The Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (or Belt and Road Initiative) is a development strategy initiated by the Chinese government. With reference to the historic Silk Road, it focuses on connectivity and cooperation between Eurasian countries. At this year’s HKIDEAS, the Hong Kong Dental Association (HKDA) is hosting the Inaugural Belt and Road Oral Health Summit to foster exchange and cooperation between Hong Kong’s dental professionals and their counterparts from countries along these routes.

With presentations by oral health experts and representatives, the summit will give an overview of the current local developments regarding the dental profession and the oral health strategies in participating countries. According to the HKDA, it is hoped that the summit will generate synergies and enable both Hong Kong itself and the relevant regions to draw on each other’s strengths to ensure better oral health for their respective populations and formulate long-term dental health strategies that fulfill their corresponding needs. In addition to serving as a starting point to foster exchange through which the strengths and needs in the oral health sector of the respective countries can be identified, the organisers believe that the initiative will benefit both the local dental profession and its counterparts along the belt and road by identifying key areas that necessitate improvement.

Depending on their actual situation, participating countries may highlight their experience in various areas related to dentistry, such as dental education, workforce status and planning, market supply of advanced dental equipment and technology, dental laboratory service, infection control, and the current state of dental services for underprivileged and vulnerable populations.

By taking the lead, the summit seeks to promote Hong Kong’s role as the super-connector and hence further advance the international status of the Hong Kong dental profession, HKDA stressed.

The summit takes place on 6 August from 9:00 to 12:45 in meeting room S428 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.
Emerging challenges to health care professionals and policymakers

Introduction to Forum on Aging Population at HKIDEAS 2017 by Prof. Li-jian Jin, Hong Kong

The ageing population is increasingly becoming a critical issue in various countries and regions around the world, mainly due to a decreased fertility rate and increased life expectancy. As such, advocacy for healthy ageing and effective care of the elderly are emerging great challenges to all health care professionals and policymakers. According to the United Nations, the current rate of population ageing has exceeded that of the last century. Notably, Hong Kong is becoming an ageing society with a significant increase in the greying population. The World Health Organization has strongly advocated for a life-course approach to healthy ageing, and the FDI World Dental Federation has recently released a global policy statement on the role of oral health care professionals in the promotion of healthy ageing globally.

During this year’s HKIDEAS, three invited medical and dental experts will be jointly addressing this notable issue opportunistically at the Forum on Aging Population. Prof. Jean Woo, Director of the CUHK Jockey Club Institute of Ageing at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, will be highlighting the key issues and challenges of population ageing in Hong Kong, and elaborating on possible strategies to effectively deal with the challenges, via a model of medical social integration and promotion of a self-management scheme.

Dr Kai Hang Yiu, from the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong, will be demonstrating the oral-systemic interactions and the resultant impacts on oral and general health, and offering an essential medical perspective on oral health for ageing population.

Dr Frankie So, Senior Dental Officer at the Hong Kong Department of Health, will be discussing the main challenges dental professionals are facing, and emphasizing the importance of health promotion and disease prevention through the collaboration of dental and medical professionals for maintaining natural dentition and contributing to healthy ageing.

Editorial note: The Forum on Aging Population takes place on 4 August from 16:30 to 18:00 in Hall 5G. Read more about the HKIDEAS 2017 scientific programme on page 6.

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Periodontal health in focus at FDI congress 2017

From 29 August to 1 September, the FDI World Dental Federation is holding its Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Madrid. For the sixth time, the organisation is hosting its World Oral Health Forum (WOHF) as part of the congress. With future initiatives in mind, this year’s forum will focus on periodontal health.

The WOHF was launched in 2012, inspired by the model of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, an initiative that engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. The WOHF is in line with the FDI’s Vision 2020 initiative to shape the future of oral health.

Although generally a single-session format, the forum has also consisted of a number of sessions in the past, featuring diverse speakers discussing global challenges and opportunities related to oral health. The WOHF sessions typically include short presentations by the panellists on topics relevant to both dentists and the wider society, followed by questions and answers.

