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Zimmer reveals Next Gen dental implant design with osseointegration functionality

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

ATHENS, Greece: A Tapered Screw-Vent implant featuring osseointegration was revealed by US manufacturer Zimmer Dental at the Annual Congress of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO) last month in Athens in Greece. The new design has an osteoconductive midsection made of Trabecular Metal, a highly biocompatible material with a structure similar to cancellous bone, and is compatible with the company's Tapered Screw-Vent Surgical Kit and range of prosthetics.

Trabecular Metal has been already used for more than a decade in many of Zimmer's orthopaedic devices. Made from tantalum, a rare and highly corrosion resistant metal already used in the fabrication of dental implants since the 1950s, it offers high porosity that allows bone around implant sites to grow not only onto the material but also into it—a process known as osseointegration.



The new implant design with the porous osteoconductive midsection made of Trabecular Metal. (DTI/Photo Annemarie Fischer)

Zimmer acquired the technology from an acquisition of the Implex Corporation in 2005.

Studies on dental implants containing Trabecular Metal in canine mandibular models began in 2010 and showed evidence of ingrowth by maturing bone as

early as two weeks after implantation. According to the company, data collection from human trials, is currently being done with the first long-term results expected to be available soon.

Zimmer has gained CE approval for the implant in Europe

and anticipates market approval for the USA through the Food and Drug Administration in the upcoming weeks. Information about when the implant will be first available to implant specialists in Asian markets was not disclosed at the EAO meeting. [DTI](#)

Dog stem cells let bone grow

Stem cells derived from dog teeth and dental pulp have shown the potential to help re-grow bone tissue when transplanted into a parent animal, scientists from the Nagoya University School of Medicine in Japan report. Their discovery could pave the way for stem cell therapy in oral maxillo-facial surgery and other medical fields like the reconstruction of bone tissue of the musculoskeletal system.

In their pre-clinical study, the researchers extracted primary teeth from puppies and grafted them onto parent canine jawbones as an allograft. Evaluating the progress of bone formation after several weeks, they found that defects had been repaired were prepared and demonstrated well-formed mature bone and neovascularisation.

The findings could mean an alternative donor source for autogenous bone grafting, the researchers said. Common methods use the patient's own bone tissue, which can be problematic owing to a sometimes limited supply of autogenous bone and the invasiveness of the procedure. [DTI](#)



A woman showing off her false crooked canines. Veneers that make teeth look imperfect are one of the latest fashion trends in Japan. (DTI/Photo Dental Salon Plaisir, Japan)

Bacteria linked pancreatic cancer

Particular types of oral bacteria, some of which are found in gum disease, are associated with the development of pancreatic cancer, a study has reported. According to the US researchers, the finding might make it possible to halt the progress of one of the most difficult cancers to treat by altering the balance of bacteria. [DTI](#)

Beijing teams up with Colgate

The China office of Colgate-Palmolive is providing free dental checks for more than one million children in primary schools through a mobile service. The tour is organised in partnership with the Chinese government in order to improve the nation's oral health, Ministry of Health representatives said. [DTI](#)

Philips divests Discus unit to SybronEndo

SybronEndo has announced that it has acquired the endodontic business unit from Discus Dental, a US dental company currently held by Royal Philips Electronics. The takeover will take effect immediately and includes Discus' entire product range of irrigation systems and other products under the Smart Endo brand, as well as patents and licenses, the company said in a press release.

On their websites, both companies advise customers to contact their local SybronEndo representatives for all future Discus Dental product orders. Further information were not disclosed.

Discus Dental was acquired by Dutch consumables manufacturer Philips almost a year ago. [DTI](#)



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New court ruling could mean end to fast food in Indian schools

From news reports

NEW DELHI, India: The High Court in Delhi has ruled in favour of a public petition that urges the Indian government to take action for changing food policies in schools and colleges nationwide. The directive also suggests a sale ban on fast food in and within half a kilometre of school premises.

The consumption of fast food has dramatically increased in India with global brands like McDonalds or KFC slowly replacing food courts selling traditional favourites like dosa or bonda. At the same time, its negative effects have also increased including obesity, diabetes or tooth erosion from acids found in fizzy drinks. A recent study conducted by researchers from the KLES's Institute of Dental Sciences in Belgaum found that approximately one in three Indian children aged



A McDonalds fast food restaurant in Dehli. (DTI/Photo paul prescott)

5 to 6 were already suffering from tooth wear and erosion of enamel.

