Disagreement arises on dentist numbers in Australia

Uncapped higher education system contributes to oversupply, dental associations say

SYDNEY, Australia: Experts in Australia have questioned claims by the Australian Dental Association (ADA) and the Australian Dental Students Association in Sydney that the higher education system in the country is placing too many dental graduates on the market, thereby contributing significantly to an oversupply of dentists. Conor King, Executive Director of Innovative Research Universities, a network of seven universities with dental schools in the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Townsville, recently told the The Australian that the criticism is deficient and the current uncapped system has not lead to a “wild breakout” in dental places.

In a letter directed to Minister for Education Christopher Pyne, ADA President Dr Karin Alexander said that there are currently too many students graduating from dental programmes in Australia, which, according to her, would leave the entire industry oversupplied with dentists for at least another 12 years. She called for reducing the number of new graduates by removing dental from the

MegaGen receives large-scale investment

Straumann has recently purchased convertible bonds for a total of US$50 million from MegaGen, a South Korean manufacturer of dental implant solutions. The investment can be converted into shares in 2016 to obtain a majority stake in the company, according to reports.

MegaGen will have an important role as a strong partner based in Asia, Straumann’s CEO Marco Gadola said. The Korean company stated that it will be investing the majority of the transaction proceeds in the expansion of its domestic and international implant business and the worldwide promotion of its digital platform.

MegaGen is a privately held company owned by about 150 founding shareholders holding about 58 per cent of the shares. Based in Daegu and Seoul, the company offers a broad range of low-cost implant systems, digital dentistry solutions, regenerative tools and products to support implant procedures. In 2013, the company generated global revenue of more than US$50 million.