Welcome to our Annual Review 2014

In 2011 we published our strategic plan for the charity ‘Reflections and Progress: 2011–2015’. Now we are planning for our tenth anniversary in 2016 and the publication of our strategic plan for 2016-2026.

During the past four years, our main areas of focus have been fourfold. First we have been working with and supporting our Senior Dental Leader Alumni. The impact of a global network of Senior Dental Leaders, working to promote child oral health, cannot be underestimated.

Second, we have supported ‘demonstration’ initiatives through our Smiles and Hopes projects, which again are led by our SDL alumni. Third, we have promoted social responsibility, especially among young members of the profession. Lastly, we have nurtured partnerships with other organisations especially the World Federation of Public Health Associations, the International Federation of Dental Hygienists and the Alliance for A Cavity Free Future.

This year, King’s College London hosted the SDL-8 programme. We are grateful to Professor Dianne Rekow and her team for their generous hospitality and administrative support.

Likewise, it was encouraging to have the head of Dental Public Health at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, Dr Nazik M. Nurelhuda attend as the ‘Tony Volpe’ 2014 awardee.

We look forward to assisting her with her work in Sudan in 2015. The enthusiasm and commitment of all of the delegates this year was inspirational – we will endeavour to collaborate with them all in the coming years.

In 2012 a Facebook group was launched among dentists in India to better understand their needs as they work towards improving services for disadvantaged Indian children. After a slow start this year, the group now comprises over 5,500 Indian dentists engaging in discussions and voluntary projects.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to extend warm greetings and thanks to every person and organisation that has contributed to
We are very proud of our developing and existing partnerships worldwide, forged through mutual trust and the sharing of knowledge and capacity.

Our work in 2014. This includes the Charity’s core staff and Trustees, our sponsors Colgate-Palmolive and Henry Schein, and all our friends and supporters.

However, most importantly, we would like to thank the dedicated individuals who have helped us implement our programmes. It is through their tireless efforts, day in day out, that the world’s most disadvantaged children have brighter futures and better smiles. Further details and in-depth reports about our work can also be found at our website www.gcdfund.org

Professor Raman Bedi, Chairman
Partnerships are critical to the Charity’s success and we have nurtured 3 global initiatives. First, we work with the World Federation of Public Health Associations Oral Health group. Second, we collaborate with the International Federation of Dental Hygienists. In 2015 we will launch our joint ‘One in a Million’ project to distribute one million toothbrushes to disadvantaged children. Third, we work closely with the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future, sharing the common goal that children born after 2026 should be cavity free.
Zambia Project

In March we co-funded, with the Borrow Foundation, a 3 year oral health capacity building project in Zambia. The project is based in Ndola, the second city in Zambia, and our partner there is a local NGO, the Isubilo Community Resource Centre.

The aim of the project is to build a locally owned and financially sustainable programme which will help build oral health provision in rural parts of the country. In July the Principal of Lusaka Dental School, Dr Nalumino Sayela, successfully visited the Copperbelt Province, Ndola to deliver the letter from the Ministry of Education permanent secretary authorising Isubilo and dental training schools to visit Copperbelt schools.

As a first step to gaining permission to operate within the province, Dr Sayela, Mr Chonde and Mr Haabeka visited the Provincial Education Officer at Mukuyu House in Ndola.

Later, at his office, permission was granted both to operate in the area and to visit schools in his district, and successful visits followed.

Since June the team has visited and operated in 5 government run schools, 10 community schools and 7 government run schools located in the peri-urban areas of Ndola.

Arrangements were made with a spacious lodge in Ndola, and the team continued their programme with students from the Lusaka Dental School. Four groups of final year Dental Therapist students joined the team for one week periods. Since the end of August, 16 primary schools were visited. This project is an example of our SDL alumni working together; Dr Itone (Ministry of Health), Dr Sayela (Dental Therapy School) and Dr Chonde (GCDFund).
In April Professor Bedi joined an International Research group focused on Early Childhood Caries in South and Central America.

The meeting was held at the University of Valparaiso, Chile. Other than colleagues from Chile and Brazil, paediatric dental experts from the USA and Australia were present. Professor Bedi was the only representative from Europe.

This effort will strengthen the network of researchers and academics at universities involved in Early Childhood Caries. It will also be instrumental in expanding academic teaching, research and social projects in Latin America for the benefit of disadvantaged children.

Research Group

Philippines Project

We are currently fundraising for a project in the Philippines which will establish a school based dental program in Bohol province. This initiative is being pursued in collaboration with Philos, a U.S. based NGO, and I-Check, a local Philippines based NGO.

It is planned that two dental clinics will be built in elementary schools, with the dentists being part of the school team undertaking daily supervised brushing alongside prevention and treatment.

