DENTAL TRIBUNE

The World's Dental Newspaper · Asia Pacific Edition

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IDS flourishes despite economic trouble

Overseas sales rescue German dental industry from declining domestic market

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

LEIPZIG, Germany: The world's largest dental show has defied the economic gloom. According to a preliminary report released by the organiser Koelnmesse at the end of March, the number of visitors this year increased by 6.9 per cent to over 100,000. The number of exhibitors also rose by 4.5 per cent to 1,820. International companies held a 65 per cent share, an increase of 10 per cent compared with the previous show in 2007.

The results confirm a slight decline in the German domestic market, which is significant for the local dental industry. Sales have dropped by 2.6 per cent to €1.58 billion compared with 2007; this is attributed mainly to financial constraints in the dental and dental technology sectors in the last quarter of 2008. Although dental physicians are the group of medical specialists who are the most willing to invest in the establishment of clinics, according to the latest results of the Institute of German Dental Physicians (IDZ), the overall investment trend has fallen significantly.

Visitors are passing a banner last week at IDS Cologne. (DTI/Photo Koelnmesse)

However, a survey conducted by the Association of German Dental Manufacturers (VDDI) found that export business expectations for 2009 are positive overall in spite of varying business development in individual regions. VDDI Chairman, Dr Martin Rickert said that 83 per cent of the member companies surveyed expect a rise in, or at least consistent, overseas sales for 2009. The export quota of the companies traditionally operating as 'global players' is 57 per cent.

"It is good news that in spite of the turbulence in the financial market, the dental industry and the health economy can, overall, sustain as solid markets," Dr Rickert said during a press conference in Cologne. "IDS has confirmed its status as the international leading trade show in dentistry."

"We are certain that the show's outcome will give positive signals for the global dental market and international health markets as well," he added. DT

NY dental college boosts HIV research

Seeking to shed new light on HIV's ability to survive in the body and cause disease, the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has awarded a five-year, US$1.9 million grant to an AIDS research team at the New York University College of Dentistry to continue its study of a new mode of HIV replication that involves cooperation between viruses.

Dr David N. Levy, an Assistant Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, discovered the mechanism in an earlier study he conducted with the assistance of a one-year pilot grant from CFAR, The Center for AIDS Research at the NYU School of Medicine. He demonstrated that unintegrated viruses can replicate when they are assisted or "complemented" by viruses that successfully integrate with the DNA of infected cells. DT

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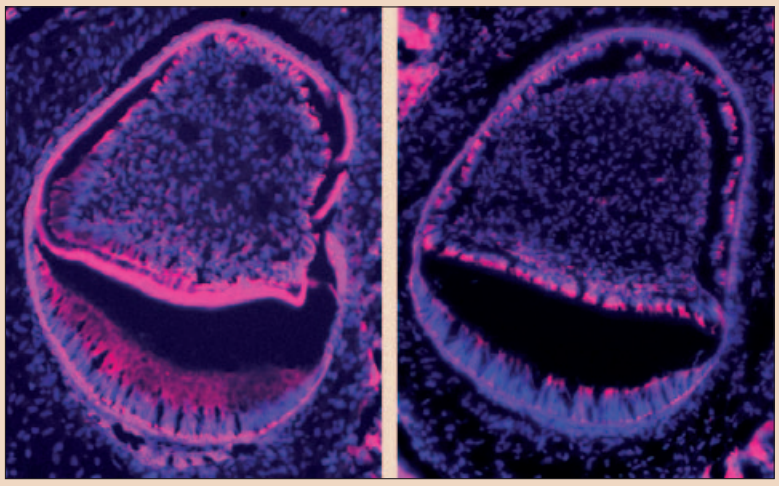

Two mouse teeth with different stages of ameloblast cells. In the right tooth a newly found gene responsible for tooth enamel production was deleted. (DTI/Photo OSU) ▸ WORLD NEWS, page 6

Oil giant helps children brush

Shell Petroleum in Brunei is donating US$6,750 to the country's Dental Health Pilot Project, which aims to help children to carry out regular brushing of their teeth. In the ASEAN region, Brunei ranks the worst in the number of youngsters under 12 with decayed, missing and filled permanent teeth. DT

Soft drinks under attack

In an attempt to reduce dental health problems, the Philippines has announced plans to tax soft drinks. Should the bill be ratified, the government will charge a 20 per cent duty on carbonated drinks through their inclusion in the list of non-essential goods in the country's National Internal Revenue Code. DT

Graduates in India leave dentistry

Many Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) graduates in India are forced to quit dentistry and work in other, more lucrative jobs, the newspaper the *Times of India* reports. Many of them, for example, would join a BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) or work in health insurance agencies, which pays three to four times better than beginner dental work. BDS graduates usually earn between US$40 and US$60 a month when they start working as a dentist.

Dental education in India has grown in recent years and now ranks first in the world in having the highest number of dental schools. The country has more than 250 dental institutions, which produce between 15,000 and 20,000 BDS graduates every year. DT

Malaysian rules hamper medical tourism

Physicians and dentists in Malaysia are not able to compete viably in the rising Asian medical tourism market. Unlike in other countries such as Singapore or Hong Kong, doctors in Malaysia are not allowed to provide anything other than names, qualifications, job titles, telephone numbers and places of practice in any form of advertisement. Moreover, all medical advertisements, including websites, have to be approved by the Ministry of Health's Medicine Advertisements Board (MAB).

