Flossy Brush: Toothbrush and flossing aid in one

Flossy Brush is not just another toothbrush. It is far more effective at removing plaque and simple to use,” said Dr Zoltan Ruzsmak, CEO of Flossy Brush. “Our aim is to sell this widely in the US market, and as we grow, expand into European and Japanese markets. Right now, we are looking for investors who have an interest in helping launch the product into the next phase.” Investors who want to learn more about the company and the product may visit the dedicated page on the Fundable crowdfunding website for more information. The brush can be ordered at www.flossybrush.com for US$7.99, with ten yards of floss included in the package.

After a development phase of two years, a US start-up company has launched Flossy Brush, a new 2-in-1 dental cleaning tool that combines a manual toothbrush on one end and a flossing aid on the other. Owing to its double functionality, the manufacturer claims that it removes significantly more plaque than a regular manual brush does. It is currently the only product of its kind available on the market.

The Flossy Brush features a long, curved handle that enables the user to reach the posterior teeth with ease. The integrated floss holder offers simple and quick placement and replacement of any kind of floss on the market. The brush is available in different colours and two bristle types: ultra-soft bristles (tapered 0.01” tip) or Tyresoft rounded bristles.

Ethanol extracts of the fruit of the Terminalia chebula tree, commonly known as Indian walnut, may be an effective means to prevent oral inflammation and bone resorption, new findings of a South Korean study have suggested. T. chebula is one of the most commonly used plants in traditional medicines on the Indian subcontinent. In the study, the researchers investigated the effect of an ethanolic extract of T. chebula in the treatment and prevention of periodontal disease. The anti-inflammatory effect was analyzed using the disc diffusion method, and the anti-infectious effect was determined by molecular biological analysis of cultured cells mediated by bacteria associated with dental plaque formation. In addition, the prevention of osteoclastic bone resorption by the plant extract was explored using osteoclast formation and gain formation assays.

The findings showed that the plant extract suppressed the growth of harmful oral bacteria and reduced the induction of inflammatory cytokines and proteases while not showing cytotoxic effects. Moreover, it inhibited osteoclast formation in osteoclast precursors, thereby contributing to the prevention of bone resorption, the researchers found. In light of the findings, ethanol extracts of T. chebula may be an effective botanical chemopreventive agent that can modulate bacteria-induced inflammatory factors involved in gingivitis and periodontitis, the researchers concluded. However, further studies are needed to isolate and identify the beneficial chemical constituents in the extract that could be exploited for pharmaceutical use, such as in mouthwash and other oral hygiene products.

Kiwi researcher aims to regrow teeth

The ability to grow new teeth has long been a pipe dream in dentistry. Recent breakthroughs, however, have shown that it is possible to promote regeneration of dental tissue with the aim of reducing the use of filling material and helping teeth to self-repair. Dr Anam Ali from the University of Otago in New Zealand has now launched a research project that seeks to develop a biomaterials system that would allow regrowth of entire teeth.

Ali’s “No drill, no fill” project was initially intended to create a suitable biocompatible alternative to traditional filling materials used to treat dental caries. The study’s parameters soon expanded to producing new dental tissue as the potential of the materials to be used became apparent during preliminary testing.

In recognition of their innovation, Ali and his team have been awarded an exploratory grant of A$150,000 (US$113,171) from the Health Research Council of New Zealand. This grant is intended to provide financial support for the study for up to 24 months. “Developing a technique to regrow teeth, for example, is an extraordinary concept and offers huge potential for people suffering dental health problems,” said Health Minister Dr Jonathan Coleman upon awarding the grant to Ali.
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DAMA: New dental aesthetics meeting to be introduced in Singapore

The Aesthetic Dentistry Society Singapore (ADSS) has announced the launch of a new event focused on the discipline for the Asia-Pacific region. Making its debut in autumn 2018, the Dental Aesthetics Meeting in Asia (DAMA) will be held on 28 and 29 September and feature a conference with papers by leading international practitioners and researchers, as well as an industry exhibition.

"To improve patient care and aesthetic outcomes, it is imperative that dentists continually hone their skills by learning from the best within the field and by staying up to date with the latest developments in dental technology," ADSS President Dr Asha Karunakaran said. "With DAMA, dentists in the Asia-Pacific will have a central platform where we can come together and meet face-to-face to discuss the latest trends in aesthetic dentistry."

"In its premiere edition, DAMA will differentiate itself from other events in the region. It will not only focus on the science, but also take a closer look at the dentist's role in the patient's journey to achieving the perfect smile," elaborated Dr Jeffrey Seow, organising chairperson for the 2018 event.

The inaugural edition of DAMA will be held in conjunction with the Asian Congress of Aesthetic Dentistry (ACAD), which is organised by the Asian Academy of Aesthetic Dentistry (AAAD).

"We're excited to return to Singapore for our biennial event ACAD. Having it coincide with the first edition of DAMA is a great development for the dental aesthetics industry in Asia. Singapore is a modern and vibrant city and, as a central business hub in the region, it is easily accessi ble for all our regional members. It is an ideal city to hold one of our congresses in," AAAD President Dr Rin nie Yap said.

According to event manager Koelnmesse, the event will be held at the Marina Bay Sands hotel. More information about DAMA can be found at www.dama.sg.

FDI prepares for congress in Madrid

From 29 August to 1 September, the FDI World Dental Federation is hosting its Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Madrid. Visitors will be able to attend lectures given by prominent international speakers on the latest advancements related to dentistry and oral health. In addition, they will have the opportunity to attend the accompanying exhibition and hands-on sessions according to their preferences. With over 1,000 abstracts from 46 countries submitted—more than ever before—a new record has been set even before the event has begun.

The abstracts received for 486 posters and 534 oral presentations exceeded by far the number submitted for all previous AWDCs. The abstracts were submitted by dental professionals from 46 countries for the various categories according to their topic: 151 on general dentistry, 170 addressing preventative dentistry, 462 concerning dental treatment and restorative dentistry, and 237 about oral surgery, medicine and cancer. All of the accepted abstracts will be published in a special issue of the International Dental Journal, the official journal of the FDI World Dental Federation.

According to Dr Oscar Castro, President of Consejo General de Colegiados de Odontólogos y Estomatólogos de España (the Spanish dental association) and chairperson of the 2017 AWDC organising committee, "the number of abstracts received reflects the magnitude of the forthcoming FDI congress, which will be the largest dental event of the year."

With the participation of distinguished dental professionals from all over the world, the event will be an international showcase of the research and clinical work of leading experts and will give attendees the opportunity to exchange opinions with more than 10,000 other visitors.

The congress in Madrid will offer the opportunity to interact with well-known international speakers during the Meet the Expert sessions. The scheduled eight subject areas to be covered are periodontics and implantology (Dr Karl Ludwig Ackermann and Stefan Pick, Germany); prosthodontology (Prof. Matthias Kerst, Germany); orthodontics (Prof. Amid Ismail, USA); anaesthesia (Prof. Stanley F. Malamed, USA); treatment plan...