Sweden's top students receive prestigious award

For the 19th year running, “The Husband-Göran Annermark Student Achievement Award of the Year,” also known as the Dentatus prize, was granted at a ceremony on the opening day of FDI/Swedental 2008 in Stockholm.

The prize, which is sponsored by Swedish company Dentatus, is awarded yearly to the top students of the four dental universities in Sweden.

This year’s recipients, selected by their respective university for their excellent academic achievements, were Nadya Esfahani, Ivana Franc, Jeanette Tveit and Gustaf Wiklund. In keeping with tradition, the students were further acknowledged for their achievements during the traditional Dentatus breakfast meeting held on Sept. 25.

During the meeting, the newly awarded students had the opportunity to network with several prominent dental professionals from all over the world as well as representatives from the international dental industry.

ITI appoints Dr. Friedrich Buck as new executive director

The International Team for Implantology (ITI), a leading academic organization dedicated to the promotion of evidence-based research and education in the field of implant dentistry, announced the appointment of Dr. Friedrich Buck to the position of executive director of the ITI. He will be joining the organization on Feb. 1, 2009.

Buck comes to the ITI from Ivoclar Vivadent AG, a leading international manufacturer of dental materials and equipment headquartered in Schaan, Liechtenstein. With a graduate degree and doctorate in dentistry from the University of Ulm, Germany, Buck began his career in general practice in 1991. He then joined Ivoclar Vivadent in 1993, where he rose to the position of marketing director worldwide for clinical products in 2001.

In his new position as executive director of the ITI, Buck’s main task will be to assure the smooth organization and administration of all ITI activities in order to support the implementation of the objectives, philosophy, policy and procedures of the ITI. He will also oversee the management of the ITI Center, the administrative headquarters of the ITI in Basel, Switzerland.

“During the last few years, the ITI has evolved to become a leading academic authority in the field of implant dentistry with its more than 6,000 members from more than 90 countries,” said Professor Dieter Weingart, president of the ITI. “As a dentist by education, who brings a wealth of experience in marketing and business administration in a globally operating enterprise, Dr. Buck is an ideal choice for the position of executive director of the ITI. Additionally, his deep understanding of the field of dentistry and his excellent relationship to the scientific community will be very valuable for the future growth and success of our organization.”

Buck takes over from Rolf Hafner, who oversaw the ITI’s administration for the past six years and left the organization at the end of August 2008. Professor Weingart commented: “On behalf of the ITI Board of Directors, I would like to thank Rolf Hafner for his vision, ideas and contribution, which were instrumental in making the ITI what it is today. We wish him every success in his future endeavors.”

The International Team for Implantology unites professionals around the world from every field of implant dentistry and dental tissue regeneration. For more information, see www.iti.org.
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The rationale for examining edentulous adults in this study is to observe the long-term effects of periodontal disease on the presence of chronic kidney disease,” states study author Monica Fisher, PhD, DDS, MPH. “Periodontal disease is a leading cause of tooth loss in adults; therefore endodontal is considered to be a marker of past periodontal disease in the study’s participants.”

While additional research is needed to fully understand why tooth loss is associated with a higher prevalence of CKD, the destructive nature of chronic inflammation may play a role. Both periodontal disease and chronic kidney disease are considered inflammatory conditions, and previous research has suggested that inflammation may be the common link between these diseases. Since untreated periodontal disease can ultimately lead to tooth loss, edentulous patients may have been exposed to chronic oral inflammation.

According to David Cochran, DDS, president of the American Academy of Periodontology and professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, treating periodontal disease can do a lot more than save your natural teeth.

“Researchers have long known that gum disease is related to other adverse health conditions, and now we can consider chronic kidney disease to be one of them. It is exciting to think that by controlling periodontal disease and therefore helping to preserve natural dentition, the incidence and progression of CKD may be reduced.”

Periodontists recommend regular brushing and flossing and routine visits to a dental professional in order to maintain comprehensive oral health. If gum disease develops, consulting a periodontist is an effective way to determine the most appropriate course of treatment.

About AAP

The American Academy of Periodontology is an 8,000-member association of dental professionals specializing in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the gums and supporting structures of the teeth and in the placement and maintenance of dental implants. Periodontists are one of nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association.

For more information, see www.perio.org.

(Source: American Academy of Periodontology)

Tooth loss may increase risk of kidney disease

According to the National Kidney Foundation, one out of nine Americans suffers from chronic kidney disease (CKD), and millions more are at risk. A debilitating disease, CKD can affect blood pressure and bone health, and can eventually lead to heart disease or kidney failure.

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), associated with CKD, indicating that oral care may play a role in reducing the prevalence of chronic kidney disease in the U.S. population.

The study examined the kidney function and periodontal health indicators, including edentate status, of 4,053 U.S. adults 40 years of age and older. After adjusting for recognized risk factors of CKD such as age, race/ethnicity and smoking status, the results revealed that participants who lost all their teeth were more likely to have CKD than patients who had maintained their natural dentition.

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(Source: Materialise Dental)