The MAB's control has blockaded the advertising industry, barring it from foreign advertisements. Foreign health-care facilities and tourism agencies wanting to advertise in the media in Malaysia, including through advertorials, are still not allowed to name the health-care facilities for which they are advertising.

While Ministry officials claim they do their best to help promote medical tourism, other countries are extending their lead in the competition for foreign patients who seek treatment abroad. In the Philippines, where the 4th World Health Tourism Congress was held in March, the country's Department of Tourism established a significant medical tourism programme in 2006 already. According to the Department's figures, total spending by patient-tourists and wellness seekers has reached an estimated US$350 million per year, or an average spending per tourist of about US$3,500.

Thailand has also become a popular destination for medical tourists in Asia, earning the country more than US$1 billion a year. The Thai government has invested in many areas of the country's burgeoning medical tourism market, such as speeding visa clearance for patients and ensuring the highest standards through accreditation programmes. By now, 90 per cent of Australian dental patients that go abroad are visiting Thailand for treatment, according to the website *RevaHealth.com*.

Recently, Malaysia's Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai told the newspaper the Star that health care is not just another commodity for sale in the market and that any form of advertisement should not breach the medical code of ethics. Malaysian Medical Association president Datuk Dr Khoo Kah Lin added that his association is open to discussion with the health-care industry regarding innovative ways to make medical tourism more attractive but he would rather be conservative than over-advertise. DT

Martial arts film star to promote global health

WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan with WHO Goodwill Ambassador Jet Li at the global launch of World Health Day 2009 in Beijing, China. (DTI/WHO, Photo Nick Otto)

World Health Organization Director-General Dr Margaret Chan has appointed internationally acclaimed film star Jet Li as Goodwill Ambassador. Beijing-born Li, who began studying Chinese martial arts at the age of eight and won his first Chinese national championship for the Beijing Wushu Team three years later, has starred in many movies in the Chinese Film Industry and Hollywood. As Goodwill Ambassador, the film star is expected to use his worldwide celebrity status to promote key health issues, including public health responses to emergencies and mental health. For example, he recently attended the launch of World Health Day 2009 in Beijing on 7 April, where he spread the World Health Day message of making hospitals safe during emergencies.

"I am very pleased to appoint Jet Li as a Goodwill Ambassador for WHO," said Dr Chan speaking from Sichuan in China where she was attending an international conference on health responses to natural disasters. "Jet Li's commitment to promoting community involvement and young people's participation in social and health issues will be a great asset to WHO's work."

"He has been personally involved in providing emergency response following natural disasters and has promoted mental health amongst youth. We are grateful that he is willing to use his energy and fame to promote health and well-being," Dr Chan said.

After experiencing the South Asian tsunami in 2004, Li took a break from acting, turned his attention to philanthropy and set up a charitable foundation. He has been involved in emergency response to earthquakes in China and has set up programmes to help young people cope with psychosocial challenges and find a balance in life.

"I would like to thank WHO for this great honour and opportunity," Jet Li said in response to his appointment as WHO Goodwill Ambassador. "Health is essential to the well-being of humanity, and I am very happy that WHO trusts me to take on this important responsibility. If we do not take care of our bodies, we will not be able to do many things. This is our common belief, and I will do my very best to spread this shared belief to the world". DT

Aussie government rebuked for dental health programme

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) is urging the Federal Government of Australia not to further delay implementation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in the light of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's recent proposal to include dental services in a Medicare-type scheme. Through the Commonwealth Dental Health Program (CDHP), the Government has promised to provide funding for state and territories to deliver public dental services and help to clear the backlog of people waiting for public dental treatment. The Program aims for one million additional public dental visits by providing AUS$290 million (US$210 million) over a period of three years.

"We welcome the recognition by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission of the need for increased Commonwealth involvement in the provision of public dental services," said Ms Prue Power, Executive Director of the AHHA. "However, we are concerned that the debate about the implementation of the Commission's proposed 'Denticare' scheme may delay implementation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program."

Ms Power said that over 100,000 pensioners and low income earners have missed out on promised dental services due to the Senate stalemate over the implementation of the proposed Commonwealth Dental Health Program which is a Government election commitment and targets pensioners and low income earners who often struggle to afford private dental services. The current stalemate in the Senate has left thousands of Australians without access to promised dental services, she added.

AHHA has proposed a solution to this Senate stalemate very similar the DentiCare scheme proposed by the Commission. It reduces the scope of the Medicare Chronic Disease Dental Program by excluding more complex dental care such as crowns, bridges, implants and orthodontics, thereby freeing sufficient funds to implement of the CDHP for low income earners.

"We therefore urge the Government and the Opposition Senators to support the alignment of the scope of the Chronic Disease Dental Program with the proposal for DentiCare so that the Commonwealth Dental Health Program can be implemented without further delay," Ms Power said. DT

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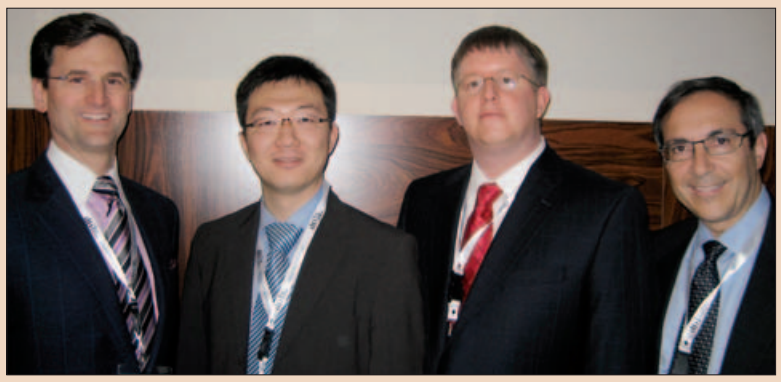
First global incubator launched for dentistry

Claudia Salwiczek
DTI

LEIPZIG, Germany: Launched at the Greater New York Dental Meeting in December 2008, Dentcubator is the world's first virtual incubator for dental innovations. With currently 65 shareholders in 11 countries, Dentcubator aims to help develop and fund innovative ideas for the dental market. Proposals can be sent either to a member of one of the ten panels or to ideas@dentcubator.com.

