Thailand wins bid for FDI Annual World Dental Congress, 2015 edition to be held in Bangkok

ISTANBUL, Turkey: For the third time in five years, the Annual World Dental Congress of the FDI World Dental Federation will be held in an Asian country. An agreement between the Geneva-based dentists’ organisation and the Dental Association of Thailand (DTA) to organise the 2015 congress in Bangkok was signed recently at the 2013 FDI AWDC in the Turkish capital.

It will be the first time that the South-East Asian country will host the prestigious international dental event. According to DTA President Dr Adirek S. Wongsa, who spoke to Dental Tribune briefly in Istanbul, his organisation has bid to host the congress in Thailand each year since 1999. It will be a unique event that will not only highlight the rapid development of dentistry in Thailand, but also bring all professions in dentistry together, he said. Preparations have already commenced and more information will be released in the upcoming months.

The congress in Bangkok will follow the 2014 edition, which is being organised by the Indian Dental Association and hosted in New Delhi. The organisation’s most recent congresses in Asia were held in Hong Kong and Singapore. The Korean Dental Association won the bid to organise this year’s congress in Seoul in South Korea but the event there was cancelled, and hosted instead by the Turkish Dental Association last month in Istanbul.

The DTA is organising its own annual dental event, the Thailand International Dental Congress, to be held in November this year. According to Wongsa, the event attracts around 5,000 dental professionals each year. The Kingdom of Thailand currently has a workforce of 12,000 dentists.

Dental Tribune expands to Israel

With its new Israeli partner, the Dental Tribune International Group will soon be providing dentists with the latest news from the region and worldwide in Hebrew. The Dental Tribune Israel office will be run by Danom Technologies, a local distributor of dental equipment, such as Fotona lasers, that was founded in 2004. The first print edition will be made available in October during the Israel Dental Association meeting. A local website will be launched in September.

Teeth grown from urine

A team of Chinese researchers has managed to engineer tooth-like structures from human urine induced stem cells, which could be used to regenerate patient-specific dental tissue or even whole teeth. They used nine distinct lines of pluripotent stem cells derived from the urine cells of three donors. Combined with dental mesenchyme, these cells were then transplanted into mice. After three weeks, the researchers observed the formation of tooth-like structures possessing the properties of human teeth. Overall, they reported a 50 per cent success rate for tooth regeneration.

Adult dental stem cells have been used in tissue engineering research successfully. However, the absence of consistent sources of dental epithelial stem cells with odontogenic potential in adults is a major limiting factor of tooth regeneration from these cells. Thus, autogenic pluripotent stem cells induced from human urine could be available alternative. In the future, bioengineered tooth grafts created from stem cells could be cultured in vitro and transplanted into a patient’s jawbone to form a fully functional tooth, they said.

Preparations have already commenced for the 2015 Annual World Dental Congress, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand. (DTI/Photo Daniel Zimmermann)

Sleep apnoea linked to glaucoma

A study in Taiwan has shown that sleep apnoea is associated with the risk of developing glaucoma, one of the main causes of blindness. Overall, 1.67 times more participants with obstructive sleep apnoea developed open-angle glaucoma within five years compared with controls, according to the report.

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