

# **2006-2008 Report of ADA International Activities**

The ADA Committee on International Programs and Development, under whose purview all American Dental Association (ADA) international programs fall, is charged by the ADA Board of Trustees to inventory all international endeavors of the American Dental Association and to publish this inventory periodically as the Report of ADA International Activities. The following constitutes the 2006-2008 Report of ADA International Activities arranged alphabetically by division.

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## **ADA Foundation**

In August 2002, the ADA Foundation (ADAF) broadened its funding criteria to include international charitable projects when designated funds have been donated or granted in advance. Subsequently, the ADAF established the International Development Fund, which is managed by the Division of Global Affairs (DGA). The fund supports international development work, and to date, has sponsored two symposia on volunteer services abroad and the ongoing South East Asia Public Health Project, which supports the development of the public oral-health sector in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Following the devastation of the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia, monies were collected from members of the profession to support the Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund. Given that monies remain in that fund, the ADAF and DGA worked together to develop a request for proposals, which was approved by the ADAF Board in August 2008 and was launched in September 2008 just before the FDI Annual World Dental Congress. That initiative is aimed at identifying organizations that are working to reestablish an ordered network of services to address ongoing oral-health infrastructure needs in countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. During its August 2008 meeting, the ADAF Board of Directors, working through the DGA, also created a new International Disaster Assistance Fund, which will be maintained through direct contributions and is designed to facilitate international relief efforts that meet established criteria adopted by the ADAF Board of Directors.

## **Administrative Services**

### ***Department of Officer Services/Office of the Executive Director***

ADA officers, specifically the president, president-elect, and executive director, annually participate on behalf of the ADA at various international meetings such as the FDI World Dental Congress and the American Dental Society of Europe. In addition, the officers host representatives of foreign dental associations annually during the Chicago Mid-Winter Meeting and the ADA Annual Session. Other opportunities for developing international relationships can occur during the year and can involve meetings, tours of the ADA headquarters, and hosting social events. These interactions contribute to the ADA's visibility and standing in the international dental community.

## **Conferences and Meeting Services**

### ***Council on ADA Sessions***

The Council on ADA Sessions (CAS) works closely with the Division of Global Affairs to coordinate the international aspects of the ADA Annual Session, including international registrations, content for the preliminary and official programs, the international registration area, the international hospitality lounge,

the international reception and VIP reception, international exhibitors, and various international promotional efforts. In 2006, a total of 1,878 participants from 87 foreign countries registered for the meeting in Las Vegas, and in 2007, a total of 1,630 dental professionals from 82 countries registered for the meeting in San Francisco.

ADA is seeking to increase the participation of dental manufacturers, importers, and distributors from around the world, especially in developing and emerging countries such as Brazil, China, India, and Russia, and in regions such as Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. ADA is also seeking to attract individual dentists and dental associations from around the world to attend the ADA Annual Session in order to promote the sharing of knowledge and resources and encourage collaboration among dental professionals around the globe.

In an effort to attract more international dental dealers and exhibitors to the Annual Session, the ADA has signed a contract with Suvison Europe S.R.L. Under the terms of the agreement, Suvison uses its extensive international network of contacts to initiate a targeted strategy to promote the ADA Annual Session and other ADA products and services to the international dental manufacturing and importer market. That relationship has led to the sale of 13 booths to international companies in 2006, 23 booths in 2007, and 34 booths in 2008.

The ADA uses a variety of marketing tools to promote the ADA Annual Session to the international dental community, including ADA booths at international trade shows, advertisements in a variety of international publications, e-mail campaigns, collaborations with international organizations and dental associations that promote the ADA Annual Session on behalf of the ADA, press releases, an international promotional booklet that is available in five languages, content on the Web site ADA.org devoted to attendees from other countries, collaboration with a Brazilian tour company, and direct-mail campaigns. For attendees from other countries, the ADA offers special services, such as an international hospitality lounge with food, beverages, and Internet services; multilingual staff at the international registration desk; invitations to an international reception; a certificate of attendance for all dentists who participate in the Annual Session and a letter of invitation to help attendees facilitate the process of obtaining a visa.

Further efforts to attract more international attendees to the ADA Annual Session meeting include the following.

- *Letters of understanding with the with the Brazilian Dental Association (ABO) and the São Paulo Dental Association (APCD):* Letters of understanding were signed with both the ABO and the APCD with the goal of increasing Brazilian attendance at the ADA Annual Session and to foster even better relationships between the ADA and those two associations.

- *Advertisement exchanges:* The ADA International Business Development Work Group negotiated advertisement exchanges with Koelnmesse, organizers of the International Dental Exhibition and Meeting, Dental South China Expo, Dental-Expo Moscow, as well as with the Canadian Dental Association, *British Dental Journal*, and the FDI World Dental Federation.
- *U.S. Department of Commerce International Buyer Program:* To further advance the ADA's goal of increasing the participation of international dental manufacturers, importers, and distributors from around the world, especially in developing and emerging countries such as China, India, and Russia and regions such as Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, the ADA participated in the 2008 U.S. Department of Commerce's International Buyer Program, which recruits foreign delegations of buyers, importers, and dentists to attend the ADA Annual Session and facilitates business between those buyers and U.S. dental companies seeking to export their products.

### ***Department of Conference and Meeting Services***

*International receptions:* During the Chicago Dental Society's Midwinter Meeting, the ADA hosts a reception for attendees from foreign countries at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago. Typically it is held in the president's suite and includes approximately 60 guests plus key ADA staff working in support of ADA international alliances. An international reception is also held at the ADA Annual Session for approximately 250 or more guests. That destination-themed event provides an opportunity for attendees to network with each other, ADA staff, and Council on ADA Sessions members. The ADA president also hosts a VIP international reception in a private suite at the meeting.

*International registration:* The Department of Conference Services and Meeting Planning (DCSMP) works closely with staff from the Division of Global Affairs to coordinate the international aspects of the ADA Annual Session meeting, including international registration, content for the preliminary and official programs, the international hospitality lounge, the international reception, and various international promotional efforts.

*International Housing:* DCSMP staff also assist with housing for VIP and distinguished international guests at the ADA Annual Session. In 2006, 2007, and 2008 blocks of rooms were secured for VIPs and honorary members from other countries at the headquarters hotel. For example, in 2008, rooms were held for a dental group from Brazil.

## **Dental Practice/Professional Affairs**

### ***Council on Access, Prevention, and Interprofessional Relations***

Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations (CAPIR) staff attend the board meetings of the Joint Commission Resources, which oversees Joint Commission International. Staff also accompany ADA official observers to annual and interim meetings of the American Medical Association, which is attended by representatives of international medical associations.

In addition, staff have provided technical assistance regarding hospital dentistry to organizations and individuals in Japan, Spain, and Turkey and have arranged for fluoridation-related technical assistance to organizations, entities, and individuals in Australia, Canada, and Ireland. The British Fluoridation Society and the Australian Dental Association have had a long-standing relationship with CAPIR regarding collaboration on fluoridation efforts. Moreover, Council staff respond to inquiries received on the ADA.org Web site and written correspondence from consumers and professionals from around the world

CAPIR staff actively participated on the U.S. Global Children's Dental Health Taskforce, which has met four times since 2006; the most recent meeting occurred in November 2008. Colgate, a principal sponsor of the U.S. Taskforce with the Children's Dental Health Project, provides administrative support for the U.S. project. Colgate continues to support the effort of this and other international task forces. At its most recent meeting the consensus was that the purpose of the U.S. Taskforce should be to advance a global effort to support the eradication of dental caries in children born in 2025 and thereafter. In light of United States leadership in the areas of fluoridation, sealant use, care systems, and engagement of dentists, it appeared that the United States had much to offer the rest of the world.