They are referred to one often committees, whose members are globally renowned speakers, educators and inventors like Stephen Buchanan, John McSpadden, Sonia Leziy, Sascha Jovanovic, or Jörg Strew. Every idea is evaluated not only for its own efficacy, but also for its ability to be redesigned for the emerging markets. Next, the idea is passed on to a screening committee that makes helpful suggestions about how the patent holders can further improve their product. Ideas that are deemed worthy of funding are passed on to Dentcubator for financial support, branding, marketing, advertising and access to the general dental market. DT



Dentcubator evaluation committee members Dr Michael Silverman, Seattle, USA, Dr Huan Huang, China, Douglas Johnson, Tulsa, USA, und Dr Louis Malcmacher, Cleveland, USA (from left to right) recently gathered at the IDS show in Cologne. (DTI/Photo Claudia Salwiczek)

New compound to fight caries

Research conducted at the Health Sciences University of Hokkaido in Japan has found that CSA-13, a antimicrobial compound from Ceragenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in the United States, had potent bactericidal activity against all 23 strains of oral bacteria related to dental caries and periodontal disease including protease positive strains. The strains tested were isolates of *Streptococccus mutans* and *Poryphyromonas species* that are responsible for dental caries and periodontal disease.

CSA-13 is a Ceragenin compound which is composed of a group of rapidly active broad spectrum bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidals with potent activity. "Since CSA-13 is not peptide based, it is not a substrate for the proteases that are found in the oral cavity, which are capable of degrading antimicrobial peptides," said lead investigator Dr Emiko Isogai, a Professor at the Department of Disease Control and Molecular Epidemiology at the Health Sciences University of Hokkaido. "The simplicity of the Ceragenins make them easier to prepare and purify than antimicrobial peptides."

Steve Porter, Chairman and CEO of Ceragenix, stated that his company has seen increasing interest in their Ceragenin technology from medical device and pharmaceutical companies as a result of the emerging drug resistant bacteria in daily life. He added that the company's first joint development and commercialisation transactions for their technology are expected to occur later this year. DT

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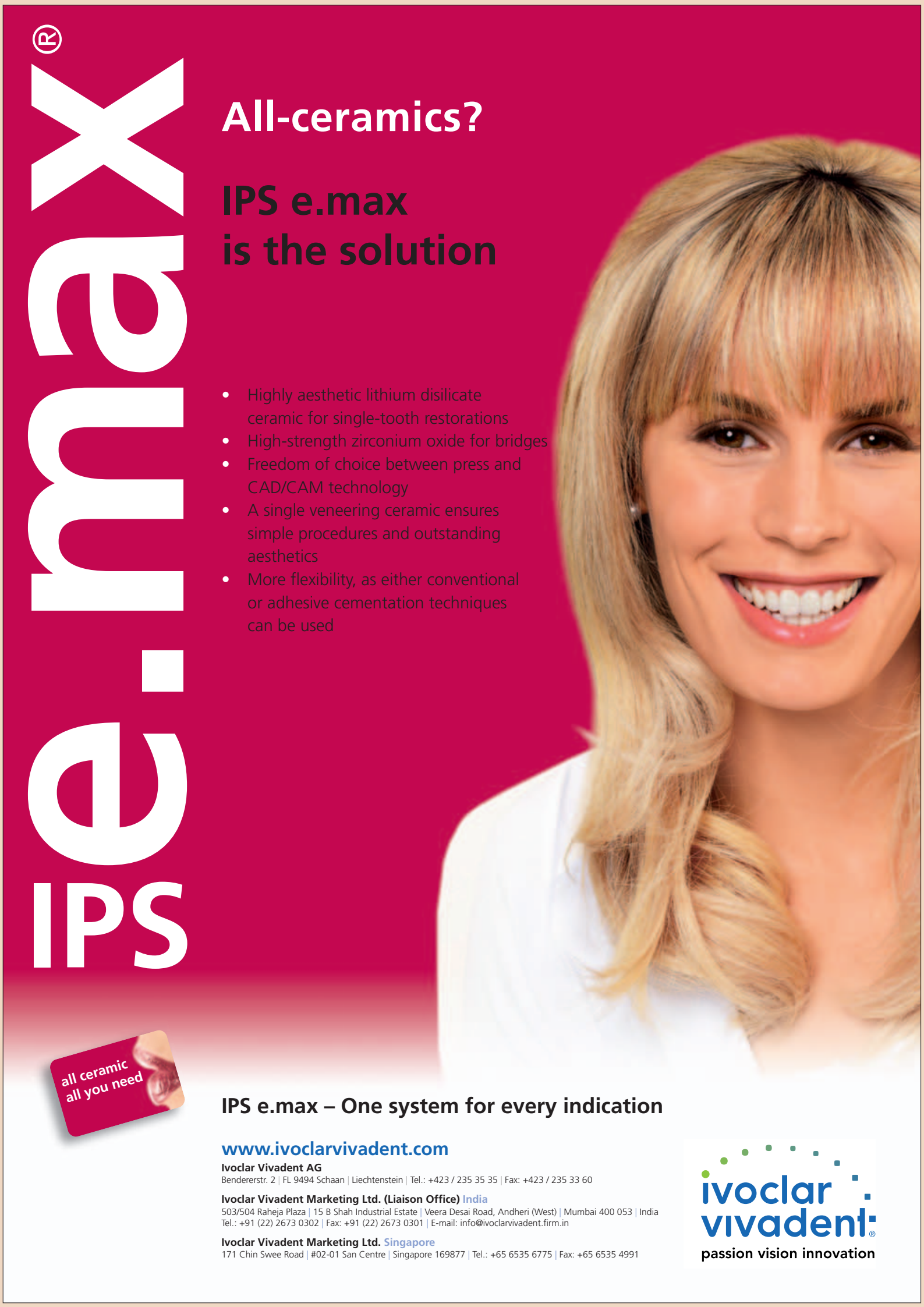

