู่สมรสในชุมชน โดยมีอาสาสมัคร 10 คน โดยได้ให้บริการทันตกรรม  
ตรวจสุขภาพช่องปาก 47 คน ตรวจฟันผุ 10 คน ตรวจฟันคุด 1 คน โดยไม่ใส่ฟันปลอม  
และใส่ฟันปลอมเสริมสุขภาพช่องปาก และให้ทันตกรรมสุขภาพ  
ช่องปาก อื่นๆ รวม 20 คน



## United Kingdom

**Chair: Professor Nigel Pitts & Professor Avijit Banerjee**

The UK Chapter works collaboratively with a broad range of organisations and other health professions to achieve preventive goals for a cavity-free future, reducing caries inequality within and across the UK, in the context of both oral and general health. There are four themes within the UK Chapter which are:

**Theme 1:** Implementing caries prevention and care in everyday dental practice using MIOC, ICCMS™ and the CariesCare International 4D strategies - through the 'Delivering Better Oral Health v4' approach and evidence.

**Theme 2:** Implementing caries prevention and care in Health and Social Care Curricula using MIOC and CariesCare International 4D strategies and promoting the European Core Cariology Curriculum - through the 'Delivering Better ORal Health v4' approach and evidence.

**Theme 3:** Promoting caries prevention and care in vulnerable people across the lifecycle on the basis of increased caries risk - through the 'Delivering Better Oral Health v4' approach and evidence.

**Theme 4:** Exploring Telehealth, Teledentistry and other innovations in the creation of a better post pandemic 'new normal'. (Caries Out Project as an example).

On 7 September 2023 the UK Chapter met to develop the INTERVAL Dental Recalls Trial at the London Science Gallery. Attendees explored a series of topics including the ways INTERVAL Trial outcomes can make a difference to everyday practice, the next steps for implementation, IT solutions needed to support an interval-based recall as well as the INTERVAL context, delivery and outcomes and barriers. The UK Chapter met again on 22 and 23 February 2024 to develop the plans for promoting the results of the INTERVAL Trial and the implementation of risk-based dental recalls. Participants were asked to debate and discuss various questions with a solutions focus to progress the project. The topics for discussion included identifying key stakeholders and how to reach these, how the INTERVAL work fits into the UK Chapter themes, the opportunities and barriers ahead, the future actions needed for progression and the communications strategies needed.





## Changes to NHS Scotland Payment Systems

Tom Ferris, Chief Dental Officer (CDO) Scotland, kindly submitted a voluntary testimonial on the impact and efficacy of ACFF Policy Labs in shaping dental health and government policy (which was gratefully accepted by the ACFF Expert Panel at its 2023 meeting in Atlanta).

*"Instead of over 700 payments, the new system comprises 45 broader codes affording dentists the opportunity to provide modern dental care and treatment on NHS patients, with much more clinical discretion. At the same time the Government expects that there are significant benefits to patients; the new system will enable the NHS offer - the care and treatment available on NHS dental patients - to be much more understood by patients. We anticipate the new payments will help close the asymmetric information gap between patients and professionals.*

*"The Scottish Government's view to retain the blended payment system with its fee for item component was supported by a range of evidence including your [The ACFF] paper published in the British Dental Journal (December 2021) which was itself based on a meeting of 24 International experts, as part of the first Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future/King's College London Dental Policy Lab. The paper concluded on payment systems:*

*"Other types of payment systems have been described in the literature, such as capitation-based payment systems and pay-for-performance-based systems. There are several pros and cons for each, meaning that blending several system types may be an ideal solution to obtain better health outcomes for the patients, while maintaining access to dental care and respecting the financial stability of dental practices.*

*Ministers and I have been asked why we did not attempt to recommend other funding models, for example global sum or salaried, and it was clear to us that there seemed no point attempting to experiment with other payment models in Scotland when there had been a very high level exploration of various models by international experts and your [The ACFF] Policy Lab consensus seemed to back up our extant policy view. Your [The ACFF] work has been hugely helpful in supporting our policy position as we steered it to where we are now and for that I thank you and your team."*

## Participating in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / WHO GEF7 Phasing Down Dental Amalgam Project

The ACFF's vision of a cavity-free future is rooted in preventative dentistry. A preventative approach provides greater wellbeing for individuals and reduces public health spending on a number of interconnected NCDs (cavities and caries but also diabetes and cardiovascular disease, among many others). A broader benefit is the impact prevention has on the environment, minimising the need for restoration materials which hold a costly impact on nature as well as individual and public health expenditure. The ACFF's commitment to prevention and the environment is expressed through our support of the UNEP / WHO / GEF project.

## Economist Impact - Time to put your money where your mouth is

Professor Nigel Pitts (ACFF Chair) contributed insights as a specialist advisor on dental caries to the Economist Impact White Paper 'Time to put your money where your mouth is. Addressing inequalities in oral health' which was commissioned by European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) and supported by Haleon and launched in Brussels in February 2024. The White Paper was led by Gerald Dunleavy and Rob Cook and included insights and contributions from many experts in oral health including a number of members of the ACFF and the ICDAS Foundation.

### Key findings reported of this influential and well received White Paper were:

- Mainstream framing of oral diseases as Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is lacking.
- Barriers exist to implementing upstream and downstream preventive measures.
- Clinical care for dental caries remains largely focused on a "repair approach".
- The most deprived bear the highest costs of inadequate preventive efforts.

### The White Paper explored 'the way forward' which included:

- Expand and diversify the oral health workforce.
- Incentivise preventive care.
- Engage the population by raising awareness.
- Build public-private partnership to promote population-level prevention.
- Address shared risk factors with other NCDs to improve overall health.
- Improve epidemiological methods to measure early caries and periodontal disease.
- Collect data and enhance transparency.

The launch of the White Paper in Brussels was a great success with deep interest and traction internationally. There were 50 people attending in person (including a representative of WHO and an MEP) with a further 420 participants on line from many Countries; with a lively and protracted discussion session..



# Collaborating Organisations

The ACFF would like to thank all of our collaborating partners. Without their support and hard work we would never be able to achieve a cavity-free future.

**LAOHA**





## Connect with us

If you wish to contact any of our local Chapters, please contact our Global Office using the details below, and we will put you in touch with your local team.

The Global Office is based within the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences, King's College London, UK



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