



# 15th World Congress on Public Health

3-7 April 2017 Melbourne Australia [www.wcph2017.com](http://www.wcph2017.com)

## Universal dental care provision – will it really improve oral health?

Wednesday 5 April 2017, 1600 - 1800, Room 111/112

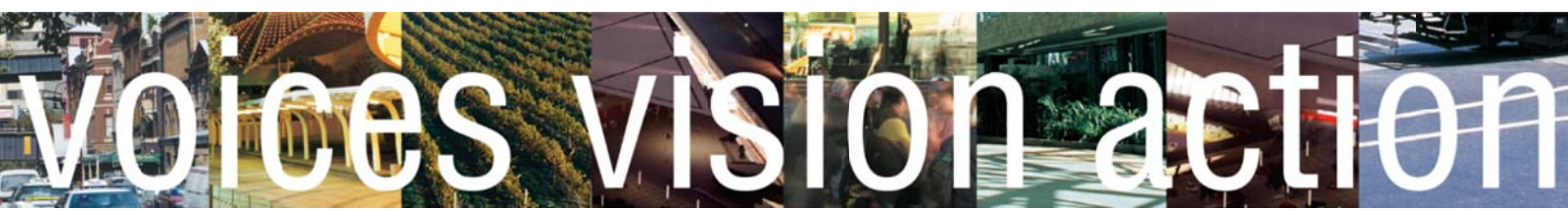
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Lead	Professor Raman Bedi, WFPHA Oral Health Working Group
Speakers	Marsha Butler, Colgate-Palmolive
	Bruce Simmons, WFPHA Oral Health Working Group
	Ralph Fuccillo, Dentaquest Foundation
	Professor Raman Bedi, WFPHA Oral Health Working Group
	Irene Adyatmaka, University of Indonesia
	Mike Covey

As we complete this decade experiencing the same challenges in improving world oral health as we started with, we question whether continuing to focus on increasing access to oral health care will foster significant long-term change in disease burden. WFPHA's recent Global Charter for the Public's Health is a new way of looking at global health; this dialogue will explore how the next decade of oral health care can be applied to fit this framework.

Dental caries is so widespread that dentists are no longer the only solution. New strategies and partnerships for world oral health are urgently needed. This can only be achieved through radical system change transforming dental care and oral health promotion. Previous calls for a move from treatment to prevention are simply not comprehensive enough and have lacked innovative action. We will therefore use this dialogue to change the debate from unmet dental needs, access to care and provider qualifications to a far-reaching debate on how to radically improve oral health provision worldwide. This must include stronger oral health education and far greater public awareness.

We will debate if universal oral health education should overtake universal dental care provision as a way forward. We will ask how the Global Charter can be used creatively to promote multi-sectoral and integrative approaches to oral health within the wider global health arena. We will elaborate on a key solution to establish collaborative Regional Oral Health Centres to co-ordinate local training and educational projects, promote oral health to neighbouring countries, train workforces





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and provide leadership guidance and development. We will also debate how such Regional Centres can be used to better integrate oral health into public health.