Representatives of Uday foundation, the Delhi-based organisation who filed the petition, welcomed the decision of the High Court which they say could help to enhance the health as well educational outcomes of schoolchildren in the long-run.

Under the directive, the government will have to deliver first reports about actions taken by beginning of November. Representatives of the Ministry of Health told the online news portal *OneIndia* that it recently sent out written requests to all states to follow guidelines for providing safe and health food in educational institutions. [DTI](#)

Liberalisation of health care market in Malaysia encounters resistance

From news reports

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: Criticism about a new rule that will allow foreigners to fully own hospitals in Malaysia has been rejected by the country's Ministry of Health. The government revealed its intentions to liberalise the health care market during their 2012 Budget announcement last month, which professional organisations claim could open the sector for unqualified doctors or dentists.

At a press conference in Kuala Lumpur, Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai reacted to the criticism saying the quality of doctors would be assured by the Malaysian Medical Council, a government body who is responsible for the registration of medical professionals. He told the reporters that the liberalisation could bring long-term benefits for the industry such as to make the country more attractive to medical tourists or lure Malaysian doctors back who are currently serving overseas.

The Malaysia Medical Association has raised concerns about the plans by saying that checks for foreigners are currently inadequate and need revision including the introduction of a national specialist register to avoid unqualified doctors and dentists to enter the market. They also said that such a move was unnecessary and could penalise local doctors.

The Malaysian Dental Association did not comment on the matter yet. [DTI](#)

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Oral health challenges remain high in Southeast Asia, expert says

From news reports

SEATTLE, USA: One of Thailand's leading epidemiologist

Scrutinised over benefits

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: Investigations by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing are currently underway into the misuse of government funds for dental services provided to patients under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme. It has been reported that more than 600 dentists nationwide are suspected to have received money from Medicaid, a government health programme, for dental work that was never done or lacked the required paperwork.

The news could mean the final blow for the scheme, which has been under attack by the Gillard government for quite some time to be replaced by a programme targeting mainly pensioners and disadvantaged people. Under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme, patients with chronic illnesses and complex care needs were able to claim AUS\$4,250 (US\$4,000) in benefits for dental services conducted by a Medicare-enrolled dentist over two consecutive years.

Dentist representatives welcomed the government initiative to detail dental spending from Medicare but warned about putting dentists under general suspicion because administrative requirements for the scheme are unclear and patient eligibility usually determined by GPs.

"Rather than deal with any issues around dentists not fulfilling their administrative requirements at the time of the Scheme's implementation through an educative or conciliation process, Medicare has waited two years after the dental care was delivered to pursue recovery of monies," President of the Australian Dental Association (ADA), Dr F. Shane Fryer, said. He questioned the motivation behind the government campaign, which he said could force dentists into bankruptcy or having to close their practices.

According to latest Medicare estimates, the benefits misused account for AUS\$20 million (US\$19.2 million) paid to dentists since 2007. To date, only 60 investigations have been completed, the department said.

The branch of the ADA in New South Wales, where the majority of dentists believed to be involved in the fraud practise, has been reported to be raising money for a potential lawsuit against the government. [DTI](#)

has said that oral health issues remain a burden in most Southeast Asian societies. During a keynote speech she held on the occasion of the annual Research Day organised by the University of Washington's (UW) School of Dentistry in Seattle in the US, Dr Waranuch Pitiphat pointed out that many people in the region still lack access to adequate dental care partly owing to the insufficient number and poor

distribution of health care workers including dentists.

In addition, infection control in dental clinics in some of these countries is still highly inadequate, she said. She urged dental students to consider global oral health in their research agenda.

Research Day is an annual event held by the UW School of

Dentistry to recognise its standing as a US leader in dental research. Besides Dr Pitiphat, this year's event also saw participation by UW staffers Dr Tim DeRouen, Dr Christy McKinney and Dr Carey Farquhar.

Harvard-educated Dr Pitiphat who is currently working as Associate Dean for Research, graduate Studies and International Affairs for Khon Kaen

University, an international recognised school of higher education in Thailand, has been cooperating with UW for five years in order to train oral health clinical researchers. The programme which also includes Thammasat University in Bangkok recently received a million dollar grant from the US National Institute of Health to continue operations for another five years. [DTI](#)

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Dear reader,



Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

Dr Pitiphat's words of concern about the oral health situation in Southeast Asia come at the right time. Unfortunately, when I tried to contact her for an interview, her Bangkok home was under threat by the floods that recently swept through the capital of Thailand. With no information about her current situation, I can only hope that she and her family have survived the catastrophe unharmed.

