Dental researchers meet in Thailand
Chulalongkorn University to host AP meeting on science in dentistry

BANGKOK, Thailand/GENEVA, Switzerland: The latest dental research from the Asia Pacific region will be presented in August when the International Association for Dental Research—Asia Pacific Region (IADR–APR) holds the second Asia Pacific meeting of the IADR in partnership with Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok in Thailand. Among other topics, new strategies for bone augmentation, and advances in the regeneration of oral, dental and craniofacial tissues will be discussed. Other important topics are polymicrobial infections and the benefits of interdisciplinary research, the organiser said.

According to IADR–APR, more than 1,000 professionals from the region had already registered for the event in late July. With over 900 abstracts, submissions have also exceeded original projections. A large number of attendees from the host country, South Korea, Japan, and China are expected. In addition to poster presentations and scientific lectures, the event will feature a symposium on oral health research methods and an industry exhibition. Dental students with promising research will be competing for both the Joseph Lister and Unilever Divisional awards. The organiser said that this year’s meeting, to be held at one of the oldest universities in Thailand, will offer dental researchers and clinicians the opportunity to learn about the latest research and technological breakthroughs in the field of oral health.

The first Asia Pacific meeting of the IADR, which attracted 700 delegates, took place in 2009 in Wuhan in South Central China. Established in 1920, the region, which is part of the US-based IADR, currently comprises 4,000 members from all over Asia Pacific. According to its mission statement, the organisation’s main goal is to advance research and increase knowledge through diverse activities and the promotion of dental research for the purpose of improving oral health worldwide. Its general session, held annually in collaboration with the American Association for Dental Research, is one of the most recognised meetings for research in dentistry worldwide.

DT Asia Pacific

BANGKOK will host the 2nd regional meeting of the IADR this month. (DTI/Photo Nimon Thonguthai, Thailand)

Teeth confirm T. rex was a hunter

The crown of a T. rex tooth found in South Dakota in the US and lodged in the fossilised spine of a plant-eating hadrosaur provides direct evidence of the dinosaur’s predatory behaviour.

Prehistoric predators often left their prey partially consumed, so the discovery of a T. rex tooth embedded in a hadrosaur spine provides direct evidence that the tyrannosaurus was a hunter.

German researchers have reported that vegetarians have a better periodontal status compared with meat eaters. In a recent study, they showed less inflammation, less periodontal damage and better dental home care. Their dental status however was worse than that of non-vegetarians.

Have better gums with vegetables

Clinicians from universities in Tokyo and Kyoto in Japan have recommended reflective confocal laser microscopy (RCLM) for evaluating allergic contact dermatitis owing to dental materials such as alloys. In a comparison test conducted by several members of the research team in 2010, RCLM demonstrated advantages over patch testing for visualising features of allergic contact dermatitis due to nickel and cobalt, two substances that have been found to cause the highest incidence of allergies in dental patients.

“While it might become a real-time diagnostic or adverse tool to identify a suspicious lesion or to delineate tumour margins,” RCLM still has limitations, such as the inability to detect deep objects in the dermis of normal skin, the researchers stated in the report. They recommended that in order to distinguish between different cells and determine pathological characteristics better, higher and better contrast is needed for these devices. Despite the increasing use of non-metal materials in dental treatment, contact allergies to different metals remain a problem for almost one in five dental patients worldwide.

More demand for cosmetic procedures

Dental clinics in Singapore have noted a rise in demand of an estimated 25 to 50 per cent for cosmetic dental procedures in the last five years, according to a report by the online news platform AsiaOne. An increasing number of dentists refer patients to plastic surgeons for dental fillers to remove facial lines to improve their appearance, the website quoted Dr Gerald Tan, President of Aesthetic Dentistry Society Singapore.

According to Tan, especially women are more willing to undergo cosmetic procedures, such as having their gums reshaped with laser, because they are more aware of the importance of healthy smiles. Moreover, treatment outcomes have become more predictable owing to advances in dental technology, he added.

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A hand holding rice husks, a residue from the milling process of rice grains.

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