DENTAL TRIBUNE

The World's Dental Newspaper · Asia Pacific Edition

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Industry Down Under
An interview with ADIA's Trevor Martin
Page 9

Nakanishi speaks
Japanese manufacturer aims for global leadership
Page 12

Anterior restorations
How to skilfully combine materials
Page 14

Australian Senate passes dental care bill

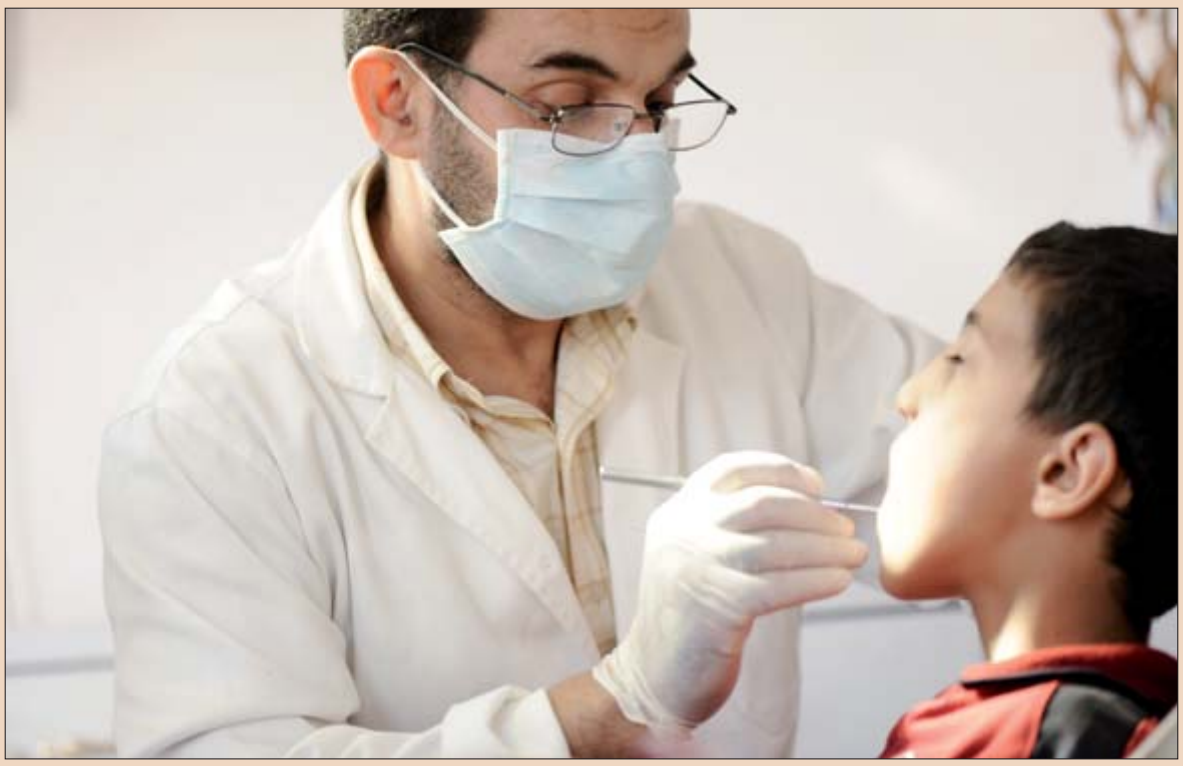
DT Asia Pacific

CANBERRA, Australia: Millions of patients Down Under are breathing a sigh of relief, as a new scheme for subsidised dental care went through the upper house in November.

The government programme will replace the recently closed Chronic Disease Dental Scheme (CDDS) and aims to provide better access to dental services for children, as well as low-income adults and pensioners.

The Labor government decided to close the CDDS in August this year, claiming that the costs had skyrocketed since it was implemented by the Howard government in the year 2007. Funding for those eligible for the scheme will expire by the end of this month, they said.

Under the CDDS, patients with chronic illnesses and complex care needs were able to claim benefits of AUS$4,250 (US$4,440) for dental treatment by a private dentist when referred by a doctor.



Primarily children are supposed to benefit from the new scheme. (DTI/Photo Zou Zou)

Starting in January 2014, the new scheme, called the Dental Benefits Amendment Bill 2012, will provide AUS$1,000 (US$1,045) over two years for families with children under the age of 17 who require basic dental treatment. Adults with concession cards, including pensioners, will be able to access the scheme later that year.

