

Preface

Seventh European Workshop on Periodontology of the European Academy of Periodontology at the Parador at La Granja, Segovia, Spain

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Sanz M, Lang NP, Kinane DF, Berglundh T, Chapple I, Tonetti MS. Seventh European Workshop on Periodontology of the European Academy of Periodontology at the Parador at La Granja, Segovia, Spain. *J Clin Periodontol* 2011; 38 (Suppl. 11): 1–2. doi: 10.1111/j.1600-051X.2010.01692.x.

In the past two decades, seven European Workshops in Periodontology (EWP) have been organized by the European Academy of Periodontology, a standing committee from the European Federation of Periodontology, in the city of Ittingen (Switzerland) chaired by Prof. Niklaus Lang. These very successful workshops have formed the consensus of expert opinion in Europe on important issues in periodontology and implant dentistry and have influenced global opinion through our non-European contributors. They have been published in a special supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*, with a distribution to over 14,000 individuals and over 700 institutions worldwide. At the last VI EWP in 2008, the EAP approved the organization of future EWP by a new EFP Workshop Committee chaired by Prof. Mariano Sanz. This committee invited teachers and researchers in Periodontology and Implant Dentistry to parti-

cipate in the Seventh European Workshop on Periodontology (7th EWP). Seventy-eight colleagues travelled to the Parador at La Granja in the province of Segovia, Spain, to spend 4 days updating our knowledge and discussing pertinent issues on “The biology of periodontal and periimplant diseases”.

Such an academic event can only take place if all participants contribute with their full enthusiasm and engagement. It is, therefore, our privilege to acknowledge the enormous work carried out by our colleagues who wrote the reviews, and to the dedication and complete devotion of all the participants during the sessions of the workshop.

Moreover, the EAP wishes to acknowledge the generous financial support of this 7th EWP by Colgate Palmolive, Piscataway, NJ, USA. Without their spontaneous and no-strings-attached financial support, as well as their professional support and interest during the workshop, this scientific event could not have convened. Last, but not least, the Spanish Society of Periodontology (SEPA) who graciously provided local support to all the participants.

In five working sessions, the following major aspects were discussed, debated and consensus reached:

(A) *Periodontal infections: understanding the complexity* with four posi-

tion papers on “Has research into the human molecular microbiome changed our understanding of the periodontal disease process?”, “Are there particular microbial complexes associated with specific cell/tissue responses?”, “How is the acquisition and composition of the biofilm influenced by the host?” and “What can we learn about biofilm/host interactions from the study of inflammatory bowel disease?”.

(B) *Host response: understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of host/microbial interactions, as well as the mechanisms of periodontal tissue destruction* with position papers on “How has neutrophil research improved our understanding of periodontal pathogenesis?”, “How do lymphocyte responses and cytokine networks impact our understanding of periodontitis?”, “How can we understand host tissue destruction, both soft tissue degradation and osteoclast activation?” and “What can we learn about periodontal pathogenesis from studies into Rheumatoid Arthritis?”.

(C) *Biological approaches to the development of novel periodontal therapies* with position papers on “Pro-resolving lipid mediators: can research into the active resolution of inflammation provide new therapeutic options for

Conflict of interest and source of funding statement

The authors report no conflict of interests in the participation on this workshop and in the writing of this manuscript.

This supplement was supported by an unrestricted grant from Colgate.

periodontitis?”, “What can antimicrobial peptides offer as a novel therapeutic approach?”, “Micronutritional approaches to periodontal therapy” and “Can pre- or pro-biotics offer opportunities to manipulate the periodontal microflora?”.

(D) *Periimplant diseases: where are we now?* with position papers on “Do mucositis lesions around implants differ from gingivitis lesions around teeth?”, “Are peri-implantitis lesions different from periodontitis lesions?”, “What

are the characteristics of the biofilm in peri-implant disease?” and “How do implant surface characteristics influence peri-implant disease?”

This supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* presents the revised peer-reviewed versions of the 16 reviews and the four Consensus Reports of Sessions A–D.

With an extremely efficient review process setting priority for early publication, the EAP hopes to contribute with

another monograph and putting periodontal practice on a solid scientific foundation. Owing to the generosity of Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, this supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* will reach the interested reader within a few months of the La Granja Workshop and, hence, the acquired knowledge will disseminate as fast as possible.

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