

Emerging trends in oral care

The Netherlands: famed for its canals, tulips, clogs, windmills, but also for progressive decisions on social issues and the international headquarters of Philips Royal Electronics. It therefore does not come as a surprise that the company hosted the 4th Annual Oral Healthcare Symposium on 9 March 2006 in its home country for some of the most eminent dental professionals in Europe. Not that the delegates had much time to admire the tourist sites!

After the success of its previous European Symposia, this year's 'Emerging Trends in Oral Healthcare' continued a tradition, which over the last 3 years has established a unique forum for enthusiastic and open discussion about the latest advancements in oral care science and dental practice. The foundation of the meeting is based on two criteria – the ambitious topics presented by specialist speakers and the expertise of the audience. The lead theme of the 2006 symposium was 'Oral Prevention and Periodontal Medicine'. The meeting intended to facilitate a better understanding of the intraoral ecosystem and the latest modes of prevention along with a lively debate on the systemic implications of periodontal diseases.

Introductions to each article

Dr Jörg Strate, Global Director Professional Relations for Philips Oral Healthcare, Snoqualmie, WA (USA), put together a thought-provoking programme of presentations.

Dental diseases – are these examples of ecological catastrophes?

Professor Philip Marsh, BSc, PhD, Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Dental Institute, Salisbury and Leeds, UK, gave an illuminating description of dental diseases as examples of ecological catastrophes and showed how plaque-mediated diseases arise as a result of environmental factors in the oral cavity.

The significance of supragingival plaque accumulation in periodontal disease

Professor Ubele van der Velden from the Academic Centre for Dentistry, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, explored new data

showing the significance of supragingival plaque accumulation in periodontal disease.

Oxidative stress, nutrition and neutrogenomics in periodontal health and disease

Professor Ian Chapple BDS, FDSRCPS (Glas), FDSRCS (Edin), PhD, CCST Restorative Dentistry, Birmingham Dental School, presented the latest findings in oxidative stress, nutrition and neutrogenomics in periodontal health and disease and reviewed the compelling hypothesis that 'we are what we eat'.

Dental plaque as a possible risk factor for general diseases – results from longitudinal studies

Dr Birgitta Söder RDH Odont Lic, Dr Med Sc, of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm presented the results of a variety of longitudinal studies into dental plaque. Dr Söder showed that there is growing evidence implicating chronic inflammation and infection as risk factors for coronary heart disease and other systemic diseases possibly leading to premature death.

Oral inflammation and systemic health: Is the association only an artefact?

Priv-Doz Med. Dent., Professor Christof Doerfer of the Universitätsklinikum, Heidelberg, Germany expanded on the theme of periodontitis and systemic health – and in particular the link with ischemic stroke and revealed the current state of science today in this field of research.

Systemic effects of periodontitis

As more information has become available, Professor Bruno Loos DDS, MSc, PhD, from the Academic Centre for Dentistry, Amsterdam explored some of the systemic markers in patients with periodontal diseases and pondered whether they were risk factors for cardiovascular diseases. Interestingly, he

also explored the implications for these findings for dental professionals.

Periodontal therapy and preterm birth

Dr Arthur Hefti, Vice President of Clinical and Scientific Affairs with Philips Oral Healthcare, revealed the findings of a pilot study into the effects of periodontal therapy during pregnancy on selected clinical and biological parameters, which showed that intervention with a Sonicare toothbrush improved the periodontal health and prevented periodontal disease progression in pregnant women.

Periodontics: current concepts and emerging trends

The symposium concluded with a long lens look at some of the current concepts and emerging trends in periodontics by Professor Dr Med. Dent. Jörg Meyle of the Universitaet Giessen, Giessen, Germany. During his presentation he analysed the current situation in clinical periodontal research and tried to anticipate some exciting future developments, which will benefit both practitioner and patient alike.

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