Leadership shakeup: Dentsply Sirona announces appointment of new interim CEO, COO

By DTI

YORK, Pa., U.S./SALZBURG, Austria: Dentsply Sirona has announced that its board of directors has implemented leadership changes with immediate effect intended to better position the company to achieve its potential. The changes include the appointment of Mark A. Thierer as interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Bob Size as interim president and chief operating officer (COO). Additionally, Eric K. Brandt has been elected nonexecutive chairman of the board. Dentsply Sirona also announced that, as part of its leadership changes, the board has accepted resignations from Bret W. Wise, executive chairman, Jeffrey T. Slovin, CEO and director, and Christopher T. Clark, president and COO.

“Dentsply Sirona’s board of directors strongly believes that the company is well-positioned to achieve its business objectives, and that new leadership is critical to achieving success,” said Brandt.

The new interim CEO has more than 30 years of experience in the health care industry. Thierer most recently served as CEO of OptumRx and oversaw all Optum pharmacy care services, including the management of pharmacy benefits, pharmacy network, home delivery pharmacy and specialty pharmacy programs. Thierer earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University in the U.S.

“I am excited about the opportunity to lead Dentsply Sirona, the recognized market leader in the dental industry,” said Thierer. “We have a significant opportunity to create value for our partners, the dental professionals and patients that use our products every day. Our dedicated employees have an unwavering commitment to high quality products, innovation, and best in class customer support helping us empower dental professionals to provide better, safer, faster dental care.”

“Mark Thierer is a proven healthcare executive with a successful track record both in driving organic growth and transaction execution on a comparable scale to Dentsply Sirona,” said Brandt. “In addition, as interim President and COO, Bob Size returns to the company with direct operational experience, having served as part of the senior leadership of Dentsply Sirona for fourteen years.”

Size served as Senior Vice President of Dentsply Sirona from January 2007 through June 2017, with operating responsibilities over both manufacturing operations and selling organizations located in the U.S. and Europe, as well as the DENTSPLY North America sales organization. Prior to that, he served as a vice president (2006) and as Vice President and General Manager of the DENTSPLY Caulk division beginning June 2003 through December 2005.

Size has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University at Buffalo and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Canisius College in the U.S.

“The board of directors has also initiated a search process to identify a permanent CEO and COO,” said Brandt.

“On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Bret, Jeff and Chris for their years of service to Dentsply Sirona. We wish each of them the best in their future endeavors,” Brandt said.
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UK-developed protective toothpaste available without fluoride

By DTI

LONDON, UK: For individuals who want to protect their teeth, but do not wish to or cannot use fluoride, BioMin Technologies has recently launched a new toothpaste. Instead of fluoride ions, the BioMin C releases chloride ions through a patented calcium chloro-phosphosilicate to replace minerals lost from tooth surfaces, the company said.

According to BioMin, the new toothpaste was developed for use in regions of the world where fluoride is already available in high levels in the water supply, such as India and China. In addition to remineralising tooth surfaces, it may further help protect teeth by reducing sensitivity and diminishing the risk of initial dental caries.

“A large portion of what we eat and drink is either acidic or contains sugars that bacteria use to form acids,” said Prof Robert Hill, Director and Chief Scientific Officer of BioMin Technologies and head of the Dental Physical Sciences unit at Queen Mary University of London. “These acids attack the tooth enamel and dissolve calcium and phosphate from the surface.”

“BioMin C works when water and saliva in the mouth help to slowly release the calcium and phosphate ions contained within the toothpaste. These ions then rapidly form the tooth mineral on the tooth surface, which effectively seals open dentine tubules,” he further explained.

BioMin C is a complement to the fluoride version of the toothpaste, which was launched to the market in April last year. CEO Richard Whatley said that the new version will capitalise on the established distribution network in the UK, parts of Europe and countries around the world, including India, China and Australia.

“Distribution contracts have also been established in the Middle East and Canada, and introduction is planned later this year in the USA. Negotiations with potential distributors and licence holders are on-going in ten further countries,” he said.

Developed at Queen Mary University of London, the BioMin technology received the Armourers and Brasiers’ Venture Prize in 2013, an annual award given to breakthrough innovations in materials science from the UK. A bioactive glass, it has been developed to adhere to tooth structure through a special polymer, from which it slowly dissolves into ions that form fluorapatite—a mineral also found in shark teeth—over an 8–12 hour period to make teeth more resistant to acids from food.