

## Expanding professionalism and extending volunteerism for better oral health

Dental professionals are seeing an influx of new and improved technology that can help them be more efficient and effective in their practice. In the last 20 years, our profession has known several revolutions; dental implant, new techniques, new materials and now we talk about digital dentistry. These technologies are going to make our work much safer and efficient, it is obviously the future. Of course, it is crucial that all dentists follow that stream, get the proper training and make the right decision. In this competitive world, will the new dentistry solely evolve through the technologies.

Actually, what motivates patients is not only the quality of your dentistry, but the idea they have of it, the way they perceive it. The way we communicate, the non-verbal body language, the empathy, all the components are fundamental to attract, convince and motivate the patients. This is more difficult task, when it touches emotions creating trust, how you express yourself. Not only do we need to make good decisions for our patients but we need to apply these decisions in a way that is professional and ultimately helps our patients. Thus, professionalism is an important component of dental and medical contract with society. We must look a step ahead and beyond the technical aspects of our job. We must take into account the human aspect.

When we think about professional development and growth, it is often in terms

of continuing education, job-related skills or job responsibilities, but we do not think about volunteerism seriously. Volunteerism can provide personal growth, satisfaction, development of new skill, professional development. It has been the lifeblood of many groups throughout the countries and continues to be a driving force today.

In line with the theme of this conference, let us expand professionalism and extend volunteerism for better oral health in the coming years.

### **Prof. Tin Tun Hla**

Chairman, Academic committee

### **References:**

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