According to the FDI, the WOHF seeks to expose FDI members to matters not necessarily discussed at dental congresses and to attract audiences who might not regularly attend dental events. Panels are usually made up of one representative of an international organisation (such as UN agencies WHO, UNICEF and UNEP), or of a political body (like ministries of health, the environment and the economy), one representative of the dental and oral health industry, one or two representatives from FDI membership and one representative of a non-dental organisation (such as cardiologists and IT organisations).

Past forums have addressed topics such as the Minamata Convention regarding amalgam phase-down, guidelines on sugar intake and challenges of oral health care in an ageing society. The 2017 WOHF in Madrid, held on 31 August from 9:00 to 12:00, will explore the theme ‘Global periodontal health: Challenges, priorities and perspectives’. The panelists will discuss why periodontal diseases are an important topic to address and whether they are preventable and treatable. They will talk about current problems and recommended actions. Each presentation will be followed by a panel debate.

The FDI AWDC is held every year in a different country. Visitors can attend lectures given by prominent international speakers on the latest advances in dentistry and oral health.

This year’s scientific programme will feature 47 expert speakers from 24 countries and cover nearly 30 major areas and topics of concern to today’s dental and oral health care practitioners.

The parallel Spanish programme will include 28 lectures by 25 speakers addressing 12 fields of dentistry, such as public health, dental materials, periodontics and restorative dentistry. In addition, visitors will have the opportunity to attend the accompanying exhibition and hands-on sessions according to their preferences.

The FDI Madrid 2017 App, with a detailed congress programme and exhibitor list, is now available for download. More information on the WOHF can be found at www.dental-dental.org.

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GC Chairman receives honorary doctorate

In acknowledgement of the long-standing mutually beneficial relationship between Japanese dental manufacturer GC and the University of Turku in Finland, GC Chairman Makoto Nakao has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the university’s Faculty of Medicine.

"For me, this is the most significant personal recognition that I have received," Nakao told the audience at the conferment ceremony in Turku. Although it was not the first award given to him, his previous international honours were primarily from the business sector and from science communities and governments, he said.

The collaboration between GC and the university started in 1999. In cooperation with the Turku Clinical Biomaterials Centre, GC was able to further advance the development of preventive bioactive composites, among other things. In 2013, the fruitful cooperation led to the launch of a dental composite that has since won five different innovation and quality awards.

Playing a vital role in the partnership between GC and the university, Prof. Pekka Vallittu, director of the centre, said that GC is one of the world’s largest developers, manufacturers and sellers of oral biomaterials. Therefore, the cooperation helps ensure that science and research at the university remain updated on the needs of the dental industry.

This year, the medical faculty at the university only awarded one other honorary doctorate, to immunology and stem cell biology expert Prof. Irving Weissman from Stanford University in the US.

* GC Chairman Makoto Nakao has received an honorary doctorate from the University of Turku.

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Ivoclar Vivadent acquires Swiss start-up Kapanu

Ivoclar Vivadent, one of the world’s leading dental manufacturers, has acquired the Swiss start-up company Kapanu, specialized in custom software solutions for desktop, web and mobile applications. Both companies intend to work together on the development of innovative dental applications.

Kapanu is a start-up and spin-off company of ETH Zurich, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics university. The company was founded in 2015 and consists of a team of scientists and developers who produce leading-edge software for the dental industry.

Ivoclar Vivadent and Kapanu plan to work together to develop innovative dental applications that connect real-life processes with the digital world. Their main objective will be to determine how the usage of augmented reality can facilitate dental diagnoses, case analysis and treatment therapies, Ivoclar Vivadent announced in a press release.

Further details of the acquisition were not disclosed.

Nobel Biocare offers quicker delivery for NobelProcera bridges

Nobel Biocare has announced that customers using the company’s NobelProcera solutions can now receive NobelProcera bridges in zirconia sooner. Estimated delivery times have been cut from four days to three, helping dental professionals significantly reduce treatment times. The time-saving is the result of a concerted effort to further enhance efficiency at the NobelProcera production centres in Mahwah in the US and Chiba in Japan.

Victor Nieto, Vice President of Global Operations at Nobel Biocare, said: “We are pleased that we can now offer our customers high-quality NobelProcera bridges in less time. Time is precious for dental professionals and patients alike. Across Nobel Biocare, we are innovating to offer superior solutions that shorten treatment times. Providing precision-engineered restorations faster is an important part of this.”

