"Allergic reactions from amalgam fillings in some patients have been acknowledged"

An interview with Prof. Lars Hylander, Uppsala University

In November, an agreement in concept was reached by a World Health Organization-convened international expert group meeting, supporting the phase-out of dental mercury use worldwide. Dental Tribune Group Editor Daniel Zimmermann spoke with Prof. Lars Hylander, Associate Professor at the University of Uppsala in Sweden who attended the meeting, about the agreement and strategies for future biomaterials use in dentistry.

Daniel Zimmermann: Prof. Hylander, you recently attended a joint meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that aimed to assess the latest clinical evidence on dental restorative materials. Could you tell us about the outcome of the meeting?

Prof. Lars Hylander:

Most participants agreed that amalgam should be phased out or at least phased down. Dr Poul Erik Petersen, Responsible Officer for Oral Health at the WHO, however, raised several good questions, such as what to tell people in poor countries who cannot even afford dental amalgam fillings. At this point, the room grew rather silent.

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