EuroPerio9 is the place to be for the latest news about periodontal health and its impact on overall health. Today, the world’s leading congress in periodontics and implant dentistry kicked off at the RAI congress centre in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The triennial event is taking place from 20 to 23 June and is expected to welcome around 10,000 congress attendees from over 150 countries.

The organiser, the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP), has announced an extensive list of important topics to be discussed, including oral piercings and periodontal health, oral health and its impact on sport performance, and the role of nutrition in periodontal health. The scientific programme offers sessions on genetics, the oral microbiome, the role of artificial intelligence in disease modelling, trends in antibiotic resistance, new diagnostic tools and minimally invasive therapies, among others. The lectures will be delivered by some of the top experts in periododontics.

More than 1,720 studies will be presented in Amsterdam, including oral presentations, poster-discussions and e-posters. The programme includes the EFP Perio Contest, for which single case reports were submitted, and the first EFP Photo Contest, with prizes to be awarded.

With presenters from Turkey, Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Japan, the UK and China, among other countries, EuroPerio9 is a truly international meeting, where attendees can learn about the latest advances in periodontal treatment, discuss clinical challenges with experts and peers, and share best practices in order to improve patient care.

“EuroPerio is the ‘temple’ of periodontology and everybody must have a chance to express their views and to exchange their experiences,” said Dr Michele Reners, chair of the organising committee for EuroPerio9. “For the young generations, it is a unique opportunity to create a network with peers coming from all over the world and we want to stimulate this!”

“We tend to forget that keeping our gums healthy is extremely important for our general wellbeing and aesthetics, and that it therefore substantially influences our quality of life. We need, however, to be aware that preserving gum and oral health cannot be taken for granted and needs substantial and continuous efforts both from professional organisations and from the population. The EFP has the vision of periodontal health for a better life, and we are happy to share it with everybody interested. I am convinced that, together, we can attain it,” said President of the EFP Prof. Anton Sculean.

To make navigation as easy as possible, the EuroPerio9 app has been developed and is integrated in the EFP society app. With the app, participants can create personal programmes, view all abstracts, chat with peers, vote in sessions, ask questions and much more. The EFP app can be downloaded from the respective app stores. Once installed, most functions are usable offline.

The EFP is an umbrella organisation of 30 national scientific societies devoted to promoting research, education and awareness of periodontal science and practice.
Together with dental caries and periodontal disease, dental erosion ranks among the top three most prevalent dental conditions. According to a review paper by researchers in London, the reason some people suffer more from erosive tooth wear than others depends not only on their diet, but also on how they consume acidic beverages and foods.

The researchers, from King’s College London Dental Institute, aimed to identify how different behaviours increased the risk of developing severe tooth erosion. Their research drew on a previous study at Guy’s Hospital in London that compared the diet of 300 people with severe erosive tooth wear and of 300 people without.

The Dental Institute researchers found that those most affected were not those that simply consumed acidic drinks or food, but those who did so between meals. People who drank acidic drinks like soft drinks or fruit-flavoured teas twice a day were 11 times more likely to have moderate or severe erosion compared with those who did not. Among the groups with high potential for tooth erosion are wine drinkers, long-distance drivers and video gamers, all of whom continually expose their teeth to acidic drinks by swishing or rinsing the liquid around or holding it in their mouths, the researchers said.

The researchers concluded that the role of a bacterium strongly associated with periodontitis in the development of oral and certain other cancers. In a second study, they also found a link between periodontitis and cancer mortality at the population level.

The first study has for the first time proved the existence of a mechanism at the molecular level through which a bacterium associated with periodontitis, Treponema denticola, may also contribute to carcinogenesis. The researchers found that the primary virulence factor of T. denticola, chymotrypsin-like proteinase, occurs also in malignant tumours of the gastrointestinal tract, for example in pancreatic cancer. According to another study finding, the enzyme has the ability to activate the enzymes that cancer cells use to invade healthy tissue. At the same time, the proteinase diminished the effectiveness of the immune system by, for example, inactivating molecules known as enzyme inhibitors.

In the second study, it was proved that periodontitis is clearly associated with cancer mortality at the population level. An especially strong link to mortality due to pancreatic cancer was found. Some 70,000 Finns died of pancreatic cancer in 2016, and the researchers concluded that periodontitis together with other risk factors may have contributed to the deaths.

