**Getting Up to Date**

*Dental Tribune* looks back at an informative and entertaining evening at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham...

Ocal-B has a great reputation for delivering high quality seminars, so I was really looking forward to the 2011 lecture series called *Up To Date: Oral-B Scientific Exchange Seminars*. Aimed primarily at dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists, the 10-date series of seminars features a selection of three well-respected speakers: Nicola West, Trevor Burke and Iain Chapple.

Each of the speakers' presentations was based on the following:

**Iain Chapple: Periodontal Medicine – a window on the internal medicine of the body.**

The biological base of Periodontology as a discipline is vast, as illustrated by the diverse nature of periodontal research and its intimate relationship with general health and well-being. Medical approaches to care employ a forensic and systematic approach to history-taking, physical examination and clinical investigations, focussed upon achieving a differential and ultimately definitive diagnosis. Once this is made, medical management involves treating the cause of the disorder by pharmacological or behavioural approaches and/or preventing disease onset or progression. This presentation will attempt to illustrate the enormous scope of practice of periodontal medicine, by guiding delegates through a heavily illustrated and systematic approach to investigating periodontal manifestations of systemic conditions. It will illustrate the “tip of the iceberg” of this far reaching and often neglected aspect of periodontal care.

**Trevor Burke: A pragmatic approach to the treatment of tooth wear.**

In the past, treatment of tooth wear was often by the crowning of affected teeth, or by a full oral rehabilitation, with many teeth being crowned, with the aim of protecting their surfaces from further tooth wear. The irony, of course, being that the treatment resulted in much more massive destruction of the affected teeth than the causative factors themselves. A strange way to treat teeth which were already compromised! However, advances in bonding techniques have enabled the use of minimally invasive treatment using resin composite restorations bonded to the worn surfaces. This presentation will discuss the optimum bonding agents for the procedure, the principles of dental aesthetics and how to achieve an aesthetic improvement – the concept of pragmatic aesthetics - and will indicate the rates of success which may be expected.

**Nicola West: New Concepts in Tooth Wear and Dentine Hypersensitivity.**

Tooth wear is a multifactorial condition of growing concern and is becoming increasingly significant in the management of our patients. People are now re-taing their teeth for longer, becoming more aware of their teeth and treatment possibilities, and expecting their teeth to last them a lifetime. Although there is usually one predominant cause of wear for an individual, a number of wear processes often occur together, the most common form, especially in the younger age groups, being erosive tooth wear. One of the effects of tooth wear, erosive tooth wear combined with abrasive wear, can lead to the condition which we are all familiar with, dentine hypersensitivity. Tooth wear is a common dental problem after caries, periodontal disease and trauma, is likely to increase in the future. We need to know how to manage these cases with preventive measures, and most importantly, when to intervene restoratively, often committing that individual to a lifetime of dentistry.

Attending the event held at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham, it was the turn of Iain Chapple and Trevor Burke to speak. With the room packed to the rafters as more than 500 people attended the event, both speakers had plenty to say.

Chairing the event was Dr Stephen Hancock, himself not a stranger to the dental stage. Prof Chapple was the first to speak, discussing the importance that dentists have to save lives by identifying and managing tooth wear because of the potential dental, cardiac and even life-threatening consequences. Prof Burke then moved onto the treatment of tooth wear: the use of bonding to dentine techniques, the ‘Dahl’ principle, composites.

This was an interesting event, for me personally I found Prof Chapple’s presentation fascinating because of the potential dentists have to save lives (in fact Professor Chapple’s research is at the forefront of oral care methodology. Many of the causes of erosion are lifestyle related i.e. acidic drinks, gastric reflux, medication side effects. Prof Burke then moved onto the treatment of tooth wear: the use of bonding to dentine techniques, the ‘Dahl’ principle, composites.

For more information or to book a place, contact Event Organiser, Julia Fish – email julia@communications.co.uk or call 07585 508550.

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**Additional Information**

- Oral-B has a great reputation for delivering high quality seminars.
- The seminar series included experts like Iain Chapple, Trevor Burke, and Nicola West.
- The presentations focused on periodontal medicine, tooth wear, and dentine hypersensitivity.
- The audience consisted of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental therapists.
- The aim of the presentations was to illustrate the “tip of the iceberg” of the far-reaching and often neglected aspect of periodontal care.

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**Further Reading**

- For more information or to book a place, contact Event Organiser Julia Fish at communications.co.uk or call 07585 508550.
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