Visiting dentists and student from the Philippines, the United States and the United Kingdom will supplement the dental service.
Afghanistan

In August 2014, after much delay, Global Partners (GP) began Phase III of our Hope Through Healthy Smiles in the city of Sar-e-pul, Afghanistan. Our desire was to begin in March, but due to delays in gaining the required permissions from the government, the programme started much later.

GP followed the same process as was undertaken in Shebirghan city in 2013. Working with the local Ministry of Education, ten schools and communities were chosen to receive oral health education. After the schools were chosen, project implementors worked with each school to choose one teacher to represent their school.

These teachers then attended a 4-day seminar. Here they were trained in basic oral health, brushing and flossing, and tooth care.

After completion of the seminar each teacher received the necessary supplies to teach basic oral health to their students. These supplies were left with each of the participating schools so they can continue to effectively teach about oral health in the years to come.

Timor Leste

The second National Oral Health Conference for Timor Leste took place in October 2014. This was once again part of a collaboration between GCDFund and One-2-One, building upon the great successes of 2013.

The existing dental workforce, community health workers and students of Dilli University travelled from all corners of the country to receive clinical skills teaching in the country’s capital.

Key messages in prevention were taught and reinforced from last year. Many members of the existing workforce expressed a desire to move away from extractions towards prevention and oral health promotion in Timor Leste, where notably over 43% of the population is under 15.

The students were once again incredibly keen to increase their skills and knowledge, and their confidence increased from the initial conference.
SEAL Cambodia has treated over 33,000 children so far!
SEAL Cambodia

Professor Raman Bedi visited Cambodia in June to meet with stakeholders, explore new partnerships, and monitor progress. Highlights of the visit included:

1. Meeting SEAL CAMBODIA partners. 20 representatives from the MOH, SEAL sponsors, NGOs, International University, and University of Puthisastra attended the meeting. Over 33,000 children have been sealed so far, and the project was extended to include both Grade 1 and 2 children.

2. Meeting with One-2-One and CamKids to discuss project sustainability after year 3.

3. Meeting with the staff of the Paediatric Dental Department at the National University Dental School to discuss another grant given to help repair the dental chairs and provide materials for students.

4. Meeting with the President of the University of Puthisastra to discuss future collaboration and involvement of their dental students in the SEAL Cambodia project. The new Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures assistance for the paediatric dental clinics was also discussed.

Kenya

Dental caries is the single most important oral disease affecting many children in Kenya, and its prevalence appears to be on the rise. Coupled with this, the oral health manpower in Kenya is insufficient to meet the rising needs of these children.

In August the Kenya Association of Paediatric Dentistry (KAPD) and the Global Child Dental Fund jointly hosted the 2nd training workshop for Kenyan Community Oral Health Workers. The theme of the workshop was: ‘Creating a caries-free environment for Kenyan children’. Four paediatric dental specialists provided the 1-day training in Nairobi. The trainees received lectures and practical training on provision of oral health education to children and their caregivers, diet counselling, the use of fluoride supplements and pit/fissure sealants in prevention of dental caries. They were also taken through various caries management techniques, including the use of Atraumatic Restorative technique (ART) in the treatment and prevention of caries in children.

The workshop was opened by Professor Raman Bedi and sponsored by Colgate Palmolive.
Untreated caries was the most prevalent of all 291 medical conditions considered in the recent global health burden study. In many countries, the commonest hospital operation involving general anaesthesia, for under 5-year-olds, is dental extractions. The DNA of any charitable organisation is the work of its supporters and volunteers. We are indebted to the selfless efforts of all the individuals who have supported and advocated our mission this year. Without you our work would not be possible.
Dr. Joury is currently working as an Assistant Professor of Dental Public Health and Oral Epidemiology in the Faculty of Dentistry, Damascus University. She qualified as an orthodontist from Damascus University in 2001. Throughout her education and professional career, she has received academic distinctions and honours. Her passion is in using her knowledge and skills to promote oral health and general wellbeing of disadvantaged children and communities across the globe.

New GCD Fund Consultants

This year Easter Joury, Ajay Mahajan and Nour Alkhatib joined us as consultants. They are experienced dental health practitioners who will voluntarily give their time and energy to support our projects.

Dr. Easter Joury

Dr. Joury is currently working as an Assistant Professor of Dental Public Health and Oral Epidemiology in the Faculty of Dentistry, Damascus University. She qualified as an orthodontist from Damascus University in 2001. Throughout her education and professional career, she has received academic distinctions and honours. Her passion is in using her knowledge and skills to promote oral health and general wellbeing of disadvantaged children and communities across the globe.

Dr. Ajay Mahajan

Dr. Mahajan completed his undergraduate studies at Himachal Pradesh University and received his BDS degree from H.P. Government Dental College and Hospital Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India. He has published many national and international research papers in journals of repute. Dr. Mahajan has a great interest in working for the betterment of underprivileged and the poor and was associated with assessing the oral health status of Tibetan immigrants residing in Shimla, H.P., India.