Dear reader,

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

Do you remember sending your first e-mail? I see myself in 1995 sitting in a dark basement in my first year at university, exchanging short messages with a friend next to me, on a 486 PC that was state-of-the-art at the time. Since then so much has changed. What was just fooling around back then has become an everyday commodity that most of us cannot imagine living without.

Some experts have claimed that the Internet is one of the most significant inventions of the last 50 years and, indeed, some projects have changed our lives to various levels. With the Internet, it has never been easier to access and share information all around the world within just a few seconds. Today, we are able to buy goods or talk to people around the globe with just the click of a mouse. Giants like Google offer so many services that we can hardly escape them in our everyday lives.

However, in dentistry, especially in dental publishing, the race for revolutionary projects is still on. Many publishers, including ourselves, have long underestimated the many possibilities that the Internet has to offer, sometimes because we were afraid of neglecting our print offers and therefore, our main business model for the last 100 years. But this is changing. Dentists have often been conservative when it comes to adapting new technologies but now the age structure is shifting in many countries, making way for a new generation of dentists who have grown up with Internet technologies and are open to their many opportunities.

With our new website and the DT Study Club online education platform, both successfully launched in early March, Dental Tribune is striving to take the lead. On these platforms, we do not only offer news that will help you to stay ahead in the profession but also a number of tools that will give you the chance to interact with colleagues and international experts. We invite you to join us in this endeavour. DT

Daniel Zimmermann
Group Editor
Dental Tribune International

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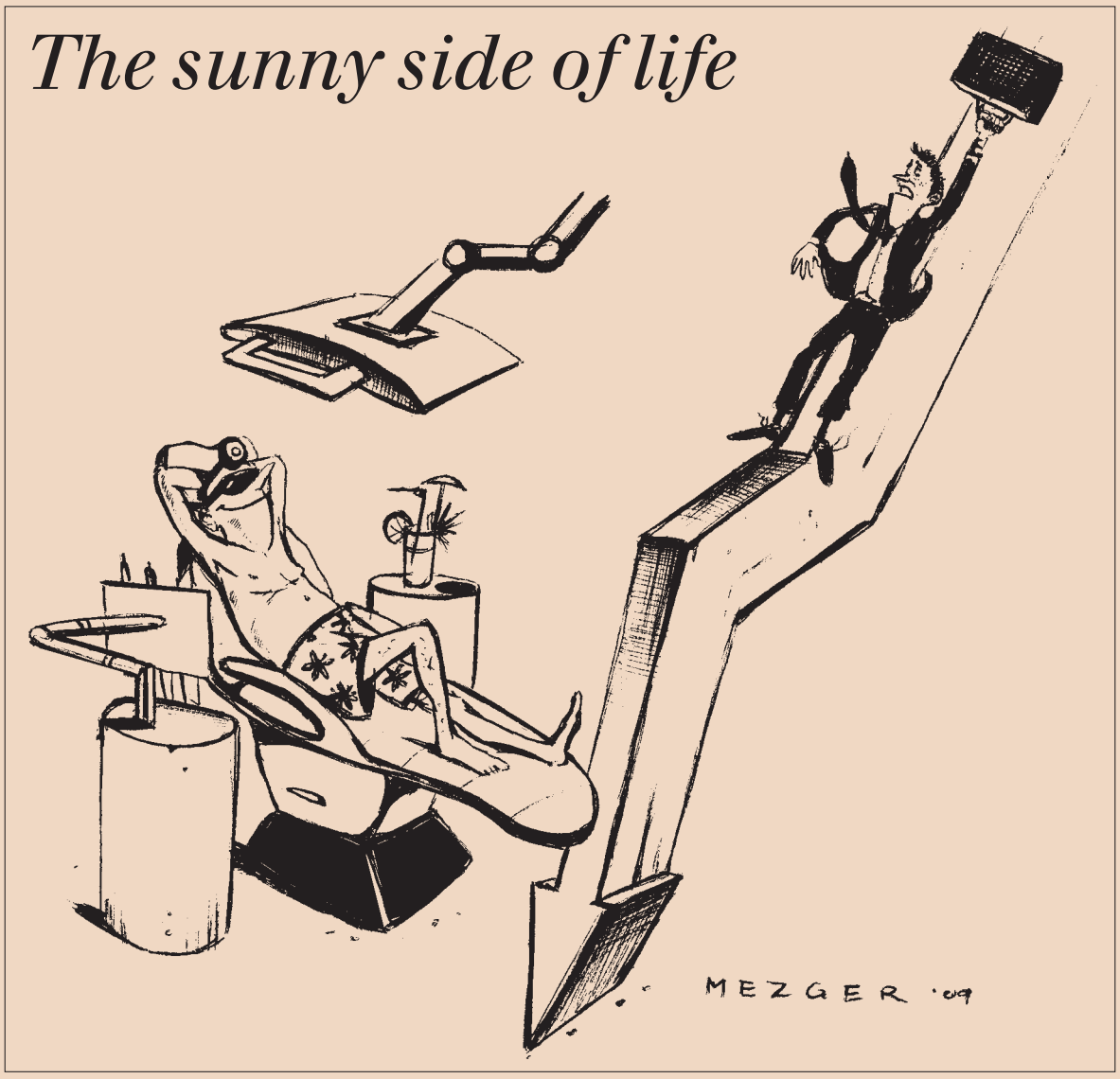
The sunny side of life



