Dear reader,

During a Greater New York Dental Meeting a couple of years ago, I had the rare opportunity to speak to one of the first dentists in the USA and worldwide to have introduced rapid oral HIV tests to a dental practice. I can vividly remember her enthusiasm concerning the new technology in my interview with her. Since then, few of her colleagues followed her example unfortunately. It is thus encouraging to see that Australia—the first country in our region to do so—is now evaluating the feasibility of implementing these tests in dental practices nationwide. However, even if these tests do gain acceptance by the dental community there, this measure is only a drop in the ocean. Particularly in the Asia Pacific region, millions of new HIV infections are expected to occur in the years to come owing to sex trafficking and other reasons. It will require more and continuous efforts by the medical and dental communities to slow the spread of the virus.

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Zimmermann
Group Editor
Dental Tribune International

A controversial topic in dentistry

Cosmetic dentists around the world routinely perform various diagnostic and therapeutic procedures that involve occlusion. Smile aesthetics and occlusion has been, and is still to some extent, controversial, as there are numerous questions related to smile aesthetics and occlusion that have not been answered with scientific certainty and there are many diverse and polarised opinions regarding this.

In their undergraduate education, dental students are not fully trained in the science and art of both smile aesthetics and occlusion. When these new graduates enter into clinical practice and begin undertaking complex clinical cases, many become confused with the numerous theoretical recommendations and varied concepts about cosmetic dentistry and occlusion in academic and clinical dentistry. In order to understand the core relationship between smile aesthetics and occlusion, a clinician must be familiar with the pros and cons of all the popular concepts and theories regarding smile aesthetics and occlusion, and based on this select the most conservative treatment that is best suited to the patient and that will ensure health and function. With this in mind, two global educational academies, namely Minimally Invasive Cosmetic Dentistry, or MiCD, and Teeth, Muscles, Joints and Airways (Harmony, or TMJA), have been established with the aim of promoting healthy, comprehensive dentistry especially for dentists in the Asia Pacific region.

I am pleased to mention here that recently the Faculty of Dentistry of Thammasat University in Thailand and the Vedic Institute of Smile Aesthetics in Nepal, along with three supporting partners, signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the MiCD and TMJA Harmony International Training and Treatment Center at the Faculty of Dentistry of Thammasat University. This centre will coordinate with various like-minded clinicians, academicians and researchers working in the field of cosmetic dentistry and offer structured, skill-based training in MiCD and TMJA harmony dentistry especially for dentists in the Asia Pacific region.

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Dental Tribune Asia Pacific Edition

Opinion

A new paradigm

Nowadays, implant positioning is driven by prosthetic demands and requirements rather than the quality, quantity and morphology of the available bone and often we find ourselves confronted with the dilemma of whether the treatment plan should contemplate bone regeneration after a meticulous diagnosis.

Bone regeneration has embraced tissue engineering to overcome demanding cases. The concept lies in having a 3-D scaffold that holds specific signalling molecules in situ, which attract the host cells that form the tissue, that is, bone. The advent of digital technology in the form of 3-D printing has aroused the enthusiasm of clinicians and researchers, who are in the process of assessing its potential application to tissue regeneration. Currently, it is used as a diagnostic and surgical tool to improve overall surgical performance.

The maturation of tissue engineering in association with digital technology and its application to clinical surgical procedures will soon create a new paradigm.

Dental Tribune welcomes comments and suggestions at newsroom@dental-tribune.com.

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