Serial robber, dentist rapist nabbed by Philippine police

PDA president calls for better security measures in dental clinics

BANGKOK, Thailand: Research from Singapore demonstrating the use of fibre-optic Bragg stack sensors to measure demineralisation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s scientific re-sation of enamel has taken first place at this year’s 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Dental students in India face new regulations

From news reports

NEW DELHI, India: The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently approved a revision of course regulations for Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programmes, making it mandatory for dental undergraduates to participate in a paid, rotating one-year internship after four years of theoretical training. The new regulations will first be applied to students who started their BDS in 2008/2009 and be implemented in dental schools around the country in Autumn.

Internships were temporarily dropped from BDS courses in 2007 after the Dental Council of India found out that many students, especially from private schools, had tried to fake certificates instead of actually doing hands-on training. It also contributed to increased stress levels amongst dental students owing to the high number of subjects in the final year, according to a 2009 study.

Since then, BDS programmes have been five-year courses and consisted of theoretical modules only.

Revising the scheme after four years follows international standards that require mandatory internships in dental education institutions worldwide, ministry officials said in a statement. They added that it will also provide for better opportunities for practical training and skill development.

It is estimated that India currently has the largest number of dental schools in the world. However, experts say that the country is putting too many dentists on the market, making it difficult for BDS graduates to find a job.

Treatment of swallowing disorders

Daniel Zimmermann

HONG KONG: Magnetic brain stimulators could help stroke patients overcome life-threatening swallowing difficulties, Australian scientists have reported. In a clinical study conducted at the University of Adelaide (UA) in South Australia, researchers are currently investigating how the process of trans-cranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), a non-invasive electromagnetic stimulation of cerebral nerve cells, could help to regain control of mouth and throat muscles damaged by cerebrovascular accidents.

According to UA speech pathologist and lead researcher Dr Sebastian Doeltgen, swallowing disorders affect more than 50 per cent of patients suffering from the effects of a stroke. If untreated, the condition can lead to severe health conditions like silent aspiration, dehydration or even pneumonia, which can be life-threatening, especially for elderly patients. Common therapies to overcome the problem include physical exercises to improve the coordination of mouth and throat muscles.

The new therapy approach developed by Doeltgen and his team uses magnetic stimulation to create electric currents in the brain that could stimulate the nerve cells that control the complex process of swallowing. Similar techniques were successfully used by German researchers earlier this year to stimulate cerebral nerve cells in rats.

“When people have a stroke, the parts of their brain that control the muscles in the mouth and throat are often damaged and we have to find ways to reanimate these regions,” Doeltgen told Dental Tribune Asia Pacific. “Using TMS, we can assess to what degree different cortical motor networks are involved in swallowing motor control. This information will ultimately allow us to develop tailored swallowing rehabilitation approaches that target specific motor circuits.”

The initial results of the study, which has received governmental funding of AU$300,000 (£185,153,000), are expected to be released in two to three years.