Dental care in Australia

Hans Zoellner
Australia

Australians enjoy equitable access to medical services supported by universal Medicare insurance, an effective Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, community-rated private insurance, as well as the provision of both intern training and services beyond private sector capacity by public hospitals. When the Australian government established the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission in 2008 to inform structural health reform, it correctly identified exclusion of dentistry from some of these structures as a core problem.

The Commission's interim recommendations for the entire health system range from Option A, which proposes minimal change, to a contentious Option C, in which Medicare would be replaced by federally funded social health insurance. Importantly, the Commission has proposed the establishment of Denticare universal insurance similar to Option C. The 0.75 per cent Denticare levy would be distributed directly to private health insurance companies rather than as patient rebates. Notably, federal Denticare payment to insurers would be risk adjusted, breaking the Australian convention of community rating. People without private insurance would receive Denticare via federally funded expansion of public dental services. The Commission has also recommended the introduction of a one-year dental internship, as well as additional funding for oral health promotion and the expansion of school dental services.

The Association for the Promotion of Oral Health has long sought internships and oral health promotion, so our response to the Commission on these points is confined to relatively minor suggestions, including the expansion of internships to two years. In addition, we support the intent of Denticare.

However, there are significant difficulties with the Denticare model suggested. In particular, Denticare is currently planned to exclude many important dental services, including multi-canal endodontics, lower partial dentures, and crowns. Also, the restrictive Denticare list would have the effect of constraining the skills of new graduates during internships, rather than expanding their skills. PricewaterhouseCoopers, commissioned by the Commission to cost Denticare, makes special note in its document that Professor John Spencer of the University of Adelaide recommended the specific range of services for Denticare. We acknowledge Professor Spencer's eminence as an epidemiologist but believe experienced senior clinicians and clinical academics would have provided better advice. We also do not believe the public sector can expand sufficiently to accommodate those without health insurance, representing 55 per cent of Australians, in order to support Denticare adequately as currently planned.

Moreover, Medicare has worked well for medicine in Australia, and we would prefer dentistry to be brought into the proven Medicare system, rather than see oral health experimented with in an untried Option C model. Indeed, comprehensive dental services supported by Medicare have already been successfully trialled for 132,000 Australians with chronic disease, through the Enhanced Primary Care Program established in November 2007. We suggest progressive expansion of current dental Medicare arrangements eventually to include the entire population. This could be converted to Option C–Denticare but only if the rest of the Australian health-care system is similarly modified. We are encouraged by the Commission's approach and hope it modifies its recommendations in accordance with our suggestions. DT

Contact Info

Hans Zoellner is Chair of the Association for the Promotion of Oral Health based in Sydney in Australia. He can be contacted at h.zoellner@usyd.edu.au.

Planning for the future

Friedrich Herbst
Germany

The famous German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche once said, "We have already gone beyond whatever *we have words* for." Have we already overcome the current global crisis that dominates in the media? If you happened to visit the 33rd IDS in Cologne in Germany this year, you would have been under the impression that this was the case. The floors and booths were crowded, filled with happy faces, and the show broke records in all respects.

In spite of this, the main topic at the assembly of the international dental manufacturers (idm) in Cologne was the present shifting in the finance markets and its possible effect on the future. After the gloom at the Chicago Midwinter Meeting in February, the members of the Dental Trade Alliance from the US were particularly surprised by the positive feedback at IDS. The momentary mood and facts, however, are two sides of the coin and apply to any prognosis in the dental sector.

Manufacturers of consumables have reported stable or marginally increasing sales figures. In the area of capital goods, however, manufacturers of equipment, such as practice fittings, dental units, imaging devices, and CAD/CAM, as well as manufacturers of dental implants have noticed a clear purchase restraint and the need for cutbacks in staff in order to cope with current market circumstances. In addition, companies that focus on dental technology have noticed the shift of the time-consuming and high-cost production of dentures to countries where labour and material costs are cheaper.

Markets will not grow if the services offered are too expensive. Competence and knowledge especially will be required to plan for the future. But the future is complex and cannot be managed by knowledge alone. Human spirit and emotional intelligence paired with ethics give rise to a socially responsible trade.

Persistence, hesitation, know-it-alls or daring do not elicit the desire to undertake new ventures. Only something completely new will give rise to new values and prosperity. DT

Contact Info

Friedrich Herbst is the Executive Director of international dental manufacturers (idm), an independent umbrella organisation that globally represents the common interests of the dental trade. He can be contacted at idm-vox@t-online.de.

