New Delhi Health Education

In an effort to improve student health, the administration of New Delhi schools have adopted a US-developed health education program. The program, called “Know Your Body,” is backed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and will not only teach students about dental care, but also about fire safety and the hazards of cigarette smoking.

Archaea in the Mouth

A California group of researchers found that more than 1/3 of the periodontitis patients they studied had archaea in their diseased subgingival spaces, but nowhere else in their mouths. Archaea, which live in extreme environments such as hot springs and salt lakes, are also found in the human colon and the vagina. Although the researchers found that the quantity of archaea correlated with severity of the disease, they speculate that archaea may not directly cause periodontal disease. Instead, they may be a much cheaper option due to the wide availability of betel leaf.

Healthy Protein Drinks

New Zealand dairy farmers are taking on the corporate might of Coca-Cola™ with drinks based on milk proteins instead of sugar. The farmer-owned Fonterra cooperative aims to take advantage of bans on soft-drinks in some school vending machines introduced in the past year in U.S. cities such as Chicago, Philadelphia and New York, the New Zealand Herald reports. Simon Leitch, Manager of Fonterra business unit called B-Cubed (Better Brighter Beverages), says the unit has started selling water spiked with whey protein as a sports drink in the U.S., Japan and Australia. It extracts the protein at Fonterra’s Lichfield cheese factory near Tokoroa and sells it to drink manufacturers in the three countries, who sell the drinks under their own brand names. You can visit Fonterra online at www.fonterra.com.

Increasing Case Acceptance?

Case presentation is probably one of the most difficult skills for any professional to master. Indeed, it is the key to increasing case acceptance. Learn how to improve your skills in this article by Dr. Roger Levin. ➞ page 4

Preventing Emergencies?

The medical history, it’s one of the most important components of the patient record. It plays a role in preventing emergencies. Brush up on the basics of the drugs commonly prescribed in the dental office with this article by Dr. Singhal. ➞ page 10

What Does An Expert Say?

Join Dr. George Freedman (Canada) as he gives you a brief summary of products that have been introduced to dentistry. His perspective is based on actual use of the products in his private clinical practice over a period of time. ➞ page 18

What’s New in New Delhi?

Just visit one of the 143 exhibitors at the FDI World Dental Congress in New Delhi, India, from 10-15 September to answer that question. With a full 5-day scientific program, you certainly won’t be short of new insights into the world of dentistry. ➞ page 30

First Herb-Based Cancer Cure

Dental Tribune International

By Robin Goodman

A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB) in Calcutta has made a serendipitous discovery of a molecule that could become the first herb-based cure for Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML), which is a severe type of blood cancer. The molecule, called chlorogenic acid, appears to target and kill leukemia cells.

During immuno-modulatory studies on betel leaf and its effect on human cell lines, the team found that chlorogenic acid induced programmed cell death in human cancer cells transplanted in experimental nude mice, explained team leader and immunologist Santu Bandypadhyaya. The molecule, which is extracted from the leaves of Piperaceae (Piper Betel), showed no deleterious effects on the growth of non-cancerous cells.

Currently there is only one drug available around the world for the treatment of CML, but its high cost prohibits widespread use. A new drug made from chlorogenic acid would prove to be a much cheaper option due to the wide availability of betel leaf.

The team has subsequently applied for global and US patents on the molecule, which was referred to as 1ch-101 during their studies. Results of their work will be published in the October edition of the journal Blood. In the interim, Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given verbal permission so that multi-centre human trials can begin immediately. Funding for the project was provided by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).