Overall, the government will stump up AUS$4 billion (US$4.18 billion) over six years for subsidised dental health care. Services in underserved areas are also expected to receive a financial injection of AUS$225 million (US$235 million) over the same period.

→ DT page 2

Japan to invest into forensics

In an effort to boost the use of measures to identify victims of crimes and natural disasters, dental students in Japan will be required to answer questions on forensic dentistry in upcoming national dentistry examinations. The changes will be implemented by 2014 and followed by investments into training that will provide students with enhanced knowledge about how to identify bodies with the help of dental records, the country's Ministry of Health announced.

Approximately 1,200 unidentified human bodies are found in Japan each year. In 2011, this number increased significantly owing to devastations caused by the Tōhoku earthquake and the resulting tsunami. While 10 per cent of the victims were identified by their teeth, according to figures of the Japan Dental Association, forensic dentistry experts in Japan lack experience and are too few with only half a dozen experts available in some of the country's provinces. DT

Group photo of participants of this year's Student Clinician Program conducted by DENTSPLY Asia during the annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research South-East Asian Division in Hong Kong. (DTI/Photo courtesy of DENTSPLY Asia, Hong Kong) ASIA NEWS, page 3

Sirona Dental appoints new CEO

Global dental products provider Sirona has a new CEO. As from 20 February 2013, Jeffrey T. Slovin will succeed Jost Fischer, who has held the position for 11 years. Fifty-eight-year-old Fischer will be retiring, giving up his position as both CEO and chairman of the board. DT

Sulzer suits copiers in China, Korea

The Swiss manufacturer announced that is has taken legal action against various dental materials enterprises. The Chinese and South Korean companies allegedly violated Sulzer's trademark and patent rights at the recent Greater New York Dental Meeting by offering counterfeit mixing tips. DT

Bill discussed at Malaysia dental meeting

Representatives of the Malaysia Dental Association have criticised aspects of the country's new dental bill at a joint meeting of the Malaysian and Singapore dental communities in December. President elect Dr Neoh Gim Bok said that his organisation is currently in discussions with political stakeholders in order to resolve the key issues recently put forward by the proposal.

Issued earlier this year, the bill is supposed to replace the 1971 Dental Act, which regulates the practice of dentistry in Malaysia. Among other things, it has been under scrutiny for excessive penalties and making it too easy for foreign practitioners to obtain temporary licences to practice. DT

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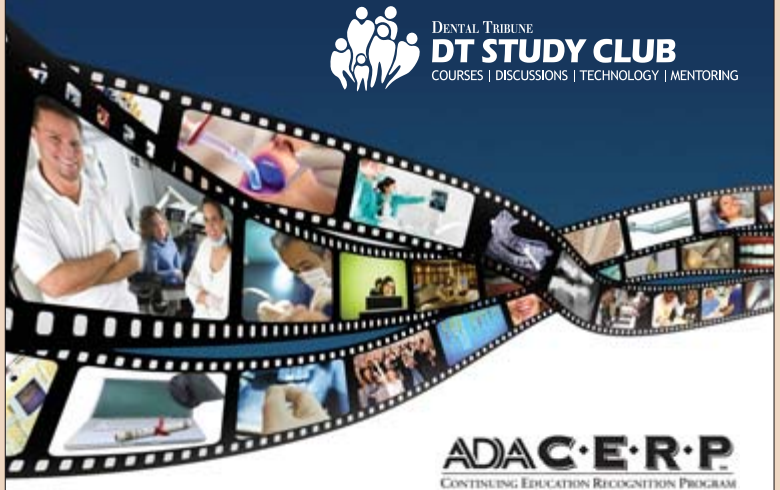

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09 JAN
CARIES MANAGEMENT BY RISK ASSESSMENT (CAMBRA)
Douglas Young, DDS 08:00 p.m. EST

Dental caries is an infectious disease affecting children and adults throughout life. This course will address current trends in caries disease management utilizing caries management by risk assessment (CAMBRA), an evidence-based methodology that identifies the cause of disease by assessing risk factors for each individual patient. Based on the evidence presented, the clinician then corrects the problems (by managing the risk factors) using specific treatment recommendations including behavioral, chemical, and minimally invasive procedures. Upon completion, the participant shall be able to properly perform a caries risk assessment and propose evidence-based treatment options to the patient. The participant will also have a thorough understanding biological, chemical and mechanical aspects of caries disease.