CAPIR's geriatric oral health efforts have included facilitating the translation and dubbing of the OralLongevity DVD/brochure into Arabic as requested by the editor of the Middle East Section of the International College of Dentists for distribution to Middle East Section Fellows. The Middle East Section covers Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. In addition, representatives from Canada and Japan have met with CAPIR staff regarding ADA geriatric oral health programs.

ADA leaders, CAPIR staff, and ADA volunteers participate and regularly present at the National Oral Health Conference, which is the annual joint conference of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although the National Oral Health Conference is primarily a national conference, it attracts

international participants and includes presentations, abstracts, and posters on its agenda.

### ***Council on Dental Benefit Programs***

The Council on Dental Benefit Programs has no direct international projects or activities apart from an occasional inquiry from a dental professional from another country such as one from the South African Dental Association regarding use of the ADA Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature. Although professionals from the FDI World Dental Federation, Iceland, and Turkey have expressed interest in the diagnostic codes known as SNODENT, no formal projects are currently under way.

### ***Council on Dental Practice***

Council on Dental Practice (CDP) staff gave a presentation on dental practice accreditation to the Indian Dental Association representatives in February 2008. Other outreach efforts include ADA co-sponsorship of the annual Dental Assistants Recognition Week with the Canadian Dental Association and the Canadian Dental Assistants' Association and providing resource information on ADA dentist well-being programs to providers of dentist-assistance services in England. CDP consultants volunteered to present the SUCCESS seminar program to students at the University of Puerto Rico in February 2005 and February 2007, and CDP staff disseminated practice-management information to individuals from the dental profession located in Canada, India, and Russia.

In addition, CDP staff monitor global trends such as the activities of offshore dental laboratories and dental tourism. CDP representatives also participated in a mega-issue dialogue via a conference call with Dr. Ali Farahani, who gave a presentation on his paper titled "Eco-Friendly Dentistry: Not a Matter of Choice" that appeared in the 2007 issue of the *Journal of the Canadian Dental Association*. In February 2007, CDP staff participated on an interdivisional work team that focused on opening up international communications as well.

### ***Department of Dental Informatics***

The Department of Dental Informatics has had limited involvement in international activities apart from responding to international inquiries from the ADA.org Web site. However, staff participate in international standards development through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/Technical Committee 215 on Health Informatics, which is establishing international standards in messaging and communications, terminology, security, and health cards.

### ***Health Policy Resources Center***

The Health Policy Resources Center has access to the interactive database called Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Health Data 2007 Statistics and Indicators for 30 Countries. The data are updated as they become available through the OECD Washington Center. Currently, the database has health-related data from 1960 to 2000 for 30 countries. Although not all data are available for all countries or for all years, where data are available, a comparative analysis of up to 30 countries is possible. Examples of information on dental variables that are included within the database are decayed, missing, and filled permanent teeth; edentulism; practicing dentists; and expenditures on dental services.

### ***Survey Center***

Over the years, the Survey Center has increased its reach to the international market. In 2007, the Survey Center achieved nearly \$5,000 in publication sales to international customers through the ADA catalog. In addition, staff contracted with an Irish research reseller named Research and Markets to resell 12 Survey Center publications via the company's Web site. Survey Center staff conduct an annual survey of predoctoral dental educational institutions for the Canadian Dental Association. Canadian dental school results are published in a report series along with the information received from dental schools in the United States. Survey Center staff have presented research results at International Association for Dental Research (IADR) meetings, including the 2008 IADR meeting held in July 2008 in Toronto, Canada.

### **Education/Professional Affairs**

#### ***Center for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning***

International and national dental organizations can schedule clinical and practice-management seminars through the Center for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning (CELL) seminar series; three seminars were scheduled by international host organizations in 2006 and 2007 but none were scheduled in 2008. Also during that time, CELL launched ADA CE Online, an e-learning program delivering more than 120 courses through the Internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Although use by professionals in other countries has been limited (12 dentists from other countries have registered at the Web site [www.adaceonline.org](http://www.adaceonline.org)), great interest in accessing or licensing online continuing education has been expressed at meetings with representatives from China, India, Japan, Kenya, Spain, and some countries in the Middle East. As of this date, no organized program has been developed between the ADA and any of those organizations.

### ***Commission on Dental Accreditation***

Since 1956, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) has had a reciprocal agreement with the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. Under that arrangement, reaffirmed in a policy statement approved in 1997 and in 2003, the two commissions agreed that the educational programs accredited by each of them are equivalent to their own and no further education is required for eligibility for licensure.

Since July 1998, CODA has granted accreditation to three advanced education in general dentistry programs in locations outside the United States. One program sponsored by the U.S. Army and located in Germany and another that was sponsored by the U.S. Navy in Japan have been discontinued. The U.S. military pays a fee for the one remaining accredited program, sponsored by the Navy and located in Japan, to offset expenses related to site visits.

In October 2005, the ADA House of Delegates adopted Resolution 39H-2005: ADA Board of Trustees Substitute Resolution 39B—Consultation and Evaluation of International Dental Schools. The ADA and the Board of Trustees supported the CODA initiative to offer consultation and accreditation services to international dental schools, and in March 2006, a standing joint advisory committee was established. The Joint Advisory Committee on International Accreditation is made up of representatives of both ADA and CODA, who provide guidance to CODA regarding the selection, development, and implementation of an international program of consultation and accreditation for dental education. The advisory committee began to accept requests for fee-based international consultation services in January 2007. As of September 1, 2008, seven international programs have submitted preliminary accreditation consultation visit (PACV) surveys. International programs have from six months to three years to complete and submit their self-study to the committee for determination as to whether a PACV is warranted.

### ***Council on Dental Education and Licensure***

The Council on Dental Education and Licensure produces the publication *Resource Guide for the International Dentist: The U.S. Licensure Process*. This salable publication is designed specifically for foreign-trained dentists who wish to come to the United States to practice or to pursue advanced education. The Council's long-term licensure initiatives for the next five to ten years include studying issues associated with licensure for dentists from other countries and review of ADA policy regarding graduates of dental schools in other countries.

The council maintains an ongoing liaison relationship with the Canadian Dental Association's Council on Education, and representatives attend each other's meetings annually and provide written reports.

Since 2002, eligibility for participation in the ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP) has been open to continuing-education providers in other countries. To date, ADA CERP recognizes 27 providers based in Canada and seven providers based in Australia, Egypt, France, and Spain.

### ***Department of Testing Services***

In 2007, 2,249 dentists trained in other countries took Part I of the National Board Dental Examinations and 1,077 took Part II. Approximately 642 people took the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination. Administered in the United States and Canada, the National Board Dental Examination is offered via a computer network, and the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination is currently administered using a print-based format. The ADA Department of Testing Services annually receives inquiries and provides limited consultation to organizations based in other countries that are interested in developing or administering tests similar to the Dental Admission Test or the National Board Dental Examinations.

