Opinion

A unique event in Asia

Tevstian Deyanov
Singapore

In October, all eyes will be on Singapore for the 7th CAD/CAM & Computerized Dentistry International Conference, which is to be held at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center.

This remarkable networking event will bring together dentists, dental technicians and leading dental industry players to exchange knowledge and experience on the latest developments in dental CAD/CAM and computerised dentistry. Among other things, the dental technicians’ session will be well worth attending.

This tailor-made programme with a focus on dental lab technicians has been integrated into the two-day main programme for continuing professional education. It will focus on providing them with contemporary technology-focused education and covering various aspects of using digital dentistry in the lab environment. Participants will learn how to take advantage of the latest digital technologies and the most up-to-date CAD/CAM methods and applications for CAD/CAM systems. The unique course will demonstrate key factors in increasing lab productivity and improving the efficiency of the dental team.

The parallel session on the second day of the conference will be dedicated to dental lab technicians, with presentations by professional speakers on the state of the art. In his presentation, “CAD/CAM technology – Flexibility at its best”, Lukz Ketelaar from DeguDent will review ten years of CAD/CAM in dentistry, including materials, production methods and indications. Patrizio Corso from Zirkonzahn will present quality, perfection, precision and an intelligent and wide variety of solutions in “Ready to face the future—Endless possibilities”. This will be followed by a hands-on course, “Digital functional prosthetics—Best practice”, by Barry Cakir from AmannGirrbach and a workshop on “IPS e.max CAD on technology, the STRENGTH and ESTHETICS combine” by Pitsun Intoratat from Ivoclar Vivadent.

The session will conclude with a lecture by Pitsun Intoratat from Vertex Dental entitled “Thermosens monomer-free thermoplastic denture base material”. ■

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“A major obstacle

Dr Martin Gillis
Canada

In September 2011, a UN High-level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) was held in New York City. This was a watershed moment in the global fight against NCDs with the adoption of a declaration by UN members states, meaning that all nations must take action against this global epidemic.

Oral disease, the most common NCD and one of the most expensive to treat, is a global public health concern. The political declaration notes that oral diseases “share common risk factors and can benefit from common responses”. Therefore, interventions and strategies to improve nutrition should have a positive impact on all NCDs, including the prevention and control of oral disease.

The World Health Organization will be the lead agency implementing prevention and control measures for NCDs; however, progress will require a multifaceted approach from multiple sectors. Partnerships are crucial to the success of future endeavours against NCDs. The FDI and IDF recognize this as witnessed by the release of “A call to action for integrated case management of the diabetic patient” during the 2007 Annual World Dental Congress in Dubai. This led IDF to create oral health resources for diabetes care providers and raised awareness about the importance of oral health in diabetes management.

Today we have the task of implementing the Political Declaration on NCDs by addressing complex issues such as poor nutrition. Mitigating this risk factor will help with the prevention and control of oral disease and type 2 diabetes. Now is the time for both federal agencies to renew efforts for collaborative action on this global concern. ■

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Global oral health in the context of preventive and long-term interventions and materials

Dr Peter Cooney
Canada

The appropriate use of different oral health promotion or preventive interventions and materials, as well as treatment options in public policy is crucial for the improvement of the oral health of dental and other health professionals.

Canada recently completed an oral health survey that established the current oral health status of Canadians and, in addition to describing the needs of the population, it established a baseline to which the effectiveness of any intervention can be compared. This assessment, along with an in-depth understanding of the dental public health community and the parameters of a community, lays the necessary groundwork for determining the intervention approach to take.

In addition to understanding the needs of an individual or a population, it is also important to compare the reach, effectiveness and costs of an intervention in order to determine which intervention will have the greatest impact. For example, a community with a high incidence of caries and a viable central water supply may benefit from introducing water fluoridation.

In terms of treatment options, an understanding of the individual or community is vital when making clinical decisions involving different dental materials. For example, when deciding between composite or amalgam fillings for treatment of cavities, establishing the ease of access to a dental professional and the size of the cavity are key. Amalgam is inexpensive, durable, and relatively fast and easy to place. Composites may cost more, may not be as strong or durable in locations where they are subject to forces produced by chewing, and are often more difficult to place. In some remote communities with limited access to dental professionals, amalgam fillings may be the material of choice.

In summary, it is essential when making an intervention or treatment decision to evaluate and consider the results of a thorough needs assessment, the pros, cons and effectiveness of the proposed intervention, as well as the associated costs. This detailed planning from the outset will translate into health improvements in a population. ■

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Are you hiding any weapons off mass destruction?

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