There is no doubt that poor oral health remains a problem from the slums in Rangpur to the Lakes Plains in Western Indonesia, even though its impact on the population is low compared with other major health problems in the region like HIV/Aids or malaria. Quality of life, however, has many facets and the ability to speak or eat well and without pain is one of them.

Oral health improvements in boom markets like Singapore or Hong Kong have long clouded deficits in countries that have fallen behind the economic rush. Governments, health agencies and dentists alike need to push for more dental programmes and initiatives in order to close this gap. ■

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Zimmermann
Group Editor
Dental Tribune International



Low priority for oral health



Dr Masayuki Ueno
Japan

The devastating oral health problems in Southeast Asian countries, such as the lack of national oral health policies, inadequate infection control in dental clinics, limited access to care, and spotty distribution of health-care workers, make investigation of the influence of social and behavioural factors, as well as risk factors, extremely urgent.

Growing globalisation and resulting inequalities have hindered the promise of favourable changes in oral health. Many Southeast Asian countries are facing various demographic and socio-economic changes. Since the social, political, cultural and environmental climate has been changing rapidly, prompt and appropriate programmes need to be implemented. The focus should be moved towards greater em-

phasis on those factors that have an impact on oral health.

Despite the magnitude of personal and community burdens that oral health problems carry in many Asian countries, it is apparent that the concerns of the general population about oral health are relatively low, mainly because most oral diseases are not serious or life threatening, but also because oral health is perceived as a lower priority compared with other health and economic concerns. The importance of oral health should be emphasised more strongly in the development of health policies and interventions.

For oral health-related measures to be successful, conventional treatment-oriented procedures are of little value in these Asian countries, owing to limited resources and personnel. Health policies that emphasise health promotion and prevention, as well as empowerment and advocacy, are considered to be essential. To improve oral health effec-

tively, strategies that address the underlying causes of poor oral health situations by using a range of additional strategies based on economic, political and institutional aspects are necessary.

Community-based oral health-promotion and oral disease-prevention programmes should be implemented with the cooperation of other community residents, health-care workers, the government and other health authorities. It is desirable to integrate such strategies with other health projects in schools, workplaces, and communities. Since everyone needs to be made aware of the urgent oral health situation and its consequences, the mass media could be used to provide adequate information to the public. ■

Contact Info

Dr Masayuki Ueno is Associate Professor at the Department of Oral Health Promotion, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan. He can be contacted at ueno.ohp@tmd.ac.jp.

A revolution



Dr Ansgar Cheng
Singapore

The new Zimmer implant is indeed a revolutionary concept because its macroscopic topography is unique. The presence of screw thread on the apical and coronal portion allows this implant to be used in immediate loading cases and the non-threaded mid-section offers a unique 3-D scaffold for bone ingrowth, which may, in turn, enhance the long-term bone and implant contact and stability of integration.

Bone research on similar non-smooth titanium surfaces has demonstrated enhanced areas of bone/implant contact. Bone ingrowth may also be speeded up as a result of change in bone-healing gene expression.

The combination of the internal prosthetic connection and new implant surface probably represents the most contemporary design concept. The trabecular metal mid-implant segment theoretically allows the maintenance of osseointegration under high functional stress situations which may be particularly beneficial in Type IV bone with low density. Any clinicians with sufficient experience in placing other screw-type endosseous implants should be able to handle the clinical procedures. Further long-term clinical outcome data would certainly confirm the validity of this new design. ■

Contact Info

Dr Ansgar Cheng is a prosthodontist at Specialist Dental Group in Singapore. He can be contacted at drcheng@specialistdentalgroup.com.

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Tooth movement could be an alternative to bone transplants

From news reports

GOTHENBURG, Sweden: Researchers at the University of Gothenburg's Sahlgrenska Academy have found a way to replace lost teeth without building up the jaw artificially. With their method, existing teeth are moved into the toothless area using a brace, which offers clinicians a less complicated and painful option for giving patients their lost teeth back.

When we lose our teeth, because of illness or injury, the jaw in the toothless area also decreases in volume. This reduction makes it difficult to carry out dental implants, often leaving just one option for replacing lost teeth: building up the jaw with a bone transplant.

In an experimental study on dogs, the Swedish researchers managed to use a brace to move existing teeth into a toothless area with limited bone volume, without any reduction in the tooth's natural attachment to the jaw.

In a subsequent clinical study, consultant dental surgeon Bir-

gitta Lindskog Stokland and her colleagues also managed to demonstrate that the same procedure in humans caused only small changes in the tissue around the tooth. "X-rays showed some damage to the root known as root resorption, but this didn't seem to cause any lasting problems,"

Stokland said. "What's more, our follow-ups a year later showed that the damage had lessened."