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16 JAN
ORAL HEALTH AND PULMONARY DISEASE: LINKS BETWEEN THE ORAL MICROBIOTA & LUNG INFECTION
Frank Scannapieco, DMD 08:00 p.m. (EST)

Recent research suggests associations between poor oral health status and pulmonary diseases such as pneumonia. This presentation will review the background information that suggests that oral bacteria influence the course of lung infection, and that improved oral hygiene may help reduce the risk for pneumonia in high-risk populations. Results will be presented from a recently completed pilot randomized, placebo-controlled trial that evaluated the frequency of use of oral topical chlorhexidine gluconate (CHX) to prevent or reduce oropharyngeal colonization by respiratory pathogens in mechanically ventilated-intensive care unit (MV-ICU) patients. Results from ancillary molecular epidemiologic studies to genetically type bacterial strains cultured from lower airway secretions of MV-ICU patients and compare them to strains of the same species isolated from their dental plaque will also be presented. Participants will learn that there is evidence for and against the use of oral interventions to prevent pneumonia and that the oral microflora influences the initiation and/or progression of lung infection. Ideas for new strategies for the prevention of lung infections will also be presented.

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DenTech Shanghai gains more ground in China

DT Asia Pacific

SHANGHAI, China: Attendance figures for DenTech China increased by another 4.3 per cent this year, UMB ShowStar, the organiser of China's second-largest dental show, has reported. In addition to the growth in professional visitors, the exhibition saw 16 per cent higher participation by industry.

According to the latest figures, almost 600 manufacturers and dealers of dental materials and equipment took part in DenTech China 2012, almost half of which were companies from abroad, with the US and Germany having the greatest representation. The company said to have registered more than 68,000 visitors during the show held at the Shanghai World Expo Exhibition and Convention Center in late October.

The event also featured a four-day dental conference, a number of forums on specialties like implantology, and the sixth Asian Dental Lab Outsourcing Exhibition.

DenTech China, which was first held in 1994, is staged annually in collaboration with the Chinese Stomatology Association and the School of Stomatology at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, among other dental institutions. Since March 2012, all operational activities have been managed by Shanghai UBM ShowStar Exhibition, a recently formed joint venture between UBM, a UK-based B2B communications provider with offices in Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong, which holds 70 per cent of the company, and the previous owner of DenTech, Shanghai ShowStar Exhibition Service. Its next show will be held again in October next year.

In terms of visitors, DenTech China currently ranks second after Sino-Dental in Beijing, with 70,000 visitors. Dental South China in Guangzhou, the third major dental show, reportedly attracted 30,000 visitors in 2012. In addition, smaller dental shows in cities like Xi'an and Nanjing have recently entered the market.

According to estimates of the National Bureau of Statistics in Beijing, China boosts a dental workforce of 120,000, a number equal to dentists living in Germany, France and the Benelux States combined. DT

← DT page 1

While the Green party, Labor's coalition partner in the current minority government, applauded the new scheme as a historic step towards the proposed universal dental health care system, members of the opposition have lambasted the bill for overstretching the government's budget. Dentists too have criticised the implementation of the scheme only in early 2014, which will leave children and adults previously covered by the CDDS without proper care for over 12 months.

"Treatment of the chronically ill, for which this scheme was designed, is often complex, requiring an extended period," commented Dr Shane Fryer, President of the Australian Dental Association recently. "A 12-week period to complete treatment will mean that patients under the CDDS will not be able to finalise their treatment plans."

Liberals claim that approximately one million patients have benefited from the CDDC so far. The new scheme will provide more than three million children and an additional one million adults with access to dental care, according to the government. DT

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DENTSPLY Asia announces winners of student competitions

DT Asia Pacific

HONG KONG: What do Tan Ming-Yi, Min-Cheol Song and Darapan Pattanapichakorn have in common? All three dental students are winners of clinical case and research competitions held by DENTSPLY Asia during this year's annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research South-East Asian Division (IADR SEA) in November.

