NON-SURGICAL PERIODONTAL THERAPY SAFE IN PREGNANCY

New clinical recommendations from the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) and the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) urge women to maintain periodontal health during pregnancy. Research has indicated that women with periodontal disease may be at risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as giving birth to a pre-term or low birth weight baby.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), babies with a birth weight of less than 5.5 pounds may be at risk of long-term health problems such as delayed motor skills, social growth, or learning disabilities. Similar complications are true for babies born at least three weeks earlier than its due date. Other issues associated with pre-term birth include respiratory problems, vision and hearing loss, or feeding and digestive problems.

The clinical recommendations released by the AAP and the EFP state that non-surgical periodontal therapy is safe for pregnant women, and can result in improved periodontal health. Published concurrently in the *Journal of Periodontology* and *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*, the report provides guidelines for both dental and medical professionals to use in

diagnosing and treating periodontal disease in pregnant women. In addition, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recently released a statement encouraging pregnant women to sustain their oral health and recommended regular dental cleanings during pregnancy.

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DIARY

BDTA Dental Showcase

Date: 17-19 October 2013
Venue: NEC Birmingham
www.dentalshowcase.com

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Date: 30 October 2013
Venue: Dental Academy, Portsmouth
www.port.ac.uk/dentalacademy

Hypnosis and its use in Dentistry

Date: 1 November 2013
Venue: Dental Academy, Portsmouth
www.port.ac.uk/dentalacademy

The Dentist as Artist-Technician by Jason Smithson

Date: 8 November 2013
Location: BACD 10th Annual Conference, Hilton London Metropole
Telephone: 020 7612 4166
www.bacd.com

ADI Members' National Forum

Date: 9 November 2013
Venue: Royal College of Physicians, London
www.adi.org.uk

BSDHT Oral Health Conference

Date: 15-16 November 2013
Venue: International Conference Centre, Birmingham
Email: enquiries@bsdht.org.uk
www.bsdht.org.uk

9th International Vienna Orthodontic Symposium (IVOS)

Date: 6-7 December 2013
Venue: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna
www.ivos.at

ESAO Conference: How to practise aesthetic orthodontics safely, ethically and legally as a GDP

Date: 14 December 2013
Venue: RCOG, London
<http://esao.co.uk/event-registration/>

GDC UPDATE

- As of 2 September, 35,733 dental care professionals (DCPs) have declared that they have met the GDC's CPD requirements. Those in the 2008-2013 cycle had until 28 August 2013 to log their 150 hours of required CPD. One thousand, nine hundred and forty-seven DCPs failed to declare compliant CPD hours and have 28 days in which to send in a copy of their CPD records.
- The composition of the GDC's new 12 member Council was announced in August. Six lay and six dental professional members have been approved by the Privy Council and will take up office in October 2013. At the time of writing a member for Wales had not yet been appointed.
- Thirty-three new Fitness to Practise panel members joined the GDC in August: nine dentists, 12 lay members and 11 DCPs. The appointments come as the first tranche of independently appointed panellists ended their ten years of service at the end of July.

MISSING A TOOTH? URINE LUCK

Tooth regrowth is closer to becoming a reality, with a new study demonstrating the use of integration-free human urine induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to regenerate patient specific dental tissues.¹

Scientists in China were able to develop stem cells from urine into tiny tooth-like structures within three weeks of transplanting a combination of iPSCs and mouse embryonic mesenchymal cells into mice. This is the first time iPSCs have been generated into solid organs or tissues. The authors stress 'the advent of iPSCs should speed up the application of regenerative tissues or organs such as teeth in the clinic'; yet there are some limitations to their methods.

Whilst the developed structures had a similar elasticity and were structurally and physically similar to human teeth, containing pulp, dentine and enamel, they were only about a third of the hardness of human teeth. The success rate was also disappointing at 30% for eight different iPSC lines.

However, further research into the tissue culture conditions and using human mesenchymal stem cells instead of mouse cells could prove successful, eventually allowing a bioengineered tooth germ to be transplanted into the jawbone of a recipient host to form a fully functional tooth.

1. Cai J, Zhang Y, Liu P *et al.* Generation of tooth-like structures from integration-free human urine induced pluripotent stem cells. *Cell Regeneration* 2013; 2: 6.

By Laura Pacey

JOHN PATRICK WATSON

It is with regret that we report the death of John Patrick Watson in Bedford on 9 July 2013. John was born on 28 April 1940 and was a practitioner in Kempston, Bedford for many years.