

# News insight

the recession has given us is we are struggling to find funding and resources to put quality volunteer programmes in place. Our initial efforts will be spent on the GDL initiative and a wider volunteering programme will follow if we can secure more funding.

## **Are both charities very much focused on a long-term plan?**

Both charities are focused on the enormous need and mindful of the fact that every opportunity needs to be taken to improve the oral health of children and disadvantaged communities worldwide. They have been approaching similar problems in different ways and neither has been seeking short-term 'fixes'. We have not yet worked on a joint long term plan but have agreed to travel together and in doing so seek to find effective long term plans for achieving the mission and vision we clearly share.

## **Dental disease is low down the global health agenda. How can policy-makers be persuaded to make it a priority when there are other health issues to tackle?**

True, it isn't a killer like other global health issues but its significance is underrated. Oral health does not just involve the mouth but is intertwined with the health of the whole body. It needs to be remembered that dental caries is the most common chronic non-communicable disease in the world.

## **Will Raman be able to pinpoint areas of need with regard to equipment shipment? Is this tricky to ascertain at the moment for Dentaaid?**

Raman's networks will add to those already established by Dentaaid with

regard to equipment shipment. We hope to explore some more creative ways to use refurbished equipment and have begun to work supplying autoclaves to dental hospitals and clinics. Raman's involvement will add a more proactive element to ascertaining places where equipment could be used.

## **Will Dentaaid expand its responsibilities with Raman as clinical director?**

Dentaaid's strategic objectives already encompass all the aspects of global oral health we wish to address and the ways we hope to do this. These were devised by Dr Robert Yee, who was formerly director of Oral Health with Dentaaid.

Raman's involvement will help the charity deliver more fully on these and makes available his expertise and professional skills to assist Dentaaid to develop and increase the positive oral health outcomes for the underserved communities we seek to help.

## **The charity estimates that every year over a million people worldwide are safely relieved of oral pain thanks to this commitment. By how much could this increase with this collaboration?**

We believe that we have a balance of skills and experience that offers scope to make a bigger impact on the global health agenda, and not just in the numbers, which themselves could increase significantly through our collaboration. To achieve this, however, we need a wider collaboration to occur by being able to engage the goodwill, tangible support and moral encouragement of the dental profession and industry alongside us and we shall be continuing to seek this as we go forward.