Moreover, quality control is a priority for the teams at the NobelProcera production sites, where stringent procedures are in place to help ensure that customers receive only restorations of the highest quality.

In this regard, Belgian master dental technician Luc Rutten, who recently visited the NobelProcera facility in the US, stated: “The plant in Mahwah really impressed me. Quality assurance there is outstanding. After every step in the production process, they carry out a precision review. Rigorous accuracy is maintained at the level of a few microns. The resulting precision of the copings, abutments, bridges and implant bars in titanium and zirconia leaves nothing to chance—which means that I feel nothing but confidence.”

More information can be found at www.nobelbiocare.com/nobelprocera.

World Summit Tour heads to Shanghai

After hosting major events in Tokyo in Japan in February, San Diego in the US in May, and Nice in France in June, the 2017 World Summit Tour will make its final stop in Shanghai on 25 and 26 November.

Once again, attendees can again expect an extensive programme of scientific lectures by international and regional speakers, hands-on workshops on various solutions, as well as a display of Dentsply Sirona’s comprehensive portfolio. The company’s products cover the full range of implant treatment, including imaging systems for diagnostics and treatment planning, computer-assisted surgical procedures and bone regenerative materials, as well as a variety of patient-specific CAD/CAM prosthetic solutions, such as Atlantis and CEREC.

Congress participants will again be invited to view the poster exhibition, for which dental professionals can submit poster abstracts in the categories of clinical application and research until 15 September. The winning entries in the competition in both groups will be awarded €1,500 each.

With the World Summit Tour, Dentsply Sirona brings together current scientific news with the latest clinical and digital developments in implant dentistry. The theme of the tour—"Because inspiration and confidence matters"—is intended to reflect the company’s dedication to improved oral health and enhanced quality of life for implant patients worldwide.

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Friday, 4 August
9:00–10:30  
Endodontics vs Implants  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Dr Peter Pospiech

10:30–11:15  
Break

11:15–12:45  
Modern Endodontics: Effect of Technological Advances  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session B)  
Speaker: Dr Meetu Kohli

12:45–14:15  
Management in Higher Risk Patients  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session B)  
Speaker: Prof. Li-jian Jin

10:30–11:15  
Break

11:15–12:45  
Proactive Periodontal Care in Dental Practice: Challenges, Key Issues for Success and Perspectives  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Prof. Li-jian Jin

12:45–14:15  
Lunch break

14:15–15:45  
Complex Oral Rehabilitation Involving Dental Implants and Natural Teeth: Aesthetic Management  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session B)  
Speaker: Dr Eduardo Mahn

Workshop 2: Medical Emergency—Improving Your Skills and Your Teamwork through Practice  
Tang Shiu Kin Hospital  
Speaker: Dr Alan Reid

Saturday, 5 August
9:00–10:30  
Pink and White Esthetics from the Periodontal Point of View  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Dr Jeannette Chua

15:45–16:30  
Break

10:30–11:15  
Mid-Facial Expansion and Airway Improvement with Micro-Implant (MI) Assisted Maxillary Skeletal Expander (MSE)  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Prof. Won Moon

11:15–12:45  
Traditional Techniques vs CAD-CAM Restorations. Nature vs Machines and Softwares. How Can We Combine both Worlds and Is Any of them Going to Prevail?  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session B)  
Speaker: Dr Eduardo Mahn

12:45–14:15  
Lunch break

14:15–15:45  
Mid-Facial Expansion and Airway Improvement with Micro-Implant (MI) Assisted Maxillary Skeletal Expander (MSE)  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Prof. Won Moon

Preparation Rules for CAD-CAM Restorations—Did Something Really Change?  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session B)  
Speaker: Dr Eduardo Mahn

Workshop 2: Medical Emergency—Improving Your Skills and Your Teamwork through Practice  
Tang Shiu Kin Hospital  
Speaker: Dr Alan Reid

15:45–16:30  
Break

16:30–18:00  
Mid-Facial Expansion and Airway Improvement with Micro-Implant (MI) Assisted Maxillary Skeletal Expander (MSE)  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Prof. Won Moon

Sunday, 6 August
9:00–10:30  
Advancements in Surgical Implant Dentistry: Moving from Freehand to Guided to Navigation  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Dr Peter Moy

