Regional declaration on amalgam phase-out signed in Bangladesh

Asia poised to become first continent free from dental mercury waste

DT Asia Pacific:

Dhaka, Bangladesh: Representatives of dental and civil society organizations in Asia recently signed a declaration in Dhaka, Bangladesh, that calls for a phase-out of dental fillings containing mercury throughout the region. The agreement also aims for the cease of trade in amalgam and to educate dental professionals about mercury-free alternatives, such as Atraumatic Restorative Treatment.

Use of amalgam in the treatment of children and pregnant women is to be prohibited already this year, the paper states. It also strives for developing measures to raise public awareness about the environmental hazards of amalgam and to help hospitals and dental institutions continue wide to provide mercury-free dental health care services. An overall phase-out of amalgam in dentistry in Asia is targeted for 2020.

The declaration was formulated last November in Dhaka. (Photo OSVSWA, India)

Signed by dental representatives from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the declaration is considered a practical step towards implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury, an international agreement signed by 87 countries two years ago in Japan that has banned the use of the substance containing mercury throughout the world.

During his lifetime, Brånemark received several honours, including the Swedish Society of Medicine’s Soderberg Prize and the European Inventor Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Dr John Williams and colleagues from the Colorado State University in the US demonstrating a device that could allow deaf patients to hear with their tongue. (Photo courtesy of CSU, USA)

Dental icon dies at 85

The father of the modern dental implant, Per-Ingvar Brånemark, has died at age 85 in his hometown of Gothenburg in Sweden from a heart attack. He leaves behind his wife, three children and four grandchildren.

A physician and dedicated researcher, Brånemark accidentally discovered how to anchor titanium in bone, a process known as osseo integration, when studying the effects of blood flow on bone healing. He successfully placed the first titanium implant in the mid-1960s in a Swedish patient with several jaw deformities and missing teeth. His invention was approved by Swedish health authorities in the early 1970s. It is still sold today as the Brånemark system by Nobel Biocare.

Japanese researchers have found that people who wear dentures at night are at an increased risk of pneumonia. According to their study, patients who wore their dentures during sleep were at a 2.5-fold risk of developing the condition compared with those of a control group who removed their dentures before they went to bed. Denture wearers were also more likely to suffer developing tongue and denture plaque, Candida albicans, as well as periodontal inflammation.

80 men and 296 women aged 85 and over in terms of their oral health status and behaviour.

Dr John Williams and colleagues from the Colorado State University in the US demonstrating a device that could allow deaf patients to hear with their tongue. (Photo courtesy of CSU, USA)

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Dentures pose health risk during sleep

Recommendations changed

The Food and Drug Administration has updated its recommendations for the use of bone graft substitutes containing recombinant proteins or synthetic peptides in patients under the age of 18. Owing to reported adverse effects, the regulatory body advises against routine use of such products in this population.

Dentist best job in the United States

US News & World Report has announced that dentist and dental hygienist are again among the best jobs in the United States, with dentist at No. 1. Dentist is also among the 2015 top best-paying jobs in the country, only preceded by physicians, who top the list with an average of US$186,440 earned in 2015.

The study conducted at the Nihon University’s School of Dentistry and Keio University’s School of Medicine in Tokyo examined 228 men and 266 women aged 85 and over in terms of their oral health status and behaviour.

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Dakha, Bangladesh, last November, he commented.

“It is so old that it pre-dates the man remains were estimated at 22. ‘Charlie Divan’ had her internship at the Free University of Brussels and was the name of the column she wrote for Charlie Hebdo. She also published two books, Un homme + une femme = quoi ? [A Man + A Woman = What?] and Le Désir et la putain [Desire and the Whores]. In a twist of irony, we had been working together on an essay about death, trans-mission and love over the past year. Parental authority and the lasting damage it can cause was also one of her favourite themes. Although a free spirit, Elsa was always attentive. Her very special laugh was distinctive. Her enthusiasm and lust for life could be felt when she would say, ‘Soooo, what’s new with you?’.”

Open to many things, she loved to flick through the Dental Tribune that I would sometimes leave on her desk. On June 5, 2014, we celebrated the release of Patrick Pelloux’s book On ne vit qu’une fois! [You only live once!] with Charlie Hebdo editor Stéphane Charbonnier and the rest of the Charlie Hebdo team.

Journalist, doctor and colleague: A tribute to Elsa Cayat

From right to left: Marc Revise with Elsa Cayat and fellow journalist Antonin Fischetti. (Photo Archive)