### ***Department of Library Services***

The ADA Library offers some services to affiliate members, though few use them. Library staff respond to e-mail inquiries from nonmember dentists in other countries by usually referring them to the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE/PubMed Web site. The library is frequently visited by dentists, both individuals and delegations of dentists, from other countries. Recent visitors have included groups from China and India, as well as individuals from Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Taiwan, and Venezuela.

## **Finance and Operations**

### ***Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs***

The Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs occasionally responds to inquiries from researchers from other countries about trends in allegations related to dental malpractice in the United States.

## **Global Affairs**

In March 2009, the name of the Center for International Development and Affairs was changed to the Division of Global Affairs (DGA) to reflect a new, modern image that encompasses all parts of the world it serves. DGA, the ADA's conduit to the international community, links dental professionals to events, organizations, professional activities, and volunteer opportunities around the world. The DGA supports all ADA international activities and initiatives, is the ADA liaison to the FDI World Dental Federation, and facilitates the activities and work of the Committee on International Programs and Development (CIPD), the

International Development Subcommittee (IDS), the ADA/FDI Delegation, and the International Business Development (IBD) staff work group. DGA acts as the clearinghouse for coordinating ADA international activities so that all international opportunities are aggregated into a centralized plan and then disseminated efficiently among appropriate ADA departments. The DGA collaborates with appropriate ADA agencies to evaluate international business opportunities and manages initiatives that are developed in the program areas described below.

### ***Advisory Groups***

*Committee on International Programs and Development (CIPD):* The CIPD is composed of nine individuals to advise the ADA Board of Trustees and ADA agencies regarding ADA international activities, the alignment of the activities with the ADA International Strategic Approach, and the positioning of the ADA as an active partner in the global oral-health arena, with the ultimate goal of advocating for and contributing to improvements in global oral health. The CIPD consists of the chair of the ADA International Development Subcommittee; a member of the international oral-health development community; a member of the international oral-health scientific research community; a member of the international dental education community; a member of the dental industry with experience in international business; two members of the ADA with broad international experience or expertise or both, at least one of whom is a private practitioner; a member of the ADA Board of Trustees who is currently involved in FDI activities; and the ADA chief policy adviser. In addition, the ADA president and president-elect serve as ex officio members. The CIPD meets twice a year and its mission is to “conceptualize, monitor and advocate for involvement in global programs, opportunities, and collaborations to improve oral health and position the ADA as an active partner in the global environment.” Reporting to the CIPD is the ADA International Development Subcommittee and the ADA International Business Development Staff Work Group.

*International Development Subcommittee (IDS):* The IDS, formerly the Health Volunteer Overseas (HVO)/ Dentistry Overseas Steering Committee, manages the ADA’s international humanitarian-outreach programs and identifies and initiates new development opportunities, as appropriate. The subcommittee is composed of eight ADA members who have extensive international humanitarian and development experience. The IDS subcommittee members work with HVO and develop and manage teaching and training programs; currently there are eight programs in seven countries. The dentistry programs of HVO are sponsored by the ADA and managed by volunteers. The IDS also responds to international proposals and projects that the ADA receives and decides which programs or projects or both are appropriate and works in partnership with other national dental associations and international organizations, host governments and institutions, and local healthcare professionals to identify and implement a broad range of international humanitarian oral-health programs.

*International Business Development Staff Work Group (IBD):* The IBD staff work group, which comprises staff from several divisions and departments, was formed in 2002 to initiate a cohesive program of international business initiatives and to allow the ADA to become more active in global dentistry. The IBD staff work group is responsible for developing, implementing, and successfully executing the international business development plan to ensure the ADA attains its international revenue goals. The 2008-2010 international business plan was created to serve as a guide for spearheading the multifaceted elements of international business activities. The three-year effort creates a structured strategic plan by which the international goals and objectives of the ADA can be attained and can fulfill the vision of having the ADA become a global leader in the advancement of oral health. The Division of Global Affairs oversees the activities of the IBD work group and its subgroups. The division coordinates all foreign-language translations of ADA written and electronic communications and offers advice not only as to the translation of content but also as to other cultural factors pertinent to the promotion of that material in foreign markets. The DGA has strong relationships with several foreign and international organizations and seeks to build further relationships with others for the purposes of mutual collaborative opportunities.

### ***Volunteer-Related Initiatives***

*Certificate of Recognition for Volunteer Services in a Foreign Country:* Since 1974, the ADA has annually recognized the volunteer services of its members through the Certificate of Recognition program. Each year the DGA solicits nominations from constituent and component societies and dental schools to recognize member dentists' commitment to their professional volunteer efforts in other countries. The nominations are reviewed by the International Development Subcommittee and forwarded to the Committee on International Programs and Development for approval. In 2008, the committee awarded certificates to 81 individuals who volunteered their services in other countries. A total of 2,719 certificates have been awarded to individuals in 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

*International Volunteer Directory:* In 2004, the DGA, in collaboration with the Health Volunteers Overseas Steering Committee, published the third edition of *International Dental Volunteer Organizations: A Guide to Service and a Directory of Programs*, a how-to book for ADA members interested in volunteer work that includes a directory of organizations seeking volunteers for a variety of programs abroad. ADA members' responses to that publication were very positive. The DGA is currently developing an Internet-based volunteer directory that will be continuously updated and that will expand its current list of volunteer organizations. The Web page will be launched during the second quarter of 2009 and will be a convenient and valuable resource for dentists who wish to volunteer their time around the globe.

*ADA Humanitarian Award:* In 2005, the ADA Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the concept of and criteria for an ADA Humanitarian Award to recognize a member dentist who has distinguished himself or herself by outstanding humanitarian volunteer accomplishments, unselfish leadership, and contributions that bring honor and serve as an inspiration to those in the dental profession through the dedication of extraordinary time and professional skills to alleviate human suffering and improve the oral health of underserved populations in the United States and abroad. The award honors individual volunteer commitment and leadership that has had a broad impact on oral health and the improvement of the human condition. The award includes a monetary award of \$5,000 to the dental charity or project of the recipient's choice, a cast bronze medallion, as well as reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses incurred by the recipient and the recipient's spouse in traveling to the ADA Annual Session to accept the award.

### ***International Outreach Initiatives***

*International Development Fund:* Established in 2003 through the ADA Foundation, the International Development Fund was created to underwrite international development work. Money from the fund is earmarked for specific projects and managed by the DGA. To date, DGA staff have raised monies for the International Development Fund to support the Southeast Asia Dental Public Health Program, the ADA Annual Session Volunteer Symposium and Workshop, a national dental public-health workshop in Vietnam, and for Tanzanian refugee camps through generous contributions from the International College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, Colgate, and Henry Schein, Inc.

*2004 Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund Grant Program request for proposals:* In response to the tsunami that devastated much of the coastal regions around the Indian Ocean in December 2004, the ADA established the International Disaster Response Fund. Money was raised for this fund by the DGA and the ADA Foundation. One project proposal was received from the Sri Lankan Dental Association, and through collaboration with Dentaid, a British nongovernmental organization, the ADA was able to respond by providing a mobile dental unit that is currently being used in isolated regions of that country. Because the money in the fund had not been depleted, the DGA and the ADA Foundation created a 2004 Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund request for proposals, which is currently posted on the ADA Foundation's Web site, in the hopes of attracting the attention of organizations and individuals currently involved in projects that have a direct relationship to the 2004 tsunami. The ADA hopes to exhaust the remaining money by supporting a development project that was created in response to the 2004 tsunami and addresses the needs of those who were affected by that natural disaster.