In addition to its annual Student Clinician Program (SCP), which saw National University of Singapore student Ming-Yi come tops with her presentation on 3-D repositioning accuracy of semi-adjustable articulator cast mounting systems, the dental manufacturer held its CERAM-X and Endodontic Case Contest. While the latter went to Pattanapichakorn from the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, the aesthetic dentistry contest produced four winners from universities in South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines. They were awarded certificates and prize money, among other things.

According to DENTSPLY, SCP winner Ming-Yi will be funded to present her research poster along with winners of student competitions from other regions around the world at the annual meeting of the American Dental Association in New Orleans next year. The US-based dental group currently holds its SCP contests in over 35 countries. Initiated in the US in 1959, the programme aims to support and promote undergraduate research at dental schools and universities worldwide.

"Magnetic mounting systems have gained popularity in recent years, but this has not been investigated in detail," Ming-Yi told *Dental Tribune Asia Pacific*. "We compared a conventional screwed-on semi-adjustble articulator cast mounting system with five magnetic mounting systems. Based on our study, the conventional screwed-on system was found to be comparable to several magnetic systems in terms of repositioning accuracy."

Other entries to the competitions included an evaluation of the effect of carbamide peroxide on the enamel bond strength of composite resins at different post-bleaching times, and the use of Buntot-tigre, a flowering plant of the *Sansevieria genus* from the Philippines, as antimicrobial dental floss. All participants were winners of their national contests.

More than 5,000 students have participated in the SCP since its inception. DENTSPLY's Asian division has been conducting its South-East Asia programmes since 2002. This year was the first time that the company held all three contests together at one event. More than 15 students from 10 countries in the Asia Pacific region took part in the competitions, according to Clinical Marketing Manager Stephen Ong.

He announced that his company had recently formed a partnership with the IADR SEA and will be the exclusive host of its SCP contests at the organisation's annual meeting for the next four years.

The next competition covered by the contract will be held during the 2013 IADR Asia Pacific Region meeting in Bangkok. DT

(DT/Photo courtesy of DENTSPLY Asia, Hong Kong)

NUS student Ming-Yi (right) receiving her SCP award.

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Dental Tribune Asia Pacific Edition

Foreign demand drives world's largest dental showcase

DTI

COLOGNE, Germany: The development of CAD/CAM and implantology will continue to be the determining trends at the next International Dental Show, representatives of the organiser Koelnmesse and the Association of German Dental Manufacturers (VDDI) told reporters at a press conference in Germany. Besides these mega topics, the use of lasers in different fields of dentistry will be given particular attention.

Reportedly, more than 1,900 dental manufacturers and distributors have registered for next year's event, which has been expanded by 5,000 sqm and will fully occupy another hall at the Koelnmesse fairground in Cologne.

According to Koelnmesse's chief operating officer, Katharina C. Hamma, the increase in exhibitors this year is due to the high demand from companies abroad, which has grown by 10 per cent compared with the last IDS. While the number of domestic businesses will remain the same, almost two-thirds (68 per cent) of all companies exhibiting in 2013 will come from outside Germany.

"IDS will prove its position as the global leading trade show in the dental industry once again. Its success is an endorsement of our trade show concept," Hamma explained. "Therefore, we will be retaining the successful formula for the upcoming event."

Her company, which hosts other well-known international trade events like Art Cologne and gamescom, stages the global dentistry showcase in partnership with the commercial enterprise of the VDDI and the Society for the Promotion of the Dental Industry (Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Dental-Industrie) every two years. The last edition, held in March 2011, drew 1,954 exhibitors and 118,000 professional visitors to Cologne, according to reports.

Hamma announced that in addition to professional activities presented by the German Dental Association and the Association of German Dental Technicians' Guilds (VDZI), the Federal Association of Dental Alumni (BdZA) in Germany will be hosting a Generations' Lounge for the first time at next year's IDS, which is intended to serve as a meeting point for dental students, practice newcomers and established practitioners.

Furthermore, visitors will be able to learn more about the latest products and technologies at the customary Speakers' Corner (in Hall 3.1).

The IDS app will also be updated in the upcoming weeks. The application, available for several smartphones, allows users to search for information on exhibitors and products ahead of the show.

