WASHINGTON, DC, USA: According to US News & World Report, which releases a list of the top 100 jobs in America every year, the profession of dentist is the best in 2017, with regard to growth potential, work-life balance and salary. Overall, health care jobs dominated the rankings.

The analysts found that, among the 100 best jobs, 52 were in a health-related field, including seven professions in dentistry. Overall, dentist ranked as the best job, followed by nurse practitioner and physician assistant.

By 2024, the employment growth in the profession of dentist is estimated at 18 per cent, amounting to about 23,300 new jobs. On average, dentists earned US$152,700 in 2015, with the best paid earning more than US$187,200 and the lowest paid earning less than US$68,310.

The profession of orthodontist, which topped the list of best jobs last year, is now ranked the fifth best job in the US. Driven by increasing demand for specialised dental care, employment in the profession will grow by a forecast 18 per cent from 2014 to 2024, equivalent to about 1,500 new job openings. The median salary of an orthodontist was US$187,200 in 2015.

At ninth place in the list of best jobs in 2017 is the profession of oral and maxillofacial surgeon, with a median salary of US$187,200 in 2015 and a predicted employment growth rate of 18 per cent, or 1,200 new jobs, from 2014 to 2024. Oral and maxillofacial surgeon ranked third in the list of best-paying jobs in 2015, however.

The increasing demand for dental restorative work as a result of the growing aging population in the US is expected to drive growth in the dental industry in general and in the profession of prosthodontist in particular. Therefore, prosthodontist was ranked the 21st best job of 2017. On average, these dental professionals earned US$119,740 in 2015 and employment in the profession is expected to see growth of 18 per cent too, translating to 100 new jobs.

Owing to a faster average growth rate than most professions, the market for dental hygienists is booming, mainly as a result of the growing oral health awareness among consumers. The occupation was ranked the 32nd best job and employment is expected to grow by 19 per cent per year by 2024, with about 37,400 new job openings. The average dental hygienist in the US earned US$72,330 in 2015.

The analysts ranked the profession of dental assistant 100 in the list of best jobs. It is expected that more than 58,000 new jobs will open for dental assistants by 2024, translating to employment growth of 18 per cent. The median salary of a dental assistant was US$35,980 in 2015.

US News & World Report compiled the list, taking into account the ten-year growth volume and percentage with the projected number of openings from 2014 to 2024, the median salary, employment rate, future job prospects, stress level and work-life balance of various professions across 15 industries and businesses in the country. Data for the analysis was obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Ancient dental plaque reveals dietary habits of early humans

By DTI

YORK, UK/BARCELONA, Spain: Based on their study of dental plaque from Europe’s oldest hominin, scientists have concluded that the region’s earliest humans did not use fire for cooking, but had a balanced raw diet of meat and plants. The research has once again demonstrated the potential of dental calculus to store dietary and environmental information over such a long period.

Archaeologists at the University of York and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona examined dental plaque from a 1.2-million-year-old hominin (Homo species), recovered by the Atapuerca research team in 2007 from the Sima del Elefante site in northern Spain. They extracted microfossils to find the earliest direct evidence of food eaten by early humans. These microfossils included traces of raw animal tissue, uncooked starch granules indicating consumption of grasses, pollen grains from a species of pine, insect fragments and remains of what might have been a toothpick.

All detected fibres were uncharred and there was no evidence showing inhalation of microcharcoal—normally a clear indicator of proximity to fire. The timing of the earliest use of fire for cooking is hotly contested, with some researchers arguing that habitual use started around 1.8 million years ago, while others suggest it was as late as 500,000 to 400,000 years ago.

Possible evidence of fire-making has been found at some very early sites in Africa. However, the lack of fire evidence at Sima del Elefante suggests that this knowledge was not carried with the earliest humans when they migrated from Africa. The earliest definitive evidence of the use of fire elsewhere is 800,000 years ago at the Spanish site of Cueva Negra and at Gesher Benot Ya’aqov in Israel a short time later.

Taken together, this evidence suggests that the development of fire occurred at some point between 800,000 and 1.2 million years ago, providing a new timeline for when the earliest humans started to cook food.

“This new timeline has significant implications in helping us to understand this period of human evolution—cooked food provides greater energy, and cooking may be linked to the rapid increases in brain size that occurred from 800,000 years ago onwards,” said Dr Karen Hardy, lead author and Honorary Research Associate at the University of York and a Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies research professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

According to Hardy, “Obtaining evidence for any aspect of hominin life at this extremely early date is very challenging. Here, we have been able to demonstrate that these earliest Europeans understood and exploited their forested environment to obtain a balanced diet 1.2 million years ago, by eating a range of different foods and combining starchy plant food with meat.”

The findings correlate well with previous research that hypothesised that the timing of cooking is linked to the development of salivary amylase, which is needed to process cooked starchy food, explained Hardy. “Starchy food was an essential element in facilitating brain development, and contrary to popular belief about the ‘Paleodiet’, the role of starchy food in the Palaeolithic diet was significant,” she said.
ROOTS SUMMIT 2016 held successfully

By DTI

Dubai, UAE: Two months ago, over 300 people from over 45 countries gathered at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Dubai for the 2016 ROOTS SUMMIT. For the past 15 years, the meeting has been an open and inclusive global learning forum, accessible to anyone involved in the practice of endodontic therapy. Featuring 20 distinguished speakers and a comprehensive industry exhibition, the 2016 summit was one of the most important events of last year’s endodontics calendar.

According to co-chairman Stephen Jones, the audience at the 2016 ROOTS SUMMIT was the most geographically diverse in the history of the event. It saw a large number of people from the Middle East and North Africa, as well as many attendees from Europe and India. Some members even travelled to Dubai from Brazil, Chile, Australia and Paraguay.

During the promotion of the event, the organisers encouraged all dental professionals who have an interest in endodontics to attend. This resulted in not only endodontic specialists attending, representing about half of the participants, but also in a considerable number of general dentists, oral surgeons, prosthodontists and dental students joining the meeting.

On 30 November, participants had the opportunity to attend a number of pre-congress hands-on workshops. Over the next three days, the scientifically and clinically relevant lectures, covering topics such as roots canal treatment planning, complex anatomy, clinical cases, irrigation, efficacy of treatment options and obturation, were all well attended. In addition, almost 20 companies showcased their latest products in the field of endodontics at the ROOTS SUMMIT industry exhibition.

Since the establishment of a dedicated Facebook group in 2012, the ROOTS SUMMIT has increased its membership from just under 1,000 participants to its current level of more than 23,000, including many global endodontic opinion leaders. Well over 100 countries are represented in the group. Members of the community engage in discussions regarding endodontic treatment, the various issues that affect the patient, prognoses, current literature, new equipment, as well as new procedures and protocols, among others. The online community is also moderated by a volunteering group of endodontists.

In addition to this English-speaking, global ROOTS community, the Spanish-speaking global endodontic Facebook forum Endolatinos, which currently has 13,000 members, was established in 2010 from a mailing list of about 2,500 people. In 2013, Endolatinos organized the pre-congress of the Asociación Española de Endodoncia, the Spanish endodontic society, and about a month ago, the Asociación allowed Endolatinos to create the scientific program for its annual meeting, which was attended by 1,300 people.

The 2016 ROOTS SUMMIT was organized in collaboration with Dental Tribune International. At the closing ceremony, the organisers already disclosed that the next meeting will be held in 2018 in the German capital of Berlin. The exact dates are still to be announced.