*International Disaster Assistance Fund (IDAF):* Shortly after the devastating natural disasters that hit Myanmar and China in June 2008, the DGA worked with

the ADA Foundation to establish a new International Disaster Assistance Fund that is dedicated exclusively to accepting financial donations to be used to support or reconstruct the oral-health infrastructure in countries affected by disasters of any size and magnitude. The IDAF serves to enhance the image of the ADA Foundation, the ADA, and American dentistry in the international community. In October 2008, two ADA member dentists, who traveled to Myanmar to assist with relief efforts in response to the natural disaster of Cyclone Nargis, were the first recipients of assistance from the new International Disaster Assistance Fund.

*International Web page of ADA.org:* The Web site is managed by DGA staff and provides another avenue for reaching the international community. Maintained on the site are directories of foreign dental associations, a listing of international organizations and a calendar of international dental meetings and events, a Frequently Asked Questions section, information about the FDI World Dental Federation, and information about ADA international programs. Spanish-speaking dental professionals and patients continue to utilize the ADA's Web page that is available in Spanish. In 2008, an Affiliate Member Center Web page was created, so that affiliate members can more easily access information about their member benefits.

*Council on Annual Sessions (CAS):* DGA staff continue to work with CAS staff to coordinate the activities of all international registrants and events with special attention to ADA international honorary members and international VIPs. In 2008, 1,326 registrants from other countries attended the meeting in San Antonio. DGA promotes the ADA Annual Session by both purchasing and exchanging ads with national dental associations and foreign publishers, by exhibiting at international dental meetings, as well as by issuing letters of invitation and certificates of attendance. DGA staff also work with the CAS to develop promotional materials for the international audience and write the content for the international section of the preliminary program.

*FDI World Dental Federation:* The ADA, along with more than 190 other national dental associations from more than 135 countries with a combined membership of more than one million dentists worldwide, is a member of the FDI. The FDI's vision is to lead the world to optimal oral health, and its missions are to be the worldwide, authoritative and independent voice of the dental profession, to promote optimal oral and general health for all people, to promote the interests of the member associations and their members, and to advance and promote the ethics, art, science and practice of dentistry. The ADA is represented by the ADA/FDI delegation, appointed by the ADA president and meets at the FDI Annual World Dental Congress in a general assembly of members that is analogous to the ADA Annual Session and the House of Delegates. Within the FDI governance structure, eight ADA member dentists currently hold positions on councils or committees. ADA/FDI delegation members participate in the numerous forums that take place annually at the FDI meeting and also

participate in the revision of FDI policy statements while working with appropriate ADA staff. The ADA operates a booth at the FDI Annual World Dental Congress (See the section on the International Business Development staff work group that appears earlier in this Division of Global Affairs category.) The activities of the ADA/FDI delegation are managed by the DGA, which also conducts the day-to-day interactions of the ADA with the FDI and affiliated organizations.

## **Government and Public Affairs**

### ***Department of State Government Affairs***

No specific international activities or relationships exist, although occasionally the Department of State Government Affairs (DSGA) staff talk with staff at the Canadian Dental Association. Both staffs have initiated contact concerning specific issues regarding hygiene and amalgam. In addition, DSGA staff respond to periodic inquiries posed by dental associations in other countries about the governance of dentistry in the United States. Division staff have also participated in briefing sessions, when requested to do so, through the Division of Global Affairs and have provided input in response to requests from foreign dental associations. DSGA staff attend and monitor meetings of the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Workgroup, a joint effort of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada to reduce emissions to the Great Lakes watershed.

### ***Department of Public Affairs Media and Creative Services***

Department of Public Affairs Media and Creative Services staff work with various consumer media outlets in other countries, including the British Broadcasting Corporation, Radiotelevisione Italiana, and Tokyo Broadcasting System. In addition, the department regularly distributes ADA news releases to nearly 20 offshore dental publications in locations that include Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, England, Ireland, and Poland. The department also issues more than a dozen credentials to foreign journalists representing Argentina, Canada, China, Germany, Greece, Japan, Israel and Mexico, enabling them to provide coverage of the ADA Annual Session in their respective publications.

Staff continue to work with the Canadian Dental Association's media office by sharing materials on issues such as dental amalgam, fluoridation of community water, lead in dental crowns, and dental tourism. The department's program has not included participation in global or international conferences or engaging in international revenue-generating activities.

## **Legal Affairs**

### ***Council on Ethics, Bylaws, and Judicial Affairs***

Council on Ethics, Bylaws, and Judicial Affairs completed a review of the ethical issues presented by dental tourism, that resulted in the Council's adoption of the document titled "Statement of the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs on Dental Tourism: Ethical Obligations of Dentists." The statement reminds dentists of their ethical obligation, as required by the *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct*, to advance the welfare of patients, even in instances when patients choose to obtain treatment through dental tourism. Legal Affairs staff also respond to occasional requests from dental societies in other countries that ask for copies of the *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct*.

## **Membership, Tripartite Relations, and Marketing**

### ***Council on Membership***

As part of the ADA Tour Program, department staff conduct tours of the ADA headquarters building in Chicago for international visitors, including member dentists and health professionals. Tours have been given for visitors from a variety of locales, including China, Colombia, and Mexico.

### ***Committee on the New Dentist***

Although there are no programs specific to international issues, non-U.S. dentists occasionally attend the New Dentist Conference organized by the Committee on the New Dentist.

### ***Department of Membership Marketing***

The affiliate membership category continued its path of upward growth. By the end of 2007, that category had increased to 1,944 and had added 584 new members since the end of 2006, an increase of 43%. As of December 2008, the number of affiliate members totaled 2,521, a 30% increase from year-end 2007. The chart below lists the countries that had the largest number of ADA Affiliate members in 2006 and 2007.

Country	End of Year 2007	End of Year 2006
Canada	310	268
Brazil	216	80
India	175	59
Philippines	132	70
Mexico	105	54
United Kingdom	64	49
Japan	60	53

The chart shows large increases in affiliate membership for three countries, all of which experienced similar growth. By the end of 2007, Brazil's and India's membership totals had increased to almost three times their totals at the end of 2006, and in the Philippines, membership numbers increased to almost twice the number attained at the end of 2006.

The Department of Membership Marketing and the Center for International Development and Affairs worked collaboratively in the fall of 2007 to develop a plan to increase communications and the value of membership for affiliate members. Some of the initiatives from those planning sessions that were subsequently completed or are being worked on include the following:

- developing an affiliate-member landing page on the [ADA.org](http://ADA.org) Web site where members will have instant access to member benefits, including downloadable versions of *JADA* and the *Professional Product Review (PPR)*,
- having a minimum of three personal touch points during the first six months of membership for new members,
- providing, in addition to regular issues of the *Affiliate Update* e-publication, a monthly reminder via e-mail to alert affiliate members to a new issue of *The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)* and/or the *PPR* that has been posted on ADA.org,
- updating the membership application form to allow more room for mail and e-mail addresses and standardizing some of the wording so that it is consistent for members from all countries.

The editorial content of the *Affiliate Update* newsletter continues to be positioned to include more of a focus on news that affects dentists in other countries, often featuring news and information from the FDI World Dental Congress. The open rates for the *Affiliate Update* average more than 30%.

Finally, the affiliate membership brochure has been updated for 2008 to adhere to the ADA's new brand guidelines and to refresh some of the copy.

