A unique event in Asia

Tevetan 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”, Lutz Keteleer from DePuyOxit will review ten years of CAD/CAM in dentistry, including materials, production methods and applications. 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 Czech from AmannGirrbach and a workshop on “IPS e.max CAD—technology, technology, CAM technology with ESTHETICS combine” by Pituco Intontarit from Ivoclar Vivadent.

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

Global oral health in the context of preventive and treatment interventions and materials

Dr Peter Cooney

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 of individuals and populations. Whether one is a private practice dentist doing treatment planning or a public health dentist assessing the needs of a community, the approach is the same.

In order to assess which preventive and promotion intervention to use, it is utterly important to evaluate the needs and current oral health status of the individual or population first, as well to conduct an assessment of the community. The oral health assessment would include the incidence of caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer. The assessment of the community would include elements such as whether there is a community water system, whether the community is fluoridated and at what level, and the availability of health community and the particularities 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 of dental 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?”

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 member 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 endeavors 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 the time for both federalisms to renew efforts for collaborative action on this global concern.

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