

# DENTAL TRIBUNE

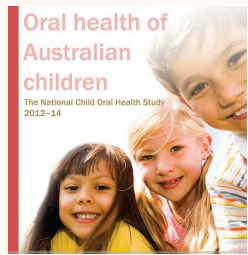
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## REPORT

A paperback edition of the latest Australian National Child Oral Health Study is set to be released this month.

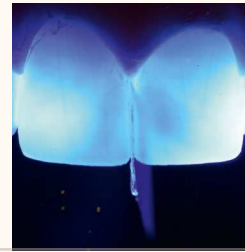
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## INTERVIEW

Jordanian endodontist Dr Ibrahim Abu Tahun on how new developments are changing the way endodontics is practised.

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## RESTORATIONS

This case report describes the use of partial veneers for achieving highly aesthetic results in the anterior region.

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## Dentist shortage to worsen

By DTI

**HONG KONG/SINGAPORE:** Owing to their growing and ageing populations, Hong Kong and Singapore are at risk of a serious lack of dentists in the years to come, experts have warned. Both are not equipped to meet the changing needs and demands of an increasingly older population with the current numbers of locally trained dentists.

According to a Hong Kong government report due to be released in the next several months, most of the city's medical professions—including dentistry—will face shortages in the next ten years, the *South China Morning Post* has reported. Proposing solutions for the predicament, the report's commission recommends increasing the number of overseas-qualified health staff working in public hospitals under limited registrations, among other measures.

To date, public hospitals in Hong Kong have been allowed to recruit foreign doctors under a



Hong Kong and Singapore are in danger of a severe shortage of medical and dental professionals in the years to come, experts have cautioned.

registration scheme that is limited to one year. However, owing to stringent conditions that restrict foreigners from working in the private sector, only 12 medical professionals joined via the scheme last year, according to the *Post*. In order to address the predicted shortage of health care

workers, these numbers would have to at least triple and contract terms be extended to attract more doctors, the report's experts cautioned.

In Singapore, this situation is presently a lived reality in the dental profession. Here, foreign-

trained dentists already made up the majority of new dentists registered in recent years. For example, in 2014, only 46 of the 187 newly registered dentists were local graduates, the *Straits Times* stated in an article.

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## MI World Symposium

**TOKYO, Japan:** As host of the MI World Symposium in Tokyo on 5 February, Japanese dental manufacturer GC Corporation arranged an impressive scientific line-up to discuss the latest concepts in the field of minimal intervention dentistry. International and regional clinicians and researchers discussed various topics, including MI management strategies and materials solutions, as well as clinical aspects of the philosophy, taking into account parameters such as age, disease status and treatment options.

The company's minimal intervention approach was developed based on an MI concept proposed by the FDI World Dental Federation in 1999 and introduced one year later. In order to enable realisation of the concept in clinical practice, the GC Europe MI Advisory Board later developed the Minimal Intervention Treatment Plan.



A skull being examined with the PlanScan intra-oral scanner. Read how Planmeca's 3-D imaging devices have helped advance fossil research. ► BUSINESS Page 8

## Regionally connected

Through analysis of the teeth of two 7,700-year-old hunter-gatherer women discovered in a Russian cave, UK researchers found that their genetic make-up closely resembled that of modern-day populations in the region. This indicates that certain ethnic groups across north-east Asia have migrated very little for around eight millennia.

## More free dental care

The University of Queensland is expanding its free dental care for disadvantaged populations owing to a new partnership with Metro North Hospital and Health Service. Through the alliance, which began in January, the university expects to be able to serve an additional 8,000 patients at its new oral health centre in Herston.

## Fighting implant infections

A team of researchers at KU Leuven in Belgium has developed a dental implant that gradually releases antimicrobial drugs to stop a biofilm forming on the surface and thereby help prevent infections. "Our implant has a built-in reservoir underneath the crown of the tooth," explained lead author Dr Kaat De Cremer.

"A cover screw makes it easy to fill this reservoir with antimicrobial drugs. The implant is made of a porous composite material, so that the drugs gradually diffuse from the reservoir to the outside of the implant, which is in direct contact with the bone cells." So far, the implant has only been tested in the laboratory.



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