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The researchers concluded that periodontitis facilitates the spread of oral bacteria and their virulence factors to other parts of the body. They pointed out that the prevention and early diagnosis of periodontitis are very important, both for patients’ oral health and their overall well-being.

The first study, titled “Treponema denticola chymotrypsin-like proteinase may contribute to carcinogenesis through immunomodulation”, was published online on 16 November 2017 in the British Journal of Cancer. The second study, titled “Periodontitis and cancer mortality: Register-based cohort study of 68,273 adults in 10-year follow-up”, was published online on 11 January 2018 in the International Journal of Cancer.
Middle-aged tooth loss linked to increased coronary heart disease risk

Losing two or more teeth in midlife age is associated with increased cardiovascular disease risk, according to preliminary research. The findings were presented at the American Heart Association’s 2018 Epidemiology and Prevention | Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health Scientific Sessions, a premier global exchange of the latest advances in population-based cardiovascular science for researchers and clinicians.

In a collaborative research effort between the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, US, a team of researchers analysed the impact of tooth loss in two large studies of adults. In the studies, the participants, aged 45 to 69 years, were asked to report on the numbers of natural teeth they had, then in a follow-up questionnaire, report on any recent cases of tooth loss. The adults in this analysis did not have cardiovascular disease when the studies began. The researchers prospectively studied the occurrence of tooth loss during an eight-year period and followed an incidence of cardiovascular disease among people with no tooth loss, one tooth lost and two or more teeth lost over 12 to 18 years.

It was found that, among the adults with 25 to 32 natural teeth at the respective study’s start, those who lost two or more teeth had a 23 per cent increased risk of cardiovascular disease, compared with those with no tooth loss. The increased risk occurred regardless of reported diet quality, physical activity, body weight and other cardiovascular risk factors, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. There was not a notable increase in cardiovascular disease risk among those who reported losing one tooth during the respective study period. Cardiovascular disease risk among all the participants (regardless of the number of natural teeth at the respective study’s start) increased 16 per cent among those who lost two or more teeth during the respective study period, compared with those who did not lose any teeth. Adults with less than 17 natural teeth, compared with 25 to 32 at the respective study’s start, were 25 per cent more likely to have cardiovascular disease.

Study author and Professor of Epidemiology at Tulane University Dr. Lu Qi added: “Previous research has also found that dental health issues are associated with elevated risk of cardiovascular disease. However, most of that research looked at cumulative tooth loss over a lifetime, which often includes teeth lost in childhood due to cavities, trauma and orthodontics. Tooth loss in midlife age is more likely related to inflammation, but it hasn’t been clear how this later-in-life tooth loss might influence cardiovascular disease risk.”

“In addition to other established associations between dental health and risk of disease, our findings suggest that middle-aged adults who have lost two or more teeth in the recent past could be at increased risk for cardiovascular disease. That’s regardless of the number of natural teeth a person has as a middle-aged adult, or whether they have traditional risk factors for cardiovascular disease, such as poor diet or high blood pressure,” Qi said.

The findings have not yet been published as a peer-reviewed paper. The abstract, titled “Changes in dental health and coronary heart disease risk: Two prospective cohort studies in men and women,” was published in the Circulation journal, 20 March 2018.
We have worked hard to put together a high-quality programme with the latest research in the field.

An interview with Prof. Søren Jepsen, Scientific Chair of EuroPerio9.

Dr Monique Danser, Netherlands

This year’s EuroPerio, the world’s leading congress in periodontology and implant dentistry, is expected to attract up to 10,000 periodontists and members of the dental team to learn about the latest in periodontal research and clinical practice, in June in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. In this interview, Prof. Søren Jepsen, past President of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) and Scientific Chair of EuroPerio9, outlines the event’s scientific programme, which features more than 100 top-level speakers and many innovations. The detailed programme is available at www.efp.org/europerio9/programme/scientific

Why should a dentist or a hygienist consider attending EuroPerio9?

Because EuroPerio9 is their opportunity to obtain the best insight on periodontology and implant dentistry available in the world until 2021 when EuroPerio10 takes place. EuroPerio9 has gathered the best pool of talented speakers from Europe and around the world for an audience that is increasingly global too. We’ll enjoy a great venue in a city as attractive and well-connected as Amsterdam. And then there are the events of the networking programme, the fact that all happens in only four days and the choice between four parallel tracks of presentations according to the attendee’s interests. All in all, attending EuroPerio9 is the most enjoyable and cost-effective way to be fully updated on the best in periodontology and implant dentistry available today.