### ***Member Service Center***

As part of the ADA tour program, department staff have conducted tours of the ADA headquarters building in Chicago for visitors from other countries, including member dentists and health professionals. Tours have been given for visitors from a variety of countries, including Australia, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

### ***Office of Student Affairs***

As part of the ADA Member Study, the ADA House of Delegates approved Resolution 10 in June 2007, which adds an International Student membership category. The ADA resolution (summarized) states the following:

“A student member shall be admitted if he/she is a predoctoral student of a dental school listed in the *World Directory of Dental Schools* compiled by the FDI World Dental Federation.”

In addition, it states as follows:

“Student membership terminates on December 31 after graduation.”

Through the new category, international students have an option to be part of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and the ADA. They will have access to many of the ADA resources available to student members in the United States. The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) will not actively recruit students from other countries; however, the new category is available to those who wish to learn more about organized dentistry as well as dental licensure in the United States. ASDA/ADA international students pay a total of \$85 in annual dues, of which \$5 goes to the ADA. In keeping with practices for U.S. students, ASDA staff will process international student memberships. As of September 1, 2008, the OSA reported a total of six international students.

### ***Department of Membership Information***

The Department of Membership Information works with the Department of Membership Marketing to define the qualifications and privileges of affiliate membership. The Department of Membership Information is responsible for the retention of affiliate members through production of annual dues statements for affiliates and international members.

## **Publishing**

### ***The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) and ADA News***

*JADA*: Currently, *JADA* publishes international editions in the following countries: India, Portugal, and Spain, as well as Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi

Arabia, Syria, and Yemen in the Arab world. A Mexican edition was launched at the 2008 Annual Session in San Antonio and is expected to expand into several Latin American countries. The Mexican, Portuguese, and Spanish, as well as *JADA* Arab World editions are posted in the *JADA* section on the [ADA.org Web site](#). Discussions are also in progress to launch a *JADA* edition out of Brazil, Italy, and Switzerland. The number of international nonmember subscriptions for *JADA* is 862 and for *ADA News* is 24. An international editorial board that includes recognized researchers from Great Britain, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, and Switzerland has been created.

Via electronic distribution, e-*JADA* is a leading gateway resource in dentistry via a site license program for libraries, governmental agencies, hospitals, and corporate markets. *JADA* has an open-access policy of making its content available to the public one year after publication of each issue. For example, as of September 15, 2008, all content from 1995 through September 2007 was available.

*ADA News*: *ADA News* is the main conduit for information about the FDI World Dental Federation, the international dental community, and other news and information about meetings from around the world of interest to ADA members. Staff from the Division of Global Affairs work closely with *ADA News* staff to develop stories on topics relevant to an international audience of dental professionals.

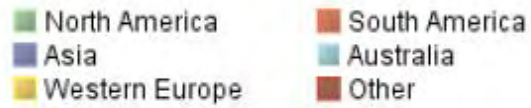
### ***Electronic Media***

The International Activities Web Page at [ada.org/ada/international/index.asp](#): Data for visits to the Web page at [ada.org/ada/international/index.asp](#) for the period from November 1, 2007, to November 1, 2008, are illustrated in the charts below.

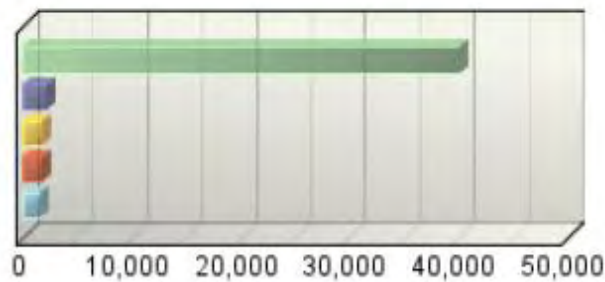
## Percentage Distribution of Visits to ADA Web Page by Region

### Geography

Visits



### Countries

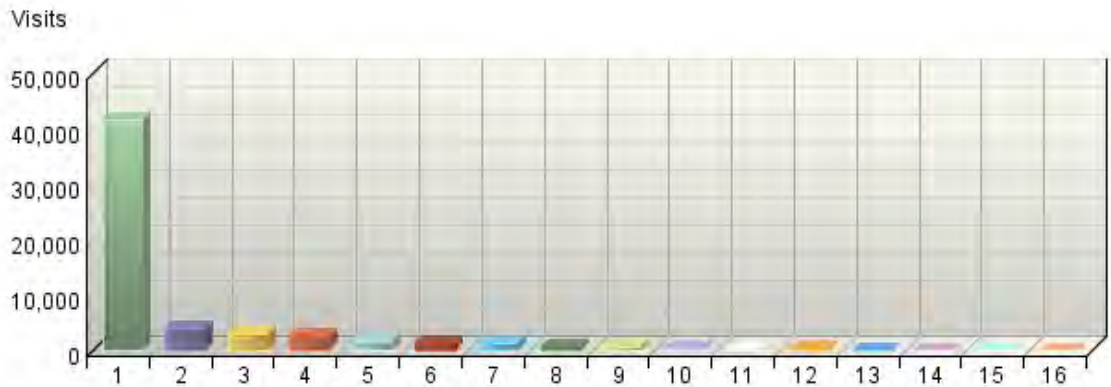


Visits



## Number of Visits to ADA Web Page by Region

### Regions

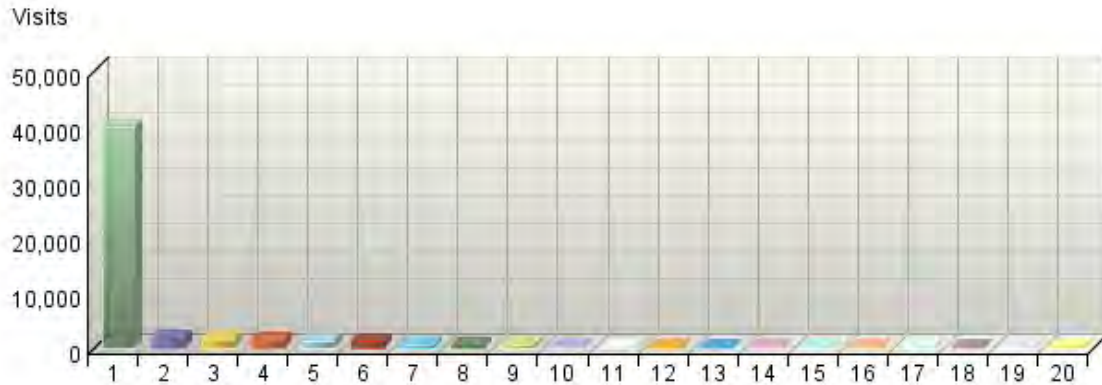


### Regions

Regions	Visits	% Visits
1. North America	41,762	71.66%
2. Asia	3,915	6.72%
3. Western Europe	2,907	4.99%
4. South America	2,631	4.51%
5. Australia	1,560	2.68%
6. Middle East	1,408	2.42%
7. Unspecified Region	1,346	2.31%
8. Southern Africa	810	1.39%
9. Eastern Europe	664	1.14%
10. Northern Africa	344	0.59%
11. Northern Europe	317	0.54%
12. Caribbean Islands	206	0.35%
13. Central America	141	0.24%
14. Eastern Africa	133	0.23%
15. Pacific Islands	84	0.14%
16. Western Africa	52	0.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,280</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Number of Visits to ADA Web Page by Country

