November 21, 2017

To: Dr. Lauri Hicks
Director, Office of Antibiotic Stewardship
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotions
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: International College of Dentists
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Dear Dr. Lauri Hicks,

A relationship was established in early 2016 between the International College of Dentists (ICD) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “Get Smart About Antibiotics” program. The Mission Statement of this partnership is “To form an ICD/CDC Get Smart partnership that would disseminate critical information on Antibiotic Resistance and Appropriate Antibiotic Use to ICD fellows worldwide”. The ICD Get Smart About Antibiotics program was launched during the ICD Infection Control & Safety Train-the-Trainer two-day program for dental educators at the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences in New Delhi, India (Feb. 22-23, 2016) and was also included as part of the “Infection Control in Dentistry” workshop held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (Sept. 6-7, 2016).

This partnership was announced in the June 2016 issue of the ICD e-newsletter The College Today, at which time the ICD Get Smart About Antibiotics webpage was established for access worldwide. The webpage’s “Resources and Updates” section is updated monthly with links to CDC resources of importance, for all ICD Fellows to review. This program is also featured on ICD Facebook.

It is the purpose of this letter to request that the ICD/CDC Get Smart initiative become a partnership. The ICD currently has formal affiliations with the following organizations: World Health Organization, FDI World Dental Federation, Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders, and the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention.

The ICD is a registered partner with the CDC for Get Smart Week 2016 and is promoting this effort to its Fellows worldwide (Get Smart Week Press Release). An update on the ICD/CDC Get Smart partnership was presented to the ICD Councillors and Officers from more than 20 countries globally on Oct. 22, 2016 in Denver and was enthusiastically received.

Goal number 1 of the National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria is to “Slow the Development of Resistant Bacteria and Prevent the Spread of Resistant Infections”. The ICD is supporting this goal by providing its Fellows with critical information on antimicrobial resistance and appropriate use of antibiotics in dentistry and medicine. This important information can be used in their practices, taught in educational institutions, and shared with their communities. Goal number 5 of this document is to “Improve International Collaboration and Capacities for Antibiotic Resistance Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Antibiotic Research and Development. This is a main goal of the ICD/CDC Get Smart partnership as ICD is an international organization, providing a key link by sharing information about AMR globally. This is a perfect fit for ICD.

The ICD welcomes CDC to share summaries of this ICD/CDC Get Smart About Antibiotics program commitment online, and appreciates the support and assistance that CDC has provided to this partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. John V. Hinterman, Secretary General
Dr. John B. Tullner, ICD Get Smart Co-Chairman

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