10:30–11:15  
Break

10:45–12:45  
Summit: Inaugural Belt & Road Oral Health Summit, Hong Kong  
Meeting Room S426

11:15–12:45  
Use of Growth Factors for Hard and Soft Tissue Augmentation: Status Report  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Dr Peter Moy

A Comprehensive Review of Current Composite Technologies: How to Interpret the Scientific Data in order to Find your Ideal Material and Achieve Optimal Restorations?  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session B)  
Speaker: Dr Yu-chih Chiang

Workshop 3: Maxillary Skeletal Expander (MSE)  
Meeting Room S426

12:45–14:15  
Oral Health Educational Talk  
Chair: Dr Andrew Chan & Century Tsang

14:15–15:45  
Management of the Unwell and Deteriorating Patient—A Practical Approach  
Hall 5F (Parallel Session A)  
Speaker: Dr Alan Reid

Professionalism in 21st Century Dentistry—Balancing the Risks; Delivering Oral Health Care  
Hall 5G (Parallel Session B)  
Speaker: Dr Stephen Henderson
What’s on in Hong Kong 4–6 August

Chinese Opera Festival: Battle of the Throne
Date: 4–6 August
Starting times: 19:30 Friday and Saturday; 15:00 Sunday
Venue: Friday and Saturday: Ko Shan Theatre, 77 Ko Shan Rd; Sunday: Yuen Long Theatre, 9 Yuen Long Tai Yuk Rd
www.cot.gov.hk

Established in 2010, the Chinese Opera Festival annually captivates audiences with a compelling mix of productions featuring opera genres from various parts of China, such as Beijing, Guangdong and Jiangsu. This year’s event will be even more festive, as it celebrates the 20th anniversary of Britain’s handover of Hong Kong to China. In addition to alternating shows, the festival will feature lectures, podium discussions, exhibitions and operatic film screenings aimed at providing an even deeper understanding of this beautiful opera feast.

On the programme this weekend is the opera Battle of the Throne, set in the Wanli period under Ming Emperor Shenzong. Blending old and new artistic elements, the palace drama follows two brothers that become enemies in their fight over the throne—a contemporary new classic performed in the format of traditional Cantonese opera.

Yesterday Once More—sky100 Observation Deck
Date: daily
Opening times: 10:00–22:30 Friday and Saturday; 10:00–21:00 Sunday
Venue: International Commerce Centre, West Kowloon
www.sky100.com.hk

The sky100 Observation Deck, located on the 100th floor of the International Commerce Centre—the tallest building in Hong Kong—is one of the city’s must-see attractions. This summer, however, visitors will not only be able to enjoy panoramic views of Hong Kong from 393 m above ground, but also be able to revisit the colourful story of the city with sky100’s summer installation Yesterday Once More.

Take a trip down memory lane on Hong Kong’s old shopping street and see long-gone tenement buildings, retro signs and even an egg waffle cart to bring the golden seventies back to mind. In the installation Our Estate, Our Home, visitors can wander through a reimagined public housing estate, including a typical home setting, an old-time photo studio and a barbershop. This is a unique opportunity to experience the lifestyle of a bygone era and at the same time enjoy breathtaking 360-degree views of modern Hong Kong’s skyline.

Hong Kong International Drummer Festival
Date: 4 August
Starting time: 20:00
Venue: Kwai Tsing Theatre, Hing Ng Road
www.hkdrumfest.com

From the classical perspective, drums are seldom viewed as a solo instrument in the performance setting. The Hong Kong International Drummer Festival aims to change that. Featuring acclaimed national and international drummers in concerts and drum competitions, the festival—being held for the second time—aims to foster exchange between drummers from different music cultures, such as drum set, marching snare drum, timpani and Chinese drum, to nourish a unique Hong Kong drum culture.

One of the highlights of this year’s event is award-winning German drummer Benny Greb, who will take centre stage at the Kwai Tsing Theatre on Friday night. For the festival, the world-famous drummer and composer will be accompanied by his band Moving Parts, featuring British musicians Kit Downes on the keyboard and Chris Montague on the guitar.

With the combination of jazzy improvisations with electronic lucidity and snotty indie sounds, concertgoers will be left in no doubt about the musical diversity of drumming.
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