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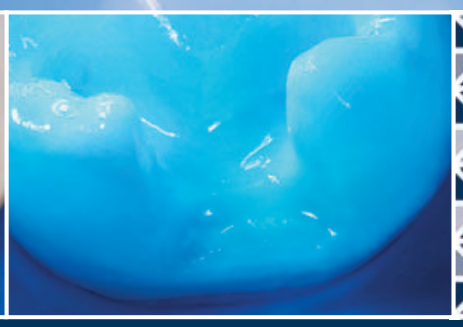

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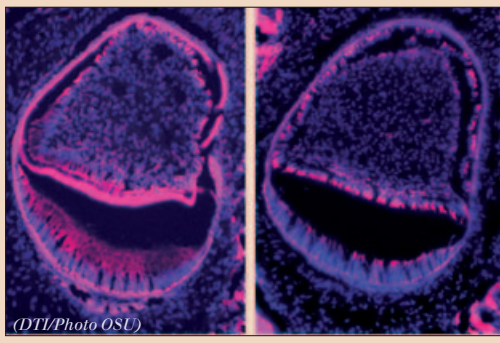
DENTAL TRIBUNE Asia Pacific Edition

Genetic discovery could lead to advances in dental treatment

Scientists find gene responsible for tooth enamel production

David Stauth
USA

Researchers have identified the gene that ultimately controls the production of tooth enamel, a significant advance that could some day lead to the repair of damaged enamel, a new concept in cavity prevention, and restoration or even the production of replacement teeth. The gene, called Ctip2, is a 'transcription factor' that was already known to have several functions—in immune response, and the development of skin and the nervous system. Scientists can now add tooth development to that list. The findings were just published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.


(DTI/Photo OSU)

"It's not unusual for a gene to have multiple functions, but before this we didn't know what regulated the production of tooth enamel," said Chrissa Kioussi, an assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy at Oregon State University. "This is the first transcription factor ever found to control the formation and maturation of ameloblasts, which are the cells that secrete enamel."

The researchers used a laboratory mouse model in this study in which this gene has been 'knocked out' and its protein is missing. Such mice lack basic biological systems and cannot live after birth, but allow scientists to study what is there, and what's missing. In this case, the mice had rudimentary teeth ready to erupt, but they lacked a proper enamel coating and never would have been functional.

"Enamel is one of the hardest coatings found in nature, it evolved to give carnivores the tough and long-lasting teeth they needed to survive," Kioussi said. With an understanding of its genetic underpinning, Kioussi said, it may be possible to use tooth stem cells to stimulate the growth of new enamel. Some research groups are already having success growing the inner portions of teeth in laboratory animal experiments, but those teeth have no hard coatings—the scientists lacked the genetic material that makes enamel.

"A lot of work would still be needed to bring this to human applications, but it should work," Kioussi said. "It could be really cool, a whole new approach to dental health."

Many people have problems with eroded tooth enamel, including people who smoke, drink and especially some who use illegal drugs such as methamphetamine. And most cavities start as a hole in tooth enamel that allows decay to begin.

This research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the OSU College of Pharmacy. The study was a collaboration of scientists from the OSU College of Pharmacy, College of Science and College of Engineering, and the Institut de Genetique et de Biologie Moleculaire et Cellulaire in France. DT

(Edited by Claudia Salwiczek))

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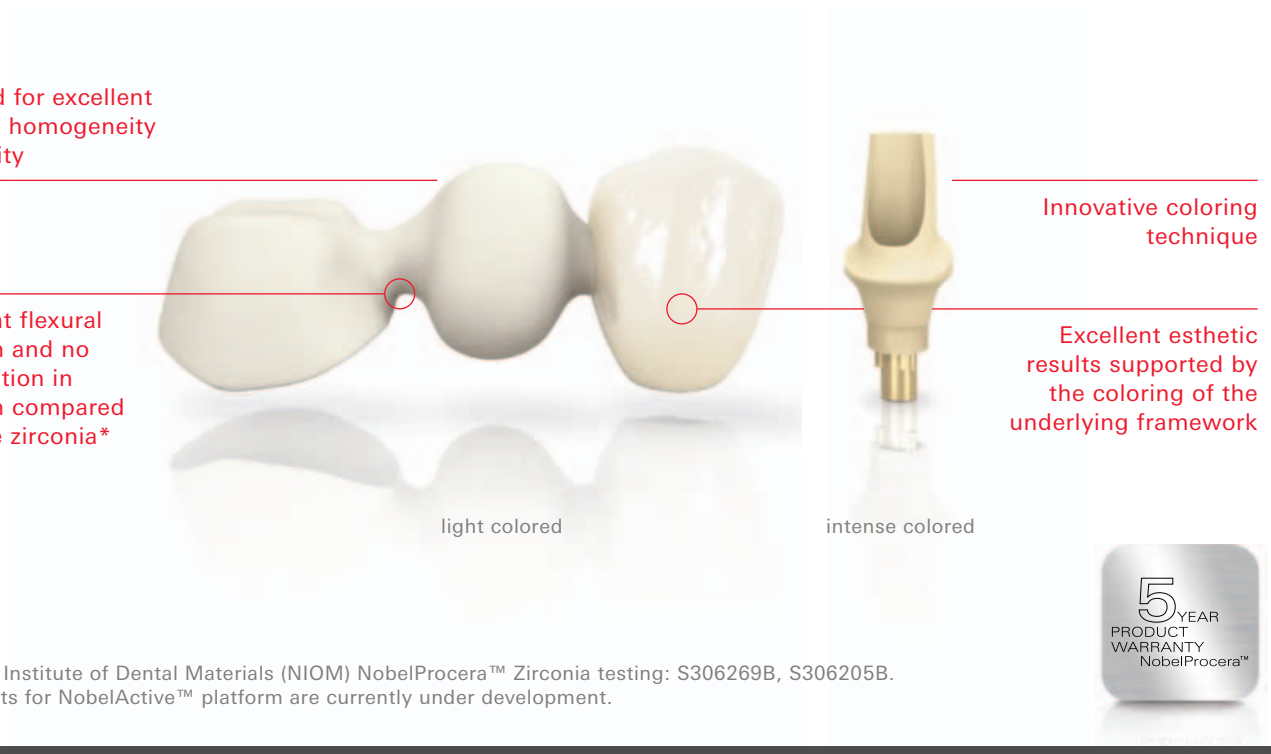

