

Interview of Past President of World Dental Federation (FDI)

Dr. Roberto Vianna

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(Interviewed by Dr. Swapnil S. Bumb)
(Editor in chief - IJSS)



1. Tell us about yourself

I consider myself a world citizen. I went to good schools and had a comfortable middle class life provided by my father aviator, Aloisio and my mother Neuza. I graduated in dentistry in 1965 from the old University of Brazil, where besides the obligations with my curricular activities I participated intensely on political, social and sports activities. At this time there were no graduate courses in dentistry in Brazil which made me seek the Master's Course in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Indiana, in the United States.

I have three children and a big family of many uncles and cousins that meets a lot of my leisure time.

2. Did you always wanted to be a dentist?

The idea of alleviating pain and bringing people back to a comfortable life was the main reason I choose dentistry so I should say that I became a dentist because I wanted to serve the others.

3. So after you got into dental school, how did the things went on?

Returning to Brazil in 1971 with a solid academic background, I decided to pursue a Professional mixed career. I started my private clinic specializing in pediatric dentistry and in order to pursue a career in Teaching, I enrolled myself in a public Contest to join the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

4. Your achievements in Field of Dentistry?

I feel that I had contributed to demonstrate that it is possible to assure, with quality, a world platform for Dentistry where the dialogue is the ideal way to deal with the most serious challenges that an individual or a national dental associations might have with the globalization.

I had opportunity to strengthen relationships and to share knowledge, technology and development. As an example of this behavior I shall mention the election for the first time, in more than a century, of a candidate from Latin America to the presidency of the World Dental Federation-FDI.

5. Brief about your research activities and publications?

Graduated in DENTISTRY Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (1965), Masters in Pediatric Dentistry - Indiana University (1971), PhD in Dentistry, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (1996) and post - doctorate in Leadership and Social Sciences from the WK Kellogg Foundation in partnership with Michigan State University(1999).

Clinical Researcher in dentistry with emphasis on pediatric dentistry, mainly in the following topics: dentistry, oral health, nitrous oxide, conscious sedation, preventive dentistry. Participated in more than 180 dental events and published over 100 scientific papers between original articles, reviews, abstracts, book chapters and books.

6. Do you think that research activities should be promoted in every dental school?

We could suggest that the only way for us to increase our knowledge would be by studying the literature or doing research, so there is no way for a dental school to develop without a solid background in Research activities.

7. Importance of research in the Field of dentistry according to you?

The importance of research is evident. It is through the use of indexes on a scientific method that researchers can measure and seek solutions to problems with this importance becoming even greater when it comes to health issues.

8. What one Change/Improvement you would like to bring in field of dentistry?

The individual who chooses the profession of Dental Surgeon, with a few exception, will always have as his main objective to open a private

practice, showing his tendency toward personal and individual values, rather than social and collective ones.

We should try to change this paradigm in order to foster a professional more oriented by the social and health needs of the population.

9. Your view about "International Journal of Scientific Study"

The "International Journal of Scientific Study" is an innovative Project providing support to the readers in the fields of dentistry that want to create new communities of practice.

It also increases the cooperation between researchers by facilitating the dissemination of scientific knowledge, methods and research techniques.

10. Your message to all those Who are reading this interview

I hope this interview can be a stimulus to reflection of the DDS and dental students of the new directions that the profession must follow in this new century.