Dr. Nour Alkhatib

Dr. Alkhatib worked for many years at Eastman Dental Institute, UCL, KCL and WHO Collaborative centre. As an epidemiologist he contributed to refining NHS dental strategy. His main interests are psycho-social determinants of health, outcome measures in health, tobacco control and treatment needs in children. Dr. Alkhatib’s work is published in international journals and he is a regular reviewer for many health care journals. He currently works as a strategist for private and government bodies.
**Nishant Mehta**

In 2013 Nishant won the Richard Law Award. Recently he gave us this feedback:

“It was a huge blessing to receive this award. It is a nice addition to my education fund and helped me in completing my pending research projects. Being nationally recognized makes me feel not only honoured, but proud. I feel like the path I chose in life, rife with challenges that push me academically and socially, is the right one.

However, this scholarship has made me even more driven to ensure that I am not the only one to receive the benefits of my labour. I should continue to reach outward to positively influence and help those across the globe. While on this chosen path, I want to create communities and environments that strive to help everyone reach their dreams, just like how the academy helped me reach mine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the GCDFund for this greatly appreciated scholarship. I also congratulate the new winners of prestigious Richard Law Award.”

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**Chair Donations**

This summer we coordinated a dental chair donation between London and Haiti.

After serving years at Birmingham Children’s Hospital, 3 dental chairs had to find a new home for their next chapter of life. Along with our regional consultant, Dr. Hyewon Lee, we identified a suitable home and arranged to donate them to an upcoming community-based dental clinic in World Grace Orphanage in Haiti.

Dr. Soo-woo Kim, a periodontist who taught at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, launched this non-profit organisation, called Dentists for Humanity, in 2013. In collaboration with other dental professionals and engineers who share the same heart in Boston, USA in 2013, Dr. Kim launched various community dental services for vulnerable youth and homeless people.

With the three dental chairs that arrived in Haiti this spring, Dr. Kim and his team arranged a series of dental mission trips to this community-based dental facility throughout the summer.
Since 2010 Prue Preston has been actively working with orphan children at the various orphanages in Tanzania. The homes she has worked with have benefitted not only from new toothbrushes and curative care, but also from a greater understanding of oral health education tailored to their local culture. Recently she gave us this update on her work:

Some 30 children and adolescents living on the street and in orphanages in Mwanza have been identified as having dental needs such as pain, swellings and fractured teeth. Some of these children have no families. Some are being supported to attend school and come off the streets into homes.

Hope Dental Centre is a practice in Mwanza which is part of the dental charity Bridge2Aid providing access to dental treatment to those in Mwanza and wider Tanzania and training to health workers in rural areas. Funded by award money, Hope Dental has examined some of these children in pain and has provided treatment for them.

The boys gathered in the waiting room and loved having their pictures taken and played with lego. When it came to sitting in the dental chair, the boys were very reluctant, some absconded but were encouraged back to have treatment later.

The children were provided with toothbrushes and taught about and encouraged to look after their teeth. They also received fillings, some required extractions, one girl had a swollen face due to a dental abscess, she was given antibiotics and will be seen again next week along with some children who are also returning for further treatment.
Each year we run programmes that raise awareness within the dental profession of the importance of global social responsibility. It is vitally important that the collective skills and knowledge of dental students and professionals are utilised effectively for suffering children, not just at local level, but around the world.
Oral Health Booklets

We have created and published online, 3 educational booklets aimed at improving dental literacy among pregnant and nursing mothers.

The booklets are for mothers all over the world. It is anticipated that the information will guide them in making healthy choices for themselves and the lifelong oral health of their children. This project is unique in its global reach.

The booklets are being translated into several languages, including Arabic, Mandarin, Portuguese and Spanish and are freely available on our website. There is the potential for up to 51 languages to be incorporated, increasing the breadth of the audience these booklets can educate.

The booklets can be downloaded from the Social Responsibility section of our website: www.gcdfund.org

Senior Dental Leaders 8 Programme

SDL-8 was held in London from Sunday 9th to Friday 14th March. This year 17 delegates attended from around the world.

On the Monday morning Dianne Rekow gave the ‘Welcome Address’. During the sessions and workshops that followed, the delegates developed their leadership skills and learnt how to use them effectively to advance oral health agendas and improve the dental health of children.

Further highlights included case studies on ‘Workforce Development’ and ‘Mid-level providers’ by Professors Bruce Donoff and Chester Douglass of Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

This year Dr Nazik M. Nurelhuda from Khartoum in Sudan received the Tony Volpe Award. Dr Nurelhuda is the Assistant Professor of Dental Public Health, University of Khartoum.
Richard Law Award

In honour of the late Richard Law, an accountant who tragically died from oral cancer, each year we offer an award of $500 to dental students in India through an essay competition.

