Promoting early diagnosis
A novel saliva test allows dentists to measure crucial oral health parameters in a matter of minutes

By DTI

KYOTO, Japan: With the launch of its novel saliva-testing device, SPOTCHEM ST ST-4910, Japanese company ARKRAY has introduced a system that measures multiple parameters associated with oral health within 5 minutes. The measuring instrument is complemented by a testing kit, ST Check, and is to be distributed internationally, Aiko Hitomi from the Scien marketing team told Dental Tribune.

Using a small sample of saliva, the device screens parameters such as cariogenic bacteria, salivary acidity, buffer capacity, leucocyte count, traces of blood, protein status and ammonia values applying the dual-wavelength reflectance method, Hitomi explained. The patient’s individual results are visualised in an easy-to-analyse chart that is printed about 5 minutes after the saliva has been applied to the test strip.

Through analysis of the individual parameters, dental professionals may be able to recognise early warning signs of conditions such as caries or periodontal disease, according to the company. For example, studies have shown that gingival inflammation increases leucocytes in the saliva. Therefore, a high leucocyte count may be an indicator of gingivitis even though the patient is not experiencing obvious symptoms of the condition yet.

Since its launch, the palm-sized device has already attracted a great deal of interest in the market. Having promoted it at several dental exhibitions, the company has received positive feedback from regional and foreign dentists, hopefully indicative of the device’s successful distribution worldwide, Hitomi said.

Although there are some competitors in the field, he emphasised that the company’s system is unique in that it can assess seven items at once—more than any other saliva test on the market. Aimed at professional use, the technology is targeted at dentists and dental hygienists, and it is to be used for reference, but not for stand-alone diagnostic purposes, according to Hitomi.

Since saliva screening with devices such as the SPOTCHEM ST ST-4910 system has not been standardised yet, there is no compatibility between the ARKRAY kit and saliva test systems from other companies, Hitomi said. Currently, the device is available in Europe and selected Asian countries.

More information can be found at www.arkraydental.com.

ROOTS SUMMIT 2018: Registration open

By DTI

BERLIN, Germany: Online registration for the next ROOTS SUMMIT, the premier global discussion forum dedicated to endodontic dentistry, is now open. The event, featuring lectures and workshops, will be held at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin from 28 June to 1 July 2018. Approximately 500 visitors are expected at next year’s ROOTS SUMMIT, which is again being organised in collaboration with Dental Tribune International.

Although the 2018 ROOTS SUMMIT will mainly feature presentations on the latest techniques and technologies in endodontics, the organisers are inviting dental professionals in all fields, as well as manufacturers in the industry, suppliers of endodontic products and anyone involved in the practice of endodontic treatment, to attend.

It has been announced that foremost opinion leaders, including Drs Frederic Barnett, Gregely Benyocs and Elisabetta Coti, will be speaking at the conference next year. There will also be the opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops and to speak to industry professionals on site and engage with new equipment, procedures and protocols in endodontic dentistry. A number of dental companies specialising in endodontics, including META BIOMED and FKG Dentaire, have already confirmed their participation.

The ROOTS SUMMIT, which started as a mailing list of a large group of endodontic enthusiasts in the 1990s, has grown significantly over the last few years. With currently more than 24,000 members from over 100 countries, the ROOTS SUMMIT evolved into one of the most prominent global learning forums in the dental industry. Previous conferences have been held in Canada, the US, Mexico, Spain, the Netherlands, Brazil and India. The 2016 ROOTS SUMMIT took place in the UAE and was one of the most important events in endodontics, drawing over 300 dental professionals to Dubai.

An early bird discount of 20 per cent is being offered and dental students too will be granted a 20 per cent discount. Additional information and online registration can be found at www.roots-summit.com.