Will EuroPerio9 be similar to EuroPerio7, EuroPerio8 and EuroPerio9 (Vienna, Austria, 2012)?

It will be definitely unique! We have created the Team Session track, which is more inclusive than the previous separate track for dental hygienists. We have added more sessions on the afternoon of Wednesday, 20 June, to take better advantage of the time before the official opening ceremony.

We have arranged sessions in such a way that all oral presentations will be able to present their short oral presentations and posters for discussion. We have included well-established stars in the specialty and have more women speakers and young speakers than ever before. We have built on the best of our successful experiences and we have added a number of new formats.

What are those new formats?

We have designed eight new formats. First, on the opening day, we will have a special double session with the Japanese Society of Periodontology, one on titanium and anti-infective therapy, the other on regenerative periodontal and implant therapy. Second, the Perio Talks will offer fresh, TED Talk-style presentations given at the first EFP Alumni Symposium. Third is a lively debate about the use of antibiotics, led by Prof. Andrea Mombelli and Dr. Ramon Herrera, in which attendees will be able to use their smartphones as voting devices. Fourth, for the first time, a live surgery session will take place at a EuroPerio congress. A new, rarely performed procedure with implants will be carried out by Prof. Giovanni Ruccelli and Dr. Martina Stefanini at the Academisch Centrum Tandheelkunde Amsterdam dental school and broadcast in real time.

The fifth major innovation is the interdisciplinary treatment planning session, in which cases will be shown and the audience will choose between different options for treatment. Sixth is a 3D session with Dr. Pierpaolo Cortellini and Prof. Stefan Renvert on reconstructive surgery on teeth and implants, in a large auditorium. Sevenths is the EFP Perio Cont test, for which presentations will be judged not only by an expert panel but also by social media voting before the congress. The three final presentations will be invited to present their work on stage in the last day of the congress. Eighth is the Nightmare Session, in which Dr. Mario Naccarato, Oualid Rapsom, Jean-Louis Giovannoli and Caroline Fouque will explore treatments that went badly.

Being Scientific Chair of EuroPerio9 sounds like quite a challenge. Has the experience been?

It is, indeed, an incredible challenge, but also an opportunity to work with a wonderful team of periodontists and professional organizers. Together, we have worked hard to put together a high-quality programme with the latest research in the field, the best professional stars and the new formats I mentioned. I hope that EuroPerio9 will provide attendees with a fruitful and unforgettable experience!

While the percentage of healthy people has grown during the last decade, severe periodontitis has remained at almost 10 per cent despite the fact that we have better healthcare and screening systems, as well as more in vivo and more preventive treatments. New techniques that many more dental professionals can try for the treatment of periodontitis, such as regenerative methods, tooth transplantation and dental implants, are currently in development.

Every year, we encounter more cases of peri-implantitis. A good diagnosis and indication for tooth replacement are therefore essential. Apart from tooth loss, the ideal situation would be to have a tooth replaced by another natural tooth through skillful treatment. A medical expert should discuss this with a patient. The medical field, guidelines are in development for helping practitioners to treat the patient optimally.

A team approach is also essential. As healthcare professionals, we need to offer prevention, lifestyle coaching and dental treatment at the same time. In addition to offering appropriate and affordable treatment, we should provide patients with the latest research in the field, the best professional stars and the new formats I mentioned. I hope that EuroPerio9 will provide attendees with a fruitful and unforgettable experience!
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Ahead of EuroPerio9, the editorial team of CAMLOG Biotechnologies sat together with Dr Annika Meyer to talk about the characteristics of a perio-friendly and efficient workflow. Meyer, who studied dentistry at the Humboldt University in Berlin and previously worked in dental education and product management for several international dental businesses, also touched on implant products manufactured by the Swiss company based in Basel that make these workflows possible.

Dr Annika Meyer, it seems you are always up to date when it comes to significant trends in implantology regarding clinical research. From your point of view, what can you tell us about the emerging trends in implantology?