### Countries

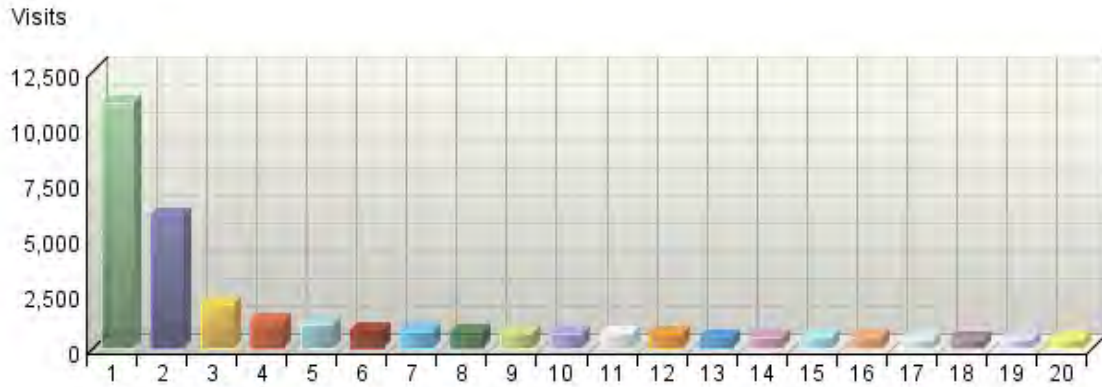


### Countries

Countries	Visits	% Visits
1. United States (US)	39,901	68.46%
2. Uruguay (UY)	2,001	3.43%
3. India (IN)	1,577	2.71%
4. Australia (AU)	1,560	2.68%
5. Canada (CA)	1,464	2.51%
6. Unknown Country	1,346	2.31%
7. United Kingdom (UK)	819	1.41%
8. South Africa (ZA)	797	1.37%
9. Western Europe - country unspecified (EU)	599	1.03%
10. Korea (South) (KR)	473	0.81%
11. Philippines (PH)	427	0.73%
12. Germany (DE)	399	0.68%
13. Mexico (MX)	397	0.68%
14. United Arab Emirates (AE)	391	0.67%
15. Japan (JP)	341	0.59%
16. Brazil (BR)	328	0.56%
17. Egypt (EG)	304	0.52%
18. Hungary (HU)	259	0.44%
19. China (CN)	242	0.42%
20. Pakistan (PK)	197	0.34%
<b>Subtotal for rows: 1 - 20</b>	<b>53,822</b>	<b>92.35%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>4,458</b>	<b>7.65%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,280</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Number of Visits to ADA Web Page by City

### Cities



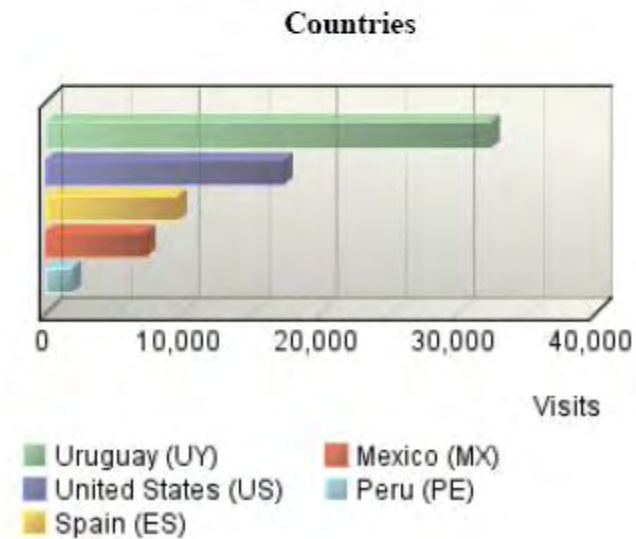
### Cities

	City	Visits	% Visits
1.	Chantilly, Virginia, United States	11,092	19.87%
2.	Marina Del Rey, California, United States	6,025	10.79%
3.	Montevideo, Uruguay	2,001	3.58%
4.	Milton, Australia	1,288	2.31%
5.	New York, New York, United States	1,116	2.00%
6.	Chicago, Illinois, United States	803	1.44%
7.	Reston, Virginia, United States	764	1.37%
8.	Pretoria, South Africa	748	1.34%
9.	Mumbai, India	657	1.18%
10.	Los Angeles, California, United States	648	1.16%
11.	Bhawan, India	639	1.14%
12.	Atlanta, Georgia, United States	630	1.13%
13.	San Francisco, California, United States	538	0.96%
14.	London, United Kingdom	490	0.88%
15.	Washington, D.C., United States	467	0.84%
16.	Boston, Massachusetts, United States	463	0.83%
17.	Seattle, Washington, United States	436	0.78%
18.	Hicksville, New York, United States	433	0.78%
19.	Orlando, Florida, United States	418	0.75%
20.	Mount Laurel, New Jersey, United States	414	0.74%
<b>Subtotal for rows: 1 - 20</b>		<b>30,070</b>	<b>53.87%</b>
<b>Other</b>		<b>25,749</b>	<b>46.13%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>55,819</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## ADA.org En Español Page

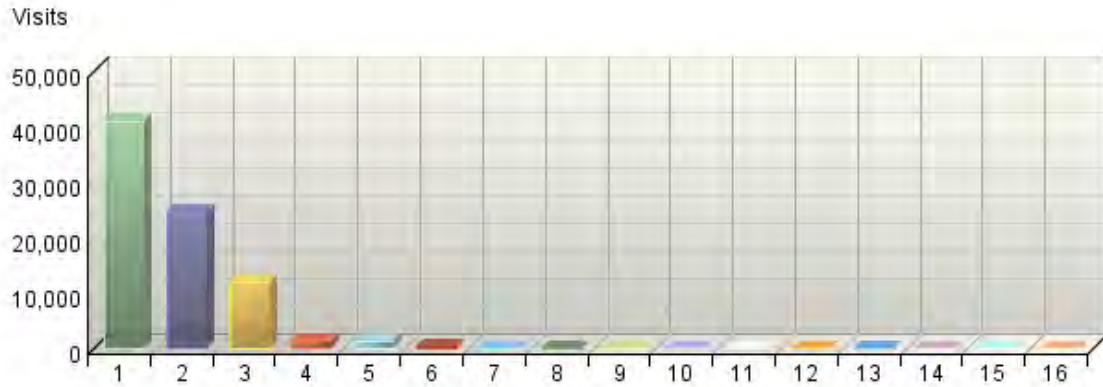
Data for Visits to the ADA.org En Español Page Web Page for the Period from November 1, 2007, to November 1, 2008, are illustrated in the charts below.

