Implant dentistry in Singapore gets boost

University of Washington endorses six-month course in surgical training

Daniel Zimmermann

**HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany:** A dental implant training programme currently run by Singapore’s largest private dental care centre T32 has been accorded recognition by the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle in the US. The programme, which saw its first students graduate in late September, was set up last year in partnership with Arra Dental Group in China to offer dentists from both countries advanced training in key techniques required for dental implant surgery.

While dental education programmes between Singapore and other countries already exist, this is the first time that a US university has endorsed a training programme offered by a private dental clinic in the country. Besides consultation on the programmes, UW will also provide training and assessment on UW’s main campus in Seattle for the final part of the course.

“Singapore is hugely important and recognised as a key dental and health hub for Asia and we are delighted to partner T32 Implant Dental Training Centre to provide a robust course for dentists to continue their specialist postgraduate training, post graduate which in turn will benefit patients in Singapore and across the region,” commented Dr Ariel Raigrodski, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Prosthodontics at UW’s Department of Restorative Dentistry.

Singapore’s Chief Dental Officer Prof. Patrick Tong hailed the new partnership, which he said would provide more opportunities for dentists to update their knowledge and offer better quality dental care. Patients who may not be able to afford treatment with the latest dental techniques will also benefit from the new programme, as they will be given treatment at a reduced cost treatment by qualified dentists under the guidance of the T32 Centre’s trainers, he added.

Singapore has seen an upswing in the numbers of placed implants placed lately due to rising income and higher oral-health awareness amongst the population.

**Dental corp sends help to Pakistan**

Henry Schein, the largest dental company in the world, has donated health care supplies to the flood victims in Pakistan. The effort is part of the company’s global social responsibility programme that supports non-governmental organisations during humanitarian emergencies.

**NZ reptile tested for use in dentistry**

UK researchers have started to investigate the sophisticated interplay between jaw, muscles and the brain through skull and teeth of a NZ reptile species called Tuatara. Their studies could help to prevent damage to dental implants and jaw joints that occur after loss of periodontal ligament.

Dental Pulp Stem Cells derived from primary and wisdom teeth are also under cryogenic conditions for future use. The latest research has indicated that adult stem cells, which can also be extracted from bone marrow and other parts of the human body, have the potential to treat non-communicable diseases like cancer or heart disease and to repair or regenerate entire organs. Dental Pulp Stem Cells derived from primary and wisdom teeth placed lately due to rising income and higher oral-health awareness amongst the population.

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**UAE kids miss out on dental checks**

The head of Dubai Dental Services of the United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) Ministry of Health Dr Aisha Sultan has called on the central government in Abu Dhabi to increase spending on preventive oral-health programmes. She said that while other Middle Eastern countries like Bahrain have successfully implemented such programmes, the UAE still lacks a political will to introduce regular dental checks of schoolchildren, especially in the country’s neglected Northern rural areas.

According to the results of a national oral health survey conducted in early 2010, caries is highly prevalent in the primary dentition of most five-year-old children living in the UAE. It also found that only 17 per cent of all children were complete caries free.

**Stem cell bank opens in Mumbai**

Health care consulting company Gencoval Strategic Services in India has announced its partnership with a French biomedical institute to open the first dental stem cell bank in Mumbai.

The new company Stemade Biotech will use a patented technology from Institute Clinident BioPharmain Aix-en-Provence in France to extract and preserve Dental Pulp Stem Cells derived from primary and wisdom teeth under cryogenic conditions for various therapeutic applications in the future, company officials said.

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