Dr Annika Meyer: For me, as a scientifically oriented clinician, flashy claims from implant manufacturers trying to set trends with colourful pictures are not at all interesting. What is important and attractive to me is getting clinical data, clinical results, on the most significant developments affecting the treatment outcomes for our patients. Can we see a clinical benefit? If so, under what conditions? Now, faster than ever before, we are able to collect more data from completed clinical trials. This allows us to implement the acquired knowledge for decisive developments in implantology.

Why is implementing the acquired knowledge for decisive developments in implantology important?

Today, we are even more capable than before of establishing consensus on the benefits of particular workflows and developments. This gives clinicians the necessary guidelines. So what are the decisive developments of the past that have made implant treatment workflows perio-friendly?

Developments in CAD/CAM technology are progressing very rapidly. We tend to forget that providing a custom-made abutment with an individual emergence profile was a time-consuming and expensive way to obtain a perio-friendly restoration. Now, perio-friendly structures are easy to achieve with individual abutments from DEDICAM. With DEDICAM abutments, an individual emergence profile allows the clinician to define the optimal position of the cervical margin—be it for aesthetic reasons or for easier removal of excess cement for proper cementation margins.

For many of those attending EuroPerio9, the advantages of individual CAD/CAM abutments are well known. Nowadays, such abutments can be an integral part of the general dentist’s offering without any further investment—making this process perio-friendly and efficient. The lab designs the individual abutment and the dentist receives...
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One could describe them as everyday heroes—the dentists and dental professionals who, through their dedication, professional skill or simply a friendly smile, manage to transform dental appointments into positive experiences for their patients. They do this simply because they care and want to ensure their patients feel comfortable. This is precisely the focus of W&H’s new image campaign, “From a patient to a fan,” which aims to put the spotlight on dentists and their teams. In this interview, W&H Marketing Director Anita Thallinger talks about the background, objectives and challenges of the company’s new advertising campaign.

In February, the new W&H image campaign was launched in dental markets worldwide. What objectives were set for the new campaign? Anita Thallinger: One of the objectives of the new campaign, of course, is to draw the attention of the world of dentistry to W&H and to distinguish the company from the competition. Moreover, we want to show dentists and their practice teams that W&H is there for them as a solutions provider and does its utmost to support them in overcoming their day-to-day challenges.

W&H’s new image campaign does not focus on the company itself, but on dentists and their teams. Why did you choose this approach? We want our customers to know that W&H values their work, dedication and skills. As a manufacturer of innovative dental solutions, it is our goal to support users with products that offer added value. As practice teams need to give patients their undivided attention throughout the entire treatment process, W&H sees its primary task as being to optimise and facilitate the workflow. Our innovative products are not only high in quality, but also intuitive, reliable and above all precise in their functioning. Our goal is to support dentists and their teams and offer them products that meet these requirements.

The new campaign features smiling dentists and patients. What makes your current campaign different from that of your competitors? At first glance, the new image campaign seems to take a very traditional approach compared with our previous campaign. However, W&H is known for its slightly tongue-in-cheek advertising. This is evident in the current campaign from the names given to the dentists in the ads. If someone is exceptionally good at something, or becomes synonymous with something, he or she becomes the epitome of it, thereby gaining fans. W&H has applied this approach in the new campaign. In the eyes of patients, the dentists pictured in the advertisements become Dr Phil Good, Dr X. Pert, Dr I. Hrvatin, Dr S. Mils, Dr I. Trust or Dr Sue Fenster, and thus become the living embodiment of trust, well-being, expertise, happiness and innovative spirit.

Instead of using models, you put W&H employees at centre stage for the campaign. Why did you opt for this approach, and how did your colleagues feel about the photo shoot? At W&H, the concept of together- ness plays an important role. Our employees are in contact with at least one area of dentistry every day. They enjoyed the change of perspective and putting themselves in our customers’ shoes. For the photo shoot itself, we were able to find three dentists in Salzburg in Austria who offered their modern facilities as sets. The dentists and their assistants were also on hand to offer advice during production, that is why the images look authentic. I think the fun that all the participants had in the process is evident from the emotion in the photos.

Have you already received some initial feedback on the campaign from your customers and partners? What has the response been? We carried out a survey involving around 100 dentists during the development phase. The concept itself, the idea with the names and many other aspects were put to the test and received excellent feedback across the board. So, we are looking forward to an exciting year.

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions.  