The next edition is scheduled to open its doors with the usual Dealers' Day on 12 March 2013. More than 120,000 dental professionals from Germany and abroad are expected to attend the event from 12 to 16 March to update their knowledge on the latest developments and trends in dental equipment and materials, according to Hamma. DT

(DTI/Photo courtesy of Koelnmesse, Germany)

Koelnmesse COO Katharina C. Hamma aims for a new record-breaking IDS.

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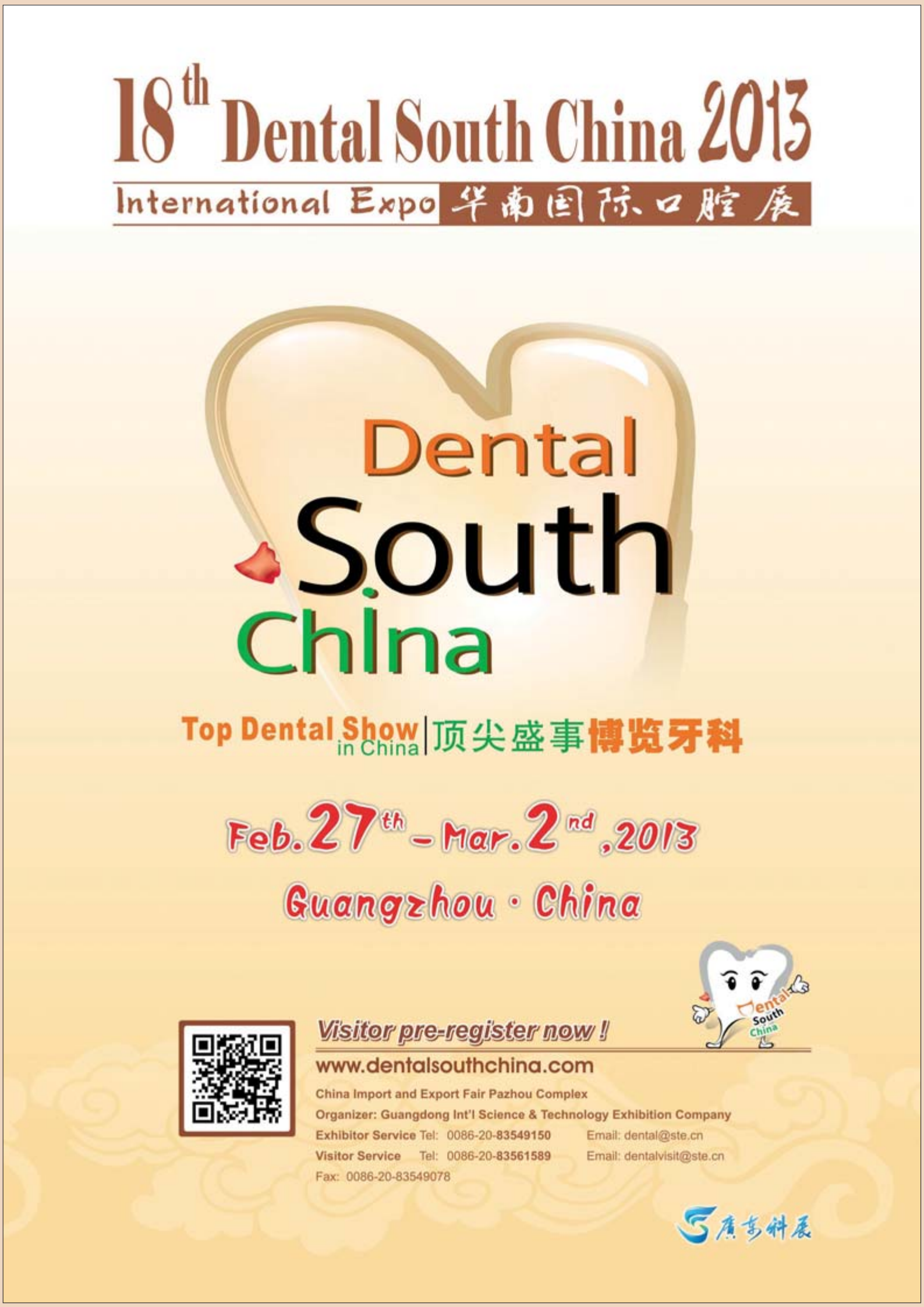

Erectile dysfunction affects about 150 million men worldwide.