### Percentage Distribution of Visits to ADA Web Page En Español by Region



## Number of Visits to ADA Web Page En Español by Region

### Regions

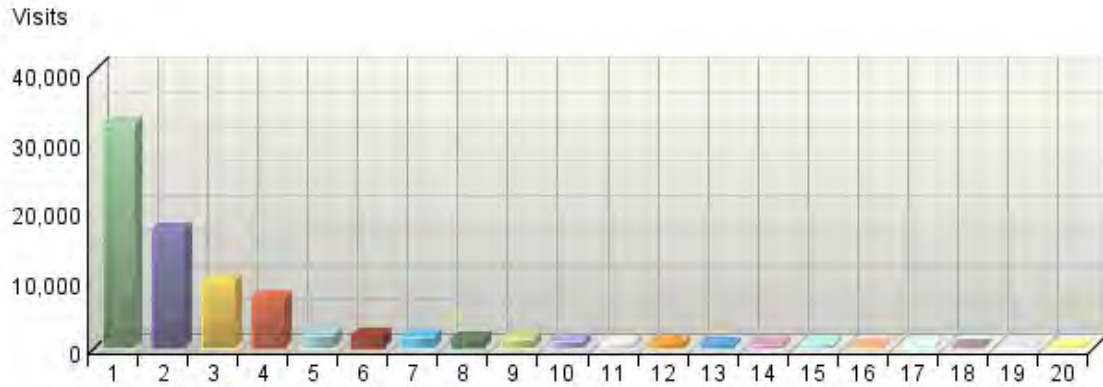


### Regions

Regions	Visits	% Visits
1. South America	41,152	50.65%
2. North America	24,586	30.26%
3. Western Europe	11,981	14.75%
4. Central America	1,447	1.78%
5. Caribbean Islands	1,378	1.70%
6. Asia	190	0.23%
7. Northern Europe	112	0.14%
8. Australia	98	0.12%
9. Eastern Europe	93	0.11%
10. Unspecified Region	83	0.10%
11. Middle East	66	0.08%
12. Southern Africa	22	0.03%
13. Eastern Africa	19	0.02%
14. Northern Africa	9	0.01%
15. Pacific Islands	5	0.01%
16. Western Africa	3	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,244</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Number of Visits to ADA Web Page En Español by Country

### Countries

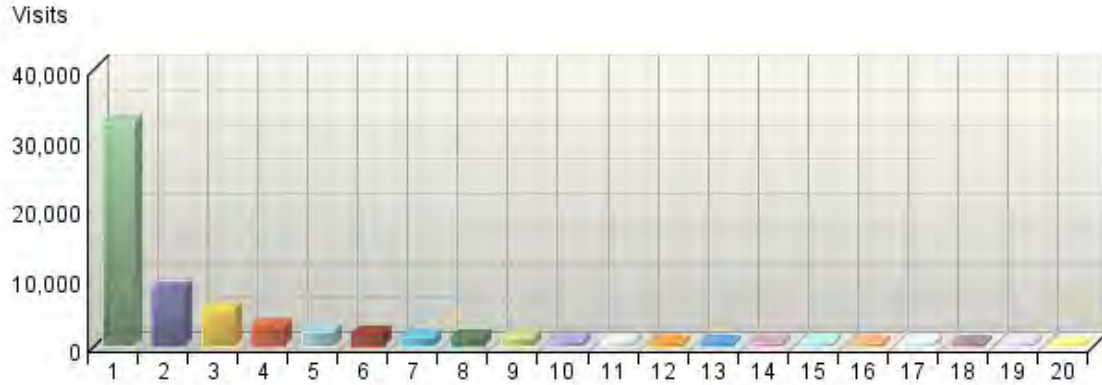


### Countries

Countries	Visits	% Visits
1. Uruguay (UY)	32,374	39.85%
2. United States (US)	17,153	21.11%
3. Spain (ES)	9,500	11.69%
4. Mexico (MX)	7,170	8.83%
5. Peru (PE)	1,824	2.25%
6. Western Europe - country unspecified (EU)	1,764	2.17%
7. Chile (CL)	1,584	1.95%
8. Venezuela (VE)	1,389	1.71%
9. Argentina (AR)	1,315	1.62%
10. Colombia (CO)	1,190	1.46%
11. Bolivia (BO)	785	0.97%
12. Puerto Rico (PR)	770	0.95%
13. Costa Rica (CR)	604	0.74%
14. Dominican Republic (DO)	499	0.61%
15. Ecuador (EC)	414	0.51%
16. Canada (CA)	263	0.32%
17. El Salvador (SV)	253	0.31%
18. Guatemala (GT)	244	0.30%
19. Panama (PA)	196	0.24%
20. Brazil (BR)	180	0.22%
<b>Subtotal for rows: 1 - 20</b>	<b>79,471</b>	<b>97.82%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>2.18%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,244</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Number of Visits to ADA Web Page En Español by City

### Cities



### Cities

	City	Visits	% Visits
1.	Montevideo, Uruguay	32,374	40.89%
2.	Madrid, Spain	8,273	10.45%
3.	Chantilly, Virginia, United States	5,212	6.58%
4.	Monterrey, Mexico	2,864	3.62%
5.	Marina Del Rey, California, United States	2,171	2.74%
6.	Lima, Peru	1,749	2.21%
7.	Santiago, Chile	1,359	1.72%
8.	Mexico City, Mexico	1,306	1.65%
9.	Caracas, Venezuela	1,293	1.63%
10.	Buenos Aires, Argentina	790	1.00%
11.	La Paz, Bolivia	746	0.94%
12.	Bogota, Colombia	662	0.84%
13.	San Juan, Puerto Rico	655	0.83%
14.	Miami, Florida, United States	632	0.80%
15.	San Jose, Costa Rica	589	0.74%
16.	Barcelona, Spain	500	0.63%
17.	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	499	0.63%
18.	Puebla, Mexico	433	0.55%
19.	Guadalajara, Mexico	409	0.52%
20.	Medellin, Colombia	377	0.48%
	<b>Subtotal for rows: 1 - 20</b>	<b>62,893</b>	<b>79.43%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>16,283</b>	<b>20.57%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>79,176</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

*ADA Affiliate Member Center Web Page at [ada.org/ada/international/affiliate.asp](http://ada.org/ada/international/affiliate.asp): For the period from March 1, 2008, to November 1, 2008, the total number of visits to the affiliate membership Web page at [ada.org/ada/international/affiliate.asp](http://ada.org/ada/international/affiliate.asp) was 2,961.*

*ADA Annual Session Web Page for International Visitors: For the period from November 1, 2007, to November 1, 2008, the total number of visits to the ADA Annual Session Web page at [ada.org/prof/events/session/docs/session/docs/session\\_booklet\\_english.pdf](http://ada.org/prof/events/session/docs/session/docs/session_booklet_english.pdf) was 2,058.*

## **Science/Professional Affairs**

### ***Division of Science and Council on Scientific Affairs***

The Division of Science is internationally active through its departments as well as through the ADA Foundation's Paffenbarger Research Center (PRC) and the ADA Foundation Research Institute. Activities include participating in scientific meetings of the FDI World Dental Federation, International Association for Dental Research (IADR), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the Global Health Council. In addition, the Division of Science and the Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA) maintain scientific liaisons with national dental associations and dental stakeholders in other countries. In collaboration with scientists from other countries, the Division of Science also conducts research and publishes scientific papers. The *ADA Professional Product Review*, a quarterly publication of the Council on Scientific Affairs, launched in July 2006 as an ADA member benefit, provides extensive data from ADA laboratory evaluations as well as clinical input from ADA member dentists and expert-panel discussions. The CSA consultant list includes a wide range of international experts who are often consulted on a variety of topics related to the ADA Seal of Acceptance and many other CSA and Division of Science initiatives. Beginning in 2009, those consultants will also be appointed as content-expert consultants to the ADA Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry.

