Regional declaration on amalgam phase-out signed in Bangladesh

Asia poised to become first continent free from dental mercury waste

Dental icon dies at 85

The father of the modern dental implant, Per-Ingvar Brånemark, has died at age 85 in his hometown of Gothenburg in Sweden from a heart attack. He leaves behind his wife, three children and four grandchildren.

A physician and dedicated researcher, Brånemark accidently discovered how to anchor titanium in bone, a process known as osseointegration, when studying the effects of blood flow on bone healing. He successfully placed the first titanium implant in the mid-1960s in a Swedish patient with several jaw deformities and missing teeth. His invention was approved by Swedish health authorities in the early 1970s. It is still sold today as the Brånemark system by Nobel Biocare.

During his lifetime, Brånemark received several honours, including the Swedish Society of Medicine’s Söderberg Prize and the European Inventor Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Recommendations changed

The Food and Drug Administration has updated its recommen- dations for the use of bone graft substitutes containing recombinant proteins or synthetic peptides in patients under the age of 18. Owing to reported adverse effects, the regulatory body advises against routine use of such products in this population.

Dentist best job in the United States

U.S. News & World Report has announced that dentist and dental hygienist are again among the best jobs in the United States, with dentist at No. 1. Dentist is also among the 2015 top best-paying jobs in the country, only preceded by physicians, who top the list with an average of US$189,440 earned in 2013.

Dentures pose health risk during sleep

Japanese researchers have found that people who wear dentures at night are at an increased risk of pneumonia. According to their study, patients who wore their dentures during sleep were at a 2.5-fold risk of developing the condition compared with those of a control group who removed their dentures before they went to bed. Denture wearers were also more likely to suffer develop- ing tongue and denture plaque, Candida albicans, as well as periodontal inflammation.

The study conducted at the Nihon University’s School of Den- tistry and Keio University’s School of Medicine in Tokyo examined 228 men and 266 women aged 85 and over in terms of their oral health status and behaviour.

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Journalist, doctor and colleague: A tribute to Elsa Cayat

Dr Marc Revise
Scientific Editor, Dental Tribune France

Elsa Cayat was killed along with 11 of her colleagues, in the attack against French newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris on 7 January 2015. She leaves behind a 22-year-old daughter.

Elsa worked as a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst. She had her internship at the age of 22. “Charlie Divan” was the name of the column she wrote for Charlie Hebdo. She also published two books, Un homme + une femme = quoi ? [A Man + A Woman = What?] and Le Désir et la pathos [Desire and the Whore]. In a twist of irony, we had been working together on an essay about death, transmission and love over the past year. Parental authority and the lasting damage it can cause was also one of her favourite themes.

Although a free spirit, Elsa was always attentive. Her very special laugh was distinctive. Her enthusiasm and lust for life could be felt when she would say, “Sooooo, what’s new with you?”.

Open to many things, she loved to flick through the Dental Tribune that I would sometimes leave on her desk. On 5 June 2014, we celebrated the release of Patrick Pelloux’s book On ne vit qu’une fois! [You only live once!] with Charlie Hebdo editor Stéphane Charbonnier and the rest of the Charlie Hebdo team.