The original site of the moved tooth suffers a reduction in bone mass and dental tissue volume, though not to the same extent as when teeth come out for other



The second premolar was moved orthodontically into an edentulous area with reduced dimension. The final construction was an implant in the area of the original position of the second premolar. From left to right: Clinical situation before treatment, at retention after orthodontic treatment, and one year after orthodontic treatment. (DTI/Pictures courtesy of Birgitta Lindskog Stokland, Stokland)

reasons. This means that this area is well suited to implants or other tooth replacements, without there being any need for bone

transplants. "In other words, many patients can be given more teeth more easily," Stokland stated. [DTI](#)

AD

EU regulates whitening

From news reports

BRUSSELS, Belgium: The Council of the European Union has adopted an amended directive on teeth whitening products. The directive sets out differentiated rules according to the level of hydrogen peroxide in accordance with advice from the European Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety. Tooth whitening or bleaching products containing up to 0.1 per cent hydrogen peroxide will continue to be freely available on the market to consumers. Products containing concentrations higher than 0.1 per cent and up to 6 per cent will only be sold to dentists.

For each cycle of use of the product, the first use will be by a dentist who will have first performed a clinical examination of the patient. The dentist will then provide access to these products for the remainder of the cycle of use. Persons under 18 years of age will not be allowed to use these products, even under the supervision of a dentist. Products containing more than 6 per cent have been banned.

The previous European Cosmetics Directive only established a maximum authorised concentration of hydrogen peroxide—the main active ingredient in tooth whitening products—at the level of 0.1 per cent.

The Member States will now have 12 months to implement the Directive into their national legislations. [DTI](#)



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(DTV/Photos Annemarie Fischer)

Implantology in times of crisis

European Association for Osseointegration celebrates annual congress in Athens

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

ATHENS, Greece/LEIPZIG, Germany: The 20th annual congress of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO) took place under less-than-ideal conditions.

Huge piles of garbage bags littered the narrow alleys of the Greek capital, and metro buses and trains were not running for most of the time owing to the ongoing public service strikes. Furthermore, air-traffic controllers in several European countries

threatened to stop working during the week in which the congress was to take place. Despite these unfavourable circumstances, more than 3,000 dental clinicians and researchers in the field of implantology attended the dental implant event of the year, which took place at the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre not far from the Presidential Mansion in Athens.

Since 1991, the Brussels-based EAO has organised congresses in different European cities annually, for example, in the Scottish metropolis Glasgow last year and the Principality of Monaco in 2009. Despite the prevailing mood of the financial crisis, this year's congress, organised in partnership with three Greek dental organisations, went relatively smoothly, the organiser said. Speaking to *Dental Tribune* in Athens, most visitors and exhibitors also expressed satisfaction with the scientific and commercial offering. Their only criticism was the distribution of



Dr. Schlee from Germany discussing Zimmer's new implant design.

booths over three levels inside the venue that seemed to favour only those companies exhibiting on the ground level. Improvements in this regard were announced, however, by the organisers for next year's event.

In advance of the congress, German professor Wilhelm Neukam from the University of Erlangen, who chaired the Organising Committee this year with Prof. Asterios Doukoudakis from the University of Athens, had said that implant treatment planning would be a major topic, particularly with regard to new imaging techniques and computer-assisted implantation. In a scientific session held on Thursday and moderated by Prof. Christoph Hämmerle from the University of Zurich in Switzerland, the latest methods for computer-aided implant fabrication were discussed by renowned specialists in the field like Dr Theodoros Kapos (USA) and Prof. Sandro Palla (Switzerland). In addition, University of Pennsylvania professor Michael Bergler presented the latest

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Danish dental surgeon confirmed as President of EAO

From news reports

ATHENS, Greece/BRUSSELS, Belgium: Prof. Søren Schou has been elected President of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO), the organisation announced on Saturday. The 49-year-old Dane, who is currently professor and Chairman of the

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Oral Pathology at the Aarhus University's School of Dentistry in Denmark, will be leading the organisation until the next General Assembly in 2012 in Copenhagen.

Owing to medical problems of past president Dr Paul Stone,

Prof. Schou took over as interim president at the last board meeting in June 2011. Amongst other positions he has held, he served as Secretary-General of the EAO from 2008 to 2010. He is also currently Chairman of the EAO Abstract Committee and Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Oral Implantology*. According

to the EAO website, his current research interests include oral implantology, bone biology, bone regeneration and surgical endodontics.