(DTI Photo: Yuri Arcurs, Denmark)

Men with erection problems three times more likely to have inflamed gums

DTI

MALATYA, Turkey: Men in their thirties with inflamed gums caused by severe periodontal disease are three times more likely to suffer from erectile dysfunction, Turkish researchers have found. The study results confirm previous research from India from 2011 that linked both conditions.

In their study, Turkish researchers compared 80 men with erectile dysfunction with a control group of 82 men without erection problems. They found that 53 per cent of the men with erectile dysfunction had inflamed gums compared with 23 per cent in the control group.

When the results were adjusted for other factors, such as age, body mass index, household income and education level, the men with severe periodontal disease were 3.29 times more likely to suffer from erection problems than the men with healthy gums were.

The men in both groups were aged 30 to 40, with an average age of just under 36, and there were no significant differences when it came to body mass index, household income or education.

Their sexual function was assessed according to the International Index of Erectile Function and their gum health using the plaque index, bleeding on probing, probing depth and clinical attachment level.

"Erectile dysfunction is a major public health problem that affects the quality of life of some 150 million men, and their partners, worldwide," said lead author Dr Faith Oguz from İnönü University in Malatya, Turkey.

"Physical factors cause nearly two-thirds of cases, mainly because of problems with the blood vessels, with psychological issues like emotional stress and depression accounting for the remainder."

According to Oguz, many studies have reported that chronic periodontitis (CP) may induce systemic vascular diseases, such as coronary heart disease, which has been linked with erection problems.

"To our knowledge, erectile dysfunction and CP in humans are caused by similar risk factors, such as ageing, smoking, diabetes mellitus and coronary artery disease," said Oguz. "We therefore excluded men who had systemic disease and who were smokers from this study."

"We particularly selected men aged between 30 and 40 to assess the impact of CP on erectile dysfunction without the results being influenced by the effects of ageing. The results of our study support the theory that CP is present more often in patients with erectile dysfunction than those without and should be considered a factor by clinicians treating men with erection problems." DT

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One in five patients worldwide would consider medical tourism

DTI

NEW YORK, USA: As movement between countries has become increasingly unrestricted, people are able to receive medical treatment almost wherever they like and medical tourism has thus become a growing phenomenon. A new survey of 18,713 adults aged between 16 and 64 from 24 countries has found that 18 per cent of people are willing to travel to another country for medical or dental care.

In addition, about 36 per cent reported that they would probably consider going abroad to receive treatment. These were predominantly younger adults, either below the age of 35 (19 per cent) or between 35 and 49 (19 per cent). Approximately 46 per cent, mainly aged between 50 and 64 (15 per cent), said that they would not travel to another country for medical reasons.

With an average of 32 per cent, medical tourism was most appealing to people from India, Indonesia, Russia, Mexico and Poland, according to the investigators. In comparison, survey participants from Japan, South Korea, Spain, France, Belgium and Sweden were the least likely to travel for medical treatment. Only an average of about 7 per cent of participants from these countries said that they would travel abroad for medical care.

People who were employed were more likely to consider treatment abroad than unemployed individuals were; and more men (19 per cent) than women (17 per cent) would travel to another country for medical treatment, according to the survey. Many participants said that they would be willing to travel for medical treatment if the costs were significantly lower than in their home country, the investigators said. DT

ADA updates imaging guidelines

DTI

CHICAGO, USA: The American Dental Association has recently published an update of its 2004 recommendations for prescription of dental radiographic examinations. In collaboration with various dental and other institutions, the organisation aimed to provide a document to guide practitioners in using diagnostic imaging appropriately in daily practice.

Among other topics, the document covers receptor selection, hand-held X-ray units, technique charts and radiation-risk communication, which were not covered in the earlier version. In addition, ADA updated its recommendations for shielding to be consistent with guidelines established by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). For example, it now recommends the use of thyroid collars for all patients, which was recommended only for children and pregnant women before.

Rather than being a standard, the new set of recommendations is intended to serve as a useful resource that dentists can refer to if their patients have questions or concerns about the level of radiation exposure, said Dr Sharon Brooks, professor emeritus at the University of Michigan and a consultant to the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs. "We are encouraging dentists to look at the issue of selecting radiographic examinations for their patients on an individual basis, not as a one-size-fits-all," she said.

