



Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future

Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future (ACFF) Celebrates Milestone of Establishing 24 Local Chapters Worldwide

BANGKOK, Thailand, 24 September 2015 – The [Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future \(ACFF\)](http://www.AllianceForACavityFreeFuture.org) held its sixth annual summit at the FDI World Dental Congress, delivering a report on the *Alliance* and presenting on issues impacting oral health, including the recently revised World Health Organization (WHO) sugar intake guidelines and the implications of these around caries prevention and management efforts. The *ACFF* also celebrated the recipients of the inaugural *ACFF* Champions Award, which commends the work of *ACFF* Chapters whose programs help drive impactful change in their local communities and beyond.

Most notably, the *ACFF* launched their 24th local Chapter during this year's Summit. Dr. Prathip Phantumvanit, Co-Chair of the newly formed *ACFF* Thailand Chapter, of the Faculty of Dentistry, Thammasat University, Thailand, who also works with the FDI World Dental Federation, officially kicked off the launch ceremony and representatives from the Pediatric Association of Thailand, Ministry of Health, Thai Society of Pediatric Dentistry and various dental schools signed a declaration committing to the goals of the *ACFF*.

"The FDI Annual World Dental Congress, which each year brings together oral health leaders, advocates and members of the community for an important global discussion on topics such as promoting oral health and caries prevention and management, is the ideal venue for us to host the official launch of the Thailand *ACFF* Chapter," said Dr. Phantumvanit. "We are excited to be joining the ever growing assembly of *ACFF* Chapters worldwide and working together towards achieving a cavity-free future."

Since launching globally in 2010, the *ACFF* has founded local Chapters in regions across the globe, spanning Asia, Europe, Central and Latin America, Australasia and Africa. Given the incredible progress of the *ACFF* globally, this year's summit marked the inaugural *ACFF* Champions Award by recognizing two local *ACFF* Chapters which excelled in their efforts to create a lasting impact in their communities and beyond. The recipients of this year's award, the Colombian and Pan-European *ACFF* Chapters, have each received a monetary prize which may be used by the Chapter to complete or evolve their winning projects and to further support their local Chapter activities. The prizewinning initiatives from the Chapters showed great variation in their design.

- The Pan-European *ACFF* Chapter has undertaken efforts to expand collaboration between organizations across Europe and driven meaningful dialogue with various stakeholders from public, policy, media, patient and dental professional audiences. The Chapter has developed an impressive library of communications tools to help increase caries prevention efforts and the overall goals of the *ACFF* including public surveys and a European Union health toolkit.
- Over the past five years, the *ACFF* Chapter in Colombia has committed to working jointly towards adapting the global *ACFF* goals while focusing on improving early childhood oral health. The program, supported by community engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, ensures measurable success in caries prevention for young children.



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“The work being done by the local *ACFF* Chapters showcases a true commitment to our collective goal of a cavity-free future,” said Dr. Nigel Pitts, Global Chairman of the *ACFF*, and Director of the Dental Innovation and Translation Centre, King’s College London Dental Institute. “Learning from our colleagues, sharing best practices and celebrating achievements is critical to impacting change in how caries can be prevented. We are enthusiastic to see the *ACFF* Champions Award program grow in future years and help reinforce our shared commitment to addressing the global problem of caries.”

Since its establishment in 2010, the *Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future* has increased its global presence to 24 Chapters, including Australia, Brazil, Central America, Central Eastern Europe, China, Colombia, India, Mexico, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and Venezuela amongst others. Additional Chapters continue to launch including the planned launches of the ‘Canada-United States’ and ‘Nordic’ Chapters in the near future. Global activities have included providing tools via local *ACFF* Websites, securing commitment from dental school deans to integrate caries prevention and management into school curricula and promoting community-based education and prevention programs to families and communities.

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About the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future (ACFF)

The [Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future](http://www.AllianceForACavityFreeFuture.org), a non-profitable charitable organization, is a group of worldwide leading dental experts who have joined forces to help implement changes to dental health practices across the globe. The aim of the *Alliance* is to promote initiatives to stop the development and progression of tooth decay in order to move towards a Cavity-Free Future for everyone. To achieve this goal, the *Alliance* believes that collaborative action is required to raise awareness of dental caries (tooth decay) and positively influence people’s dental health habits.

Colgate-Palmolive Company is a supporter of the *Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future*; the company supports improved oral health through its partnerships with the dental profession and government and public health agencies.

About the Sixth Annual ACFF Summit

This year’s Global *ACFF* Summit included a report on the recent *Alliance* activities, the launch of the *ACFF* Thailand Chapter and a presentation from Prof. Paula Moynihan, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nutrition and Oral Health in Newcastle University, followed by an interactive panel conversation on the role of sugar consumption in caries prevention and management. Attendees participated in an active discussion on the recent sugar consumption guidelines put forth by the World Health Organization and how these guidelines can positively influence the continuing problem of caries in the context of general health. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn about important updates in the next generation of caries control tools.

About Caries



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Worldwide, 60–90% of school children and nearly 100% of adults have dental caries.ⁱ In fact, caries (which includes all stages of tooth decay) is the most common, yet preventable chronic disease on the planet.ⁱⁱ

When dental caries occurs, hard tissue in the tooth is damaged by acids that naturally exist in our mouth and help break down foods, which results in tooth decay. Early dental caries can be prevented and controlled if the multiple causative factors, namely a susceptible tooth surface, the presence of cariogenic acid producing bacteria in dental plaque biofilm, and the exposure to ingested sugars, are reduced.

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REFERENCES

ⁱ World Health Organization

ⁱⁱ Oral Health Atlas, FDI World Dental Federation