*FDI World Dental Federation:* The ADA is represented by Dr. Michael Glick on the Science Committee of the FDI World Dental Federation. Dr. Glick prepares FDI Science Committee reports for publication in the *International Dental Journal* as well as science statements for review and adoption by the FDI General Assembly. The FDI Science Committee currently has responsibility for the following 14 projects:

1. Adverse reactions to resin-based materials
2. Criteria for clinical testing of dental restorative materials
3. Index systems for caries epidemiology and treatment
4. Sucrose substitutes and their role in caries prevention
5. Root-canal medicaments
6. Diagnostic techniques for oral cancer

7. Endorsement of the WHO ICIDH-2 system
8. Classification of lesions of the clinical crown
9. Amalgam waste
10. Monitoring of vital signs during dental care
11. Root surface caries in adults
12. The impact of environmental pollutants on tooth development
13. The consequences of edentulousness on health
14. Local adverse effects of amalgam restorations

*International Association for Dental Research (IADR):* The division regularly communicates with staff and representatives from the International Association for Dental Research; the IADR executive director has been invited to attend the meetings of the Council on Scientific Affairs.

*ADA International Caries Classification System Conference:* The ADA hosted an International Caries Classification Conference to discuss the need for developing a new classification system for diagnosis and treatment of dental caries. The conference posed the question, How can we collaborate as communities of interest to upgrade and implement a caries classification system that will improve patient care and treatment outcomes for the 21st century patient? U.S. stakeholders who had a broad range of expertise and experience in the dental profession and industry from every area of dentistry, including those from general and specialty dental practices; representatives of dental benefits plans and third-party payers; representatives from education; and government and public health agencies, joined in the discussions. The stakeholders joined representatives from the FDI Science Committee and international representatives to consider various needs, challenges, and options. At the conclusion of the conference, the strong consensus of all participants was that there was a need to actively pursue the development of an initial version or working model for a new International Caries Classification System that would improve patient care and treatment outcomes and provide simplicity of use, consistency and comparability of data, as well as expandability to address research purposes that could exceed those of general-practice decisions. A subcommittee chosen from among conference participants met subsequently and reached a consensus on a working model and recommendations, which were presented at the 2008 ADA House of Delegates and the 2008 FDI Science Committee Meeting. The working model will be tested in clinical practice through practice-based research networks, and the results will also be made available through the ADA to the FDI World Dental Federation.

*International Organization for Standardization/Technical Committee 106:* The ADA sponsors U.S. participation in activities of the International Organization for Standardization/Technical Committee (TC)/106 on Dentistry. The Council on Scientific Affairs provides technical input to the subcommittees and working groups of the standards committee. The ADA is responsible for the operation of the secretariats of two subcommittees in ISO/TC 106: Subcommittee 2, Prosthodontic Materials, and Subcommittee 8, Implants.

*Collaborative Research and Scientific Publications with International Scientists:*

The Paffenbarger Research Center (PRC) collaborated in a clinical study on salivary and plaque fluoride, calcium, and phosphate with Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) in Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil. Another collaborative clinical study using PRC-developed calcium phosphate cements is being conducted at Nihon University in Japan.

The Paffenbarger Research Center received a small grant award to perform collaborative research with Egyptian scientists to synthesize and assess nanostructured materials for drug delivery. The source of the funding is the U.S.-Egypt Joint Board on Science and Technology Cooperation.

Paffenbarger Research Center staff co-authored papers with scientists from China, Israel, Japan, Spain, and Switzerland and hosted visiting scientists from Brazil, China, Italy, Japan, Korea, and Spain during the 2007-2008 period.

In the area of international standards activities, representatives from the Paffenbarger Research Center participated in interlaboratory testing with professionals in China, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. The PRC, sponsored in part by the ADA Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, also conducted a course, titled Dental Fractography, that was attended by participants from other countries.

*The Third International Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) Conference:* Through an educational grant from Procter & Gamble, the American Dental Association, in collaboration with *The Journal of Evidence-Based Dental Practice*, hosted the Third International EBD Conference that was held on May 4, 2008, at ADA headquarters. The theme of the conference was clinical decision support as the major way in which evidence-based information and systems can be utilized. In addition to dentists, the target audience included educators, professional society leaders and administrators, industry administrators and researchers, dental hygienists, and dental school administrators.

*Supporting International Dental Researchers:* To stimulate interest in oral-health research and recognize the work of young scientists from other countries, the ADA Division of Science, with funding from the ADA Foundation, coordinates participation in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Held each May, the Intel ISEF is the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. It brings together more than 1,200 high school students from 40 countries. Organizations representing a wide variety of scientific disciplines affiliate with the Intel ISEF as special awards organizations. The ADA Division of Science has participated in the Intel ISEF for five years and provides three awards for projects that contribute to scientific research relevant to oral health (\$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place, and \$500 for third place). Past winners include students from Canada, China, and the United States.

## **Technology, Standards, and Sales**

### ***Department of Salable Materials***

The Department of Salable Materials markets, distributes, and licenses catalog products to the international community via the ADA e-catalog and reseller programs. Products offered to foreign customers include those relating to practice management, patient education, and continuing-education products. Products are marketed via display advertising in international journals and in an international licensing e-catalog as well as through exhibits at international dental and medical publishing forums and an international medical-rights agency.

ADA staff continue to seek resellers to translate, market, and distribute ADA products in key international markets. Currently there are agreements in Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom as well as in Central and South America.

### ***Department of Standards Administration***

The ADA, as the international leader in the development of standards and guidelines influencing the practice of dentistry and the safety and health of the public, participates in several international standards activities. The ADA sponsors U.S. participation in the activities of Technical Committee 106 of the International Organization for Standardization, which is an international, nongovernmental organization that has as its objective the development of worldwide standards through the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ISO/TC106. The program is administered through the Department of Standards Administration with the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs to provide ADA technical expertise to the U.S. TAG. The U.S. TAG for ISO/TC 106 consists of seven sub-TAGs that are responsible for a particular category of standards: Subcommittee 1, Restorative Materials and Orthodontic Products; Subcommittee 2, Prosthodontic Materials; Subcommittee 3, Terminology; Subcommittee 4, Instruments; Subcommittee 6, Equipment; Subcommittee 7, Oral Hygiene Products; and Subcommittee 8, Dental Implants. The ADA also acts as the Secretariat for two of ISO/TC 106's seven subcommittees: Subcommittee 2, Prosthodontic Materials, and Subcommittee 8, Dental Implants.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is the U.S. member of the ISO and has designated the ADA as the sponsor and secretariat of the U.S. TAG, which is responsible for recommending the U.S. position on all international dental standards and their development. The trend toward the global harmonization of standards demands that all dental products comply with the requirements of those international standards. U.S. dental manufacturers that market their products in Europe as well as European products sold in the United States since June 1998 have had to meet the requirements of the ISO standards. Another ISO technical committee, ISO/TC 215, provides standardization in the field of information for health as well as health information and communications

technology with the goal of achieving compatibility as well as interoperability between independent systems, ensuring compatibility of data for comparative statistical purposes (e.g., classifications), and reducing duplication of efforts and redundancies. The ADA played an integral role in the development of that ISO technical committee, which is becoming increasingly more important as electronic-technology standards are being developed globally. The ADA Council on Dental Practice provides technical expertise on dental issues that arise from ISO/TC 215.

ADA staff also participate on the International Policy Committee and the ISO Policy Committee of the American National Standards Institute Board of Directors International Committee. Those committees develop U.S. policy on the international activities of ANSI as well as policies for secretariats of the U.S. technical advisory groups.

Staff from the ADA Department of Standards Administration respond to periodic requests for standards and guidelines from dental professionals in other countries.