According to the NCRP, radiation exposure from dental diagnostics accounts for about 0.2 per cent of the total exposure from natural and man-made sources in the US (3.6 mSv). Nevertheless, ADA recommends that dentists weigh the benefits of taking radiographs against the possible risk of exposing patients to X-rays, as the effects may accumulate from multiple sources over time. DT

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"Australian dental product suppliers face considerable compliance costs"

An interview with ADIA national president Trevor Martin

Sales of dental equipment in Australia have fallen again this year, according to a report by the Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA). *Dental Tribune Asia Pacific* had the opportunity to speak with the organisation's newly elected national president and Gunz Dental managing director, Trevor Martin, about the reasons for the decline and the prospects for the industry Down Under.

Trevor Martin

***DT Asia Pacific:** The latest figures released by your organisation show that the dental market in Australia has declined for the second consecutive year. Is this still the effect of the global financial crisis or are there other reasons for this negative performance?*

Trevor Martin: The overall decline was actually quite small but significant in a sector that had grown by around 6 to 8 per cent annually for more than two decades. The decline is a result of the crisis, but not necessarily for the reasons that people think. The Australian government introduced a number of incentives in the early days of the financial crisis to sustain the economy. This saw dental practices making new investments in equipment, particularly large equipment, which drove growth and overall sales to record highs. The overall decline is actually coming off that peak.

That said, both the data and anecdotal evidence from ADIA members confirm that the market has softened in the past 18 months. It's certainly a competitive place to do business, with conditions tougher than they were a few years ago. That's why ADIA is delivering a range of support programmes and tools, such as the "Australian Dental Industry Intelligence Report", that allow member businesses to make informed decisions about the direction of their business to help them face the future with confidence.

According to the Bureau of Statistics in Canberra, the Australian economy is growing rapidly and is about to overtake Spain as the 12th largest economy in the world. Do you expect any impact on the dental industry from this development?

Australia's economic growth needs to be put into context. It is true that we are relatively well positioned internationally, with GDP growth at more than 3 per cent, unemployment at slightly above 5 per cent and the federal government's budget returning to surplus this year. However, the bureau data also shows that this is largely driven by extraordinary growth in the mining sector, which is sustaining the overall economy. The non-mining sector is basically flat and for this reason ADIA expects that the dental industry will grow in the short term, but at a rate lower than the long-term average.

The Australian government recently agreed to a AUS$4 billion dental care package. Could this benefit the sales of dental equipment?

The Australian government's announcement is welcome and addresses some very real impediments to dental and oral health care. That being said, the expert analysis commissioned by ADIA shows that the impact of the announcement on sales of dental products will be negligible, as the government's new programmes are only repackaging existing spending.

Indeed, government expenditure on dental and oral health care services will actually decrease in the current financial year, with the new measures not being implemented until 2013.

The dental service industry in your country is growing by 2.5 per cent. Are Australian dentists becoming lazy investors?

That's an unfair characterisation. The dental profession in Australia has a strong track record of pioneering new technologies and investing in new products and services. Indeed, when the Australian government provided incentives to invest in new equipment at the onset of the crisis, the dental profession responded positively.

Earlier this year, ADIA held the ADX Sydney dental exhibition, Australia's premier dental event. Attendance increased by a whopping 24 per cent and ADIA members reported strong on-site sales. Are dentists cautious? Sure. Are dentists looking for a good deal? Certainly. Are they lazy investors? That is not how ADIA would describe them.

The dental market in developed markets is changing significantly owing to new technologies like dental CAD/CAM. Have Australian dentists followed the trend?

> "The dental profession in Australia has a strong track record of pioneering new technologies."

The dental profession in Australia is an early adopter of new technologies and this continues to drive sales in key product areas. The uptake of products that utilise CAD/CAM technology is a good example of Australian dentistry picking up, and some might say leading, the trend.

One of ADIA's roles is to work with regulators such as the Therapeutic Goods Administration to ensure that dentists and the broader community have access to new products and technologies within a reasonable time frame.

You have identified one of the priorities of your presidency as the regulation of dental devices in Australia. What, in your opinion, are the deficits of the current regulation and what do you want to achieve in that respect?

Australia represents only 2 per cent of the global market for dental products and more than 95 per cent of what is used locally is imported. In this context, Australian dental product suppliers face considerable compliance costs associated with local technical and regulatory standards.