This year the competition was very strong. From the 44 essays received, the judges selected Dr Viswa Chaitanya Chandu from Siber Institute of Dental Sciences, Tenali, to receive the award.

Viswa was delighted to recieve the award for his project and commented:

"Receiving this award is an amazing honour. I have developed a love towards Public Health Dentistry over the 5 years of my undergraduate education. I would like to use the prize money to improve as a Public Health Dentist, with an ultimate aim to reach the pinnacle of my specialty."
The undergraduate category award was won by Zarna Patel from Narsinhbhai Patel Dental College and Hospital, Visnagar. Zarna commented:

"Receiving this award is like childhood dream come true. It has boosted my confidence hugely and will remain a very prestigious memory of my life. I am glad for what it represents and it will be very helpful for my future career. I intend to spend the prize money on participating in International Conferences and some research activities."

Runners up certificates were given to Satinder Kaur, Sakshi Garg, Ishmeet Nagpal in the post-graduate and Shafali Patel and Yashwini Rathore in the undergraduate categories, respectively.

This year’s competition was incredibly successful. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part.

Tony Volpe
King’s Fellow

In July Dr Tony Volpe, the former vice president of Clinical Research and Scientific Affairs from the Colgate-Palmolive Company, became a new Fellow of King’s College London.

Commenting on Dr Volpe’s appointment as Fellow of the College, Professor Dianne Rekow said: ‘I am delighted to recognise Dr Volpe who I have known over many years as a distinguished researcher and clinician.

‘He has worked tirelessly to support the Senior Dental Leaders programme at King’s College London.’
Dental Electives

Our e-depository website for recording dental volunteering projects serves three main functions:

1. Allows dental students and practitioners to upload projects they have undertaken in order to help future volunteers and highlight the needs of those whom they have visited;

2. Supports students and practitioners in learning as well as sharing their volunteering experiences;

3. Aids fundraising, either for individuals themselves or for the projects they are engaged in.

This year we received numerous projects from causes around the world, including Honduras, Myanmar, Haiti and Papau New Guinea.

IFDH Collaboration

This year we began a new collaboration with the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH).

The collaborative venture will recognise with a prize commendable efforts in social responsibility projects by Dental Hygienists globally. The prize promotes awareness of social responsibility within the dental profession.

Recently the 2014 winners of the GCDFund dental elective prize for members of the International Federation of Dental Hygienists were announced.

A panel of experts from the GCDFund and IFDH judged the competition.

The 1st place winner was Carol Martin from the U.S.A. with her project entitled ‘The Road Less Traveled’. This project involves providing dental services and education in remote villages in southern Honduras.

1st runner up was Ronald Knevel for the project entitled ‘Buddhi Bangara Project’, supporting the improvement of the oral health of Nepalese people and professionalising the dental hygiene profession in Nepal.

2nd runner up was Aygol Vermot Babaki for the project ‘Swiss Dental Help in Myanmar’. The project aims to provide dental health education and care to the disadvantaged people of Myanmar, and will distribute toothbrushes and other necessary dental equipment.

The organisations are also collaborating to update the ‘Young Dentists’ portal of the GCDFund website, to include ‘Young Dental Hygienists’, and to provide a free resource focused on social responsibility and leadership skills.
What next for 2015?

Next year we will continue working on our full suite of programmes, and additionally start planning for both our 10 year anniversary in 2016, and our strategic roadmap for the period 2016-2026.

The ten year strategic plan will set the tone for the charity, and our supporters and sponsors. We will engage with individuals and organisations to develop critical partnerships and underpin our resources. SDL-10 will take place in 2016 at King’s College, London. There, we will launch the roadmap and show how we will support our growing SDL alumni. We believe that this growing alumni will address the global challenge of early childhood caries, especially among the most disadvantaged in our society.

Although we look forward to shaping tomorrow, the problems of today and tomorrow are of the upmost importance. Of particular note, next year we will continue fundraising for our Philippines project alongside the NGOs Philos and I-Check. It is planned that 2 dental clinics will be built in elementary schools, with the dentist being part of the school team undertaking daily supervised brushing alongside prevention and treatment. Visiting dentists and students from the Philippines, the US and the UK will supplement the dental service.

We look forward to working with you all next year as we dream and plan together.

Help us support the world’s most disadvantaged children by donating at: www.gcdfund.org

You can also send a donation by post if you prefer.

Please make cheques payable to ‘The Global Child Dental Fund’ and post to Rooms 329-331, 26-29 Drury Lane, London, WC2B 5RL with your name, address, telephone number and email.
If you would like to know how you can help us improve the dental health of the most disadvantaged children worldwide, please contact us:

Email: info@gcdfund.org  |  Visit: www.gcdfund.org

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