**“A preventative health care system is also a cost-efficient health care system”**

An interview with Prof. Jörg Eberhard, Australia

By Kristin Hübner, DTI

Dental Tribune: Can you explain what is meant by the title of your lecture, “Putting the mouth into health?”

Irrespective of this body of knowledge, a holistic view on medical conditions that includes oral health has not been established in clinical medical practice. This trend is epitomised by the use of artificial materials to establish a holistic view of health in the future. A holistic view on medical conditions that includes oral health has not been established in clinical medical practice.

**“A holistic view on medical conditions that includes oral health has not been established in clinical medical practice.”**

Prof. Jörg Eberhard: Research over the last several decades has shown that oral disease is linked to general health and other diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus and rheumatoid arthritis. The available evidence demonstrating this association is based on epidemiological studies, clinical intervention trials and knowledge of sound biological mechanisms.

Highly advanced and complex technologies are limited to natural dentition for as long as possible? Highly advanced and complex technologies should be limited to those patients who have suffered trauma or who have severe disease or genetic deteriorations. Health care systems are not able to provide these technologies to the broader community and therefore these cost-intensive technologies are limited to the privileged. A preventative health care system is also a cost-efficient health care system, relieving individuals and the public from suffering and high costs.

In your opinion, concerning the promotion of oral health and prevention among the public, what will be the main challenges to modern dentistry? The main challenge in the future for health professionals will be to introduce the concept of a holistic health care approach based on preventative treatments rather than on therapeutic interventions.

Thank you very much for the interview.

Editorial note: Eberhard will be holding the 2017 WOHD lecture on 20 March from 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at the Australian Dental Industry Association’s office in Alexandria in New South Wales. Registration for the event is open at www.wohd.com.au/register.html.