In Australia and internationally, ADIA has taken the lead in advocating the "approved once, available anywhere" approach to dental product regulation. Over the next two years, ADIA will support the efforts of the Australian and New Zealand governments to establish the proposed Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency.

At a global level, ADIA recognises and supports the important work of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum, which is working towards regulatory harmonisation and convergence at a global level.

ADIA will only support reform that ensures the dental product regulatory framework is based on a risk-management approach designed to ensure public health and safety, while at the same time freeing industry from unnecessary regulatory burden.

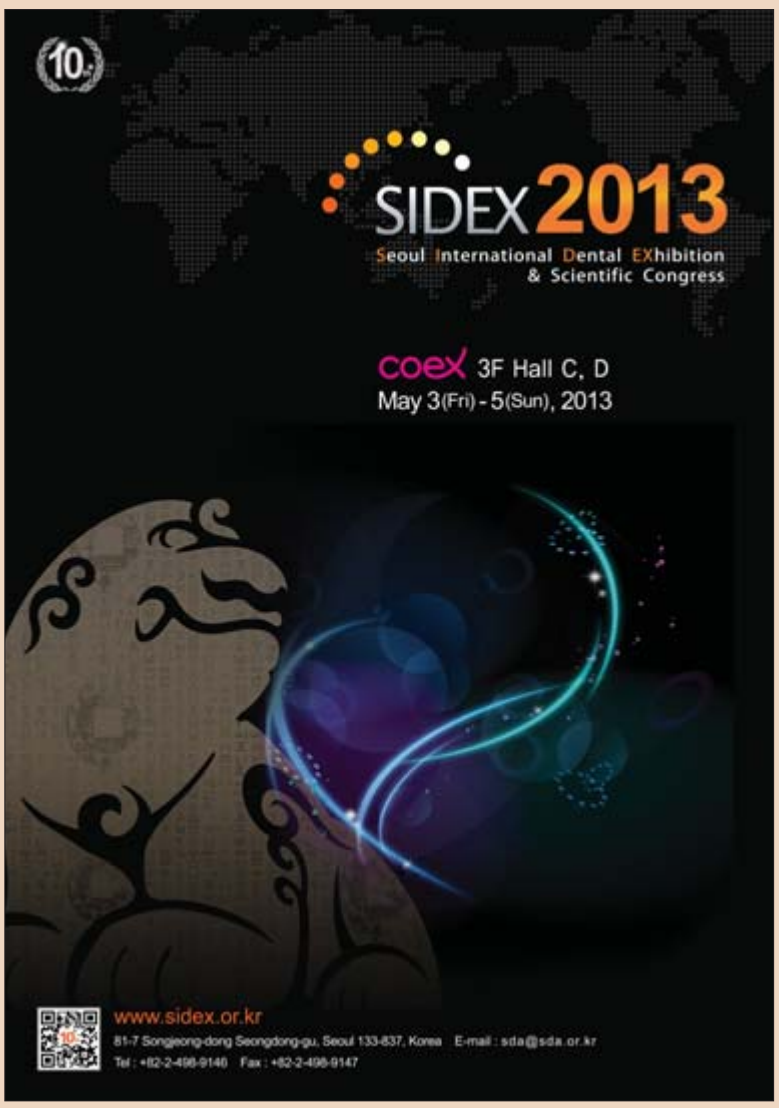
In your opinion, what are the general prospects for the dental industry in Australia in the years to come, and what will ADIA's contribution be in this regard?

Setting aside the current sluggish environment, ADIA believes that Australia's dental industry has a strong future.

Our member businesses, individually and collectively, are committed to providing dentists and allied oral health care professionals with the latest products from Australia and overseas. Through the ADX Sydney dental exhibition, ADIA also provides member businesses with the platform to establish and strengthen their relationship with key customer and client groups.

However, our focus is on more than just trade shows. The strategic plan endorsed by the ADIA board sets a clear direction for the future. As an organisation, we are investing in the personnel and infrastructure to provide member businesses with the tools to grow.

Whether it's verifiable sales data or programmes to upskill the industry's workforce, we are firmly committed to engaging with our member businesses to assist them in understanding and influencing changes to the commercial, technical and regulatory environment to help them to achieve their objectives.

Thank you very much for this interview. DT

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