ISDH 2019 provides stimulating programme on evidence-based practice

By Brendan Day, DTI

BRISBANE, Australia: From 15 to 17 August, dental professionals from all around the world came together for the 21st International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH) in Brisbane. The event attracted 3,155 attendees, representing 34 countries, who were engaged by an exciting mix of scientific presentations by leading international dental experts and new product launches by the exhibiting companies.

The Dental Hygienists Association of Australia, in collaboration with the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH), hosted the event under the theme of “Leadership, Empowerment, Advances, Diversity” or LEAD. The symposium opened with a welcome-to-the-country ceremony featuring members of the local indigenous community and this was followed, after lunch, by keynote presentations by Drs Ron Knevel and Dagmar Else Slot, among others.

The next day, Ann Battrell, CEO of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA), and Matt Cremp, President of the ADHA, together delivered a well-received presentation titled “The wise investment: Strategic dental hygiene leadership development.” A gala dinner was held at the picturesque Howard Smith Wharves that night, with a live band providing attendees with a welcome opportunity to let their hair down.

Anh Do, a Vietnamese-born Australian comedian, writer and artist, delivered the keynote speech on the final day of the ISDH. Do’s humorous and heart-warming presentation, which focused on his journey from refugee to becoming one of Australia’s most loved entertainers, was extremely well received by attendees.

Corrie Jongbloed-Zoet, a past President of the Dutch Dental Hygienists’ Association, delivered her inaugural address as the newly installed President of the IFDH, a position that she will hold until 2022. Jongbloed-Zoet takes over from Robyn Watson, who held the position from 2016 to 2019. The next ISDH will take place in 2022 at the Convention Centre Dublin in Ireland. Those interested in receiving updates regarding this symposium can sign up here.

Research compares cooling ability of high-speed handpieces

By DTI

OTAGO, New Zealand: Not all dental practitioners may be aware of the finer details of dentistry equipment. Helene Chua, a 22-year-old fourth-year University of Otago Bachelor of Dental Surgery student, has recently made headlines with her research into the cooling efficiency of different numbers of water coolant ports on high-speed handpieces. Her findings point to the potential for significant savings for dentists around the world.

Chua received the Otago Medical Research Foundation’s 2018/19 Summer Research Scholarship for her research. She compared four-port high-speed handpiece systems to single-port systems to see which produced better cooling results. Her results indicated that four-port systems led to better cooling, but no statistically significant difference was found. Chua believes this finding may help improve handpieces and make them more comfortable in the future.

The findings could also mean significant savings for practitioners, as a four-coolant-port handpiece costs around NZ$280, compared with the single-port variety, which costs around NZ$800. “Not many dentists know about the specifics of the tools they are using, and this research gives them information for choosing what to buy and use,” said Chua.

‘Opportunities like this give undergraduate students a taste of research, and that can encourage them to pursue postgraduate studies and possible future academic careers. It also lets students understand the importance of research-informed teaching and research-based practice as a dental professional,’ said research supervisor Dr Joanne Choi.

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