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IADR's Williams calls for excellence and impact in research

Attendees enter the IADR 87th Session and Exhibition at the Miami Beach Convention Center. (DTI/Photo Jan Agostaro)

Javier Martínez de Pisón
DT Latin America

MIAMI, FL, USA: The President-Elect of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), Dr David Williams, has encouraged colleagues to focus on conducting research that has practical significance for global oral health. In his speech at the IADR's 87th General Session and Exhibition in Miami, he said that the profession has a responsibility to ensure the continuation of research. "But in Europe we have a new mantra: Excellence with Impact," said Dr Williams in his speech entitled *Global Uncertainty and Global Challenges*, which was attended by 5,000 researchers, including a large contingent from Latin American and Asian dental schools, as well as presidents of the FDI World Dental Federation and of national dental organisations.

Dr J. M. 'Bob' ten Cate, IADR president, at the IADR 87th Session and Exhibition in Miami. (DTI/Photo Jan Agostaro)

The President-Elect said researchers as the torch-bearers of global oral health face a challenge: "We are well aware that the global burden of oral disease is immense and our leadership in these issues is essential". He added that dental caries is one of the most common chronic diseases worldwide, periodontal disease affects up to 15 per cent of the population, and oral cancer is the eighth most common cancer worldwide.

"We need fundamental research, to improve our basic understanding of the diseases which concern us," explained Dr Williams. "But we also need to deliver ethical, effective, evidence-based care. We need effective prevention, as well as more effective treatment, and we need to establish the kinds of workforce that are appropriate in different global settings. And all of this without thinking about the links between oral and systemic health, and the implications this could have for general health and well-being".

In addition, the current President of the IADR Dr J. M. 'Bob' ten Cate of the Netherlands called for an International Year of Oral Health within five years, to bring oral health to the attention of a significantly wider audience.

The IADR's 87th General Session and Exhibition in Miami was held from 1 to 4 April. Upcoming meetings are the World Congress on Preventive Dentistry in Phuket in Thailand, 7–10 September 2009, and the IADR General Session and Exhibition in Barcelona in Spain, 14–17 July 2010. DT

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medical technology

EU develops guidelines for use of Cone Beam imaging

(DTI/Photo Factoria singular fotografia)

Claudia Salwiczek
DTI

New guidelines have been established for European practitioners using Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT). The *Basic Principles on the use of Cone Beam CT*—developed by the European Academy of Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (EADMFR) in collaboration with the EU-funded SEDENTEXCT project—strive for the safe and ethical use of CBCT in dental surgeries.

"In many European countries, dentists can purchase and use CBCT without any additional training and so there was a pressing need to establish some guidelines," explained SEDENTEXCT coordinator Professor Keith Horner, University of Manchester, UK. "The 20 Basic Principles are aimed at protecting the patient and guiding the dentist towards good practice, covering important areas such as justification and optimisation of CBCT examinations and training of users."

Among the *Basic Principles* are guidelines about when CBCT examinations may be justified, as well information about training, equipment and safety measures. Dr Lennart Flygare, EADMFR President, said he hopes the document will become a core standard within Europe for dentists, dental specialists and equipment manufacturers. DT

AD

Agreement closed at Dubai meeting

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum (left) and Dr Burton Conrod at the Inauguration Ceremony in Dubai in March. (DTI/Photo Index)

Dentists from the Middle East and North Africa will soon be able to benefit from collaboration between the FDI World Dental Federation and the AEEDC meeting in Dubai. In early March, the AEEDC's Executive Chairman Abdul Salam Al Madani and the President of the FDI Dr Burton Conrod signed a memorandum of understanding that aims to provide registered members of the FDI and AEEDC with Continuing Education Programmes. Agreements were also closed between the AEEDC and dental associations in Iraq, Iran, and other Arab and Asian countries, which will allow more dentists to participate in AEEDC Dubai in 2010.

"AEEDC Dubai managed to impose itself as a strong competitor in holding high profile conferences and exhibitions," Dr Conrod said. "It provides an excellent opportunity for dentists in the Gulf Region to update their skills and knowledge while networking with colleagues from around the world."

AEEDC Dubai is one of the largest dental events in the Middle East. The most recent show boasted 20,000 trade visitors of whom 6,000 were conference attendees, according to a press release. An industry review also revealed that new contracts worth US$300 million were signed between exhibitors and local dealers.

AEEDC ranks fifth in the dental meeting survey conducted by the organisation international dental manufacturers (idm). In 2007, the AEEDC organisers hosted the FDI Annual World Dental Congress. DT

WORLDENTAL COMMUNIQUÉ

FDI World Dental Federation

SPECIAL EDITION:
2009 Congress issue

Message from the president

Each FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) has a distinctive flavour and presents the unique opportunity to learn about the culture and customs, as well as oral health issues, in another part of the world, which adds to the attraction of these meetings. This is the time of the year when both our FDI staff and the members of the local organising committee (LOC) shift into top gear as the excitement of the approaching congress builds. Knowing the members of the Singapore Dental Association as I do, I can assure you that a most memorable congress is in store for us this year.