The General Assembly in Athens also saw the current Secretary-General of the EAO, Prof. Pascal Valentini, Italy, elected as the new President-Elect. His position will be filled by Prof. Björn Klinge from the Department of Periodontology at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. [D](#)



Prof. Schou (right) posing with EAO congress chairmen Prof. Friedrich W. Neukam (centre) and Asterios Doukoudakis (left). (DTI/Photo Daniel Zimmermann)

AD

← [DTI](#) page 6

CAD/CAM systems and discussed their current and future impact on dental laboratories in Europe.

Other topics received with great interest were genetic predictability for dental implant loss (see the interview on page 19 of this edition) and the pros and cons of implant treatment in adolescents.

In addition to their established product lines, industry players introduced several innovations at EAO. At a press conference held on the second day of the congress, for example, the US implant company Zimmer presented its latest implant design to dental journalists in Europe exclusively. Several new products were also revealed by other industry giants like Nobel Biocare and Straumann. The latter showcased its new small-diameter, soft tissue-level implant, as well as a new restorative material developed in collaboration with 3M ESPE. According to the company, it combines nano-ceramic components with a highly cross-linked resin matrix for improved aesthetics and stability in the fabrication of dental crowns, inlays, onlays and veneers.

Nobel Biocare announced NobelClinician, new diagnostic and treatment planning software for Apple and Windows operating systems, as well as two new NobelReplace implants with a complete range of prefabricated and individualised prosthetic solutions.

Further innovations were also exhibited by Keystone Dental, Tigran from Sweden, and the Swiss company CAMLOG.

“We are very pleased with the high-level presentations and scientific works showcased here,” remarked Neukam. “However, we are still facing many challenges in clinical research. The conclusions of many speakers were that more research is needed to be able to generate consensus statements in the field.”

According to Neukam, the organisation's next congress is scheduled for October 2012 and will look back at implantology research over the past 20 years. It will be held in the Danish capital of Copenhagen. [D](#)

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Mectron “touches” implant specialists

Market approval of PIEZOSURGERY device in Asia in mid-2012

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

ATHENS, Greece: Italian manufacturer of dental surgical equipment mectron presented its new generation of PIEZOSURGERY devices to an international professional audience of implantologists for the first time at the annual congress of the European Association of Osseointegration (EAO). Launched at IDS 2011 in Germany, the PIEZOSURGERY touch is supposed to offer intuitive controls through an improved hand piece and a black coloured glass touch screen resembling those of state-of-the-art electrical devices such as smartphones.

Mectron launched the very first generation of its PIEZOSURGERY device in dental markets almost

ten years ago. During the last decade, the surgical technique has become a standard in many clinical indications including implant site preparation. The company says that many universities and experts have contributed in validating PIEZOSURGERY, making it the only evidence based technology for piezoelectric bone surgery to date.

The PIEZOSURGERY touch presented at this year’s EAO comes with new inserts for a wider range of indications including mini dental implants or new applications in prosthetics related to the finishing of the cervical margin in crown preparation. In addition, mectron has developed a customized enzymatic solution called ENZYMEC

that, according to the company, efficiently removes organic residuals from parts like the hand piece, tubings or inserts.

The device is currently available for dental surgeons in Europe. Approval for other countries including markets in Asia is expected by mid-2012. [D](#)



Product Manager Renato Bocchini (left) demonstrating mectron’s newest piezosurgery unit to visitors of the EAO.

AD

Seil sued by Sulzer over mixing tips

From news reports

NEW YORK CITY, USA/HAAG, Switzerland: The Swiss company Sulzer Mixpac has filed another lawsuit at a US District Court in New York against the Seil Global Corporation based in South Korea. In the complaint, the manufacturer of the MIXPAC S-system is accusing Seil to have infringed patents with their range of mixing tips suitable for 2-component applications systems used in dentistry.



The lawsuit is the latest in a year-long juristic battle involving both companies. Sulzer filed their first complaint against Seil during the Greater New York Dental Meeting in November 2008. Other lawsuits have been successfully ruled in favour of the company in November 2010 and September this year. Despite a Temporary Restraining Order issued by the court prohibiting Seil to import and sell their mixing tips in the US as well as adjustments in the tip construction introduced in 2010, Sulzer still claims their patents to be infringed.

A decision by the court is expected in the upcoming weeks. According to representatives of the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Seil has registered again for their next exhibition to be held from 27 to 30 November in New York City. [D](#)

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