FDI's Education Committee, working with the LOC, has an impressive array of speakers lined up for our scientific programme. The broad range of topics will include gerodontology, oral cancer, salivary biomarkers, and implants. Forums conducted as workshops will address current topics, such as bisphosphonates.

Anyone who has attended an international dental meeting in Singapore, like the biennial IDEM meeting, knows what excellent hosts our colleagues in Singapore are. The social events are planned to take advantage of the remarkable tourist attractions, as well as the marvellous climate and exciting cuisine enjoyed in this exquisite city. At Singapore Night, a sunset ride on the Singapore Flyer, the world's largest observation wheel, will

Dr Burton Conrod (DTI/FDI)

give spectacular views of the tropical paradise all the way to Indonesia. You will also enjoy exotic food while networking with international colleagues. The Gala Dinner at Orchidville also promises to be a memorable event, especially for those of us for whom such stunning tropical gardens are only seen in movies or on postcards!

The Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre is a modern venue providing all the facilities needed under one roof. This year, even the Welcome Ceremony will be held on-site, and with many excellent hotels close to the Centre attending all events will be very convenient.

Location, facilities, and scientific and social programmes are all important ingredients for a successful dental congress. The AWDC, however, is really all about people, and we need you in attendance to help us in *Advancing Dentistry at the Crossroads of the World*. FDI congresses are designed to promote oral health globally. Our Singapore colleagues are really putting out the welcome mat for us, and all our committees and staff have worked hard to deliver a first-class congress.

See you in Singapore! FDI

Dr Burton Conrod
FDI President

Limited attendance courses

Spotlight on limited attendance courses at FDI AWDC Singapore 2009

(DTI/FDI)

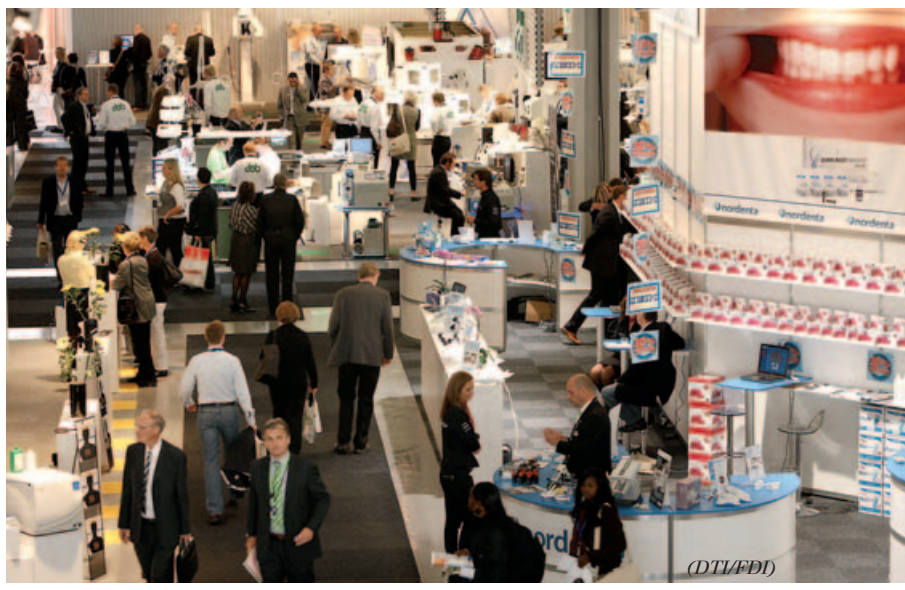
How do limited attendance courses differ from those offered in the main scientific programme? What additional perspectives do they offer congress attendees? The FDI has created limited attendance courses to give congress attendees the opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills from renowned international experts in their field in a more personal setting. The dental topics addressed in these courses are best delivered to smaller groups in a practical hands-on setting.

At the congress in Singapore, the limited attendance courses will be held on Tuesday 1 September, the day before the main scientific programme of the FDI AWDC begins.

This year, the courses cover a wider range of clinical subjects, such as endodontics, sinus lift implant surgery, third molar surgery, the immediate overdenture, paedodontic emergencies, practice management, and paedodontic behavioural management.

Detailed information on each of the limited attendance courses can be found on the FDI website. FDI

World Dental Exhibition



(DTI/FDI)

At this year's FDI AWDC in Singapore—known for its advancements in technology and keen business sense—the FDI World Dental Exhibition is sure to follow suit, spotlighting all of the latest innovations in the dental industry and showcasing the full range of all the top companies from around the globe.

The exhibition is free of charge to all those registered for the congress; for those who wish to explore the exhibition only, passes can be purchased on-site for a small fee.

Please look at our website for opening hours and the regularly updated list of exhibitors. FDI

News in brief

(DTI/Daniel Zimmermann)

Scientific programme

More than 50 sessions over 6 days structured around this year's theme of *Advancing Dentistry at the Crossroads of the World* will highlight the latest advancements and techniques in the dentistry world.

Registration

Those wishing to attend the Congress need to complete the registration forms and return them to the FDI head office by 25 July 2009. After this date, participants are invited to register on-site at the Congress venue.

Take advantage of the early bird rates by registering before 15 May 2009.

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