Opinion

A unique event in Asia

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In October, all eyes will be on Singapore for the 7th CAD/CAM 
& Computerized Dentistry International Conference, which is to 
be held at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center.

This remarkable networking event will bring together den-
tists, dental technicians and 
leading dental industry players 
to exchange knowledge and ex-
perience on the latest develop-
ments in dental CAD/CAM and 
computerised dentistry. Among 
other things, the dental techni-
cians’ session will be well worth 
attending.

This tailor-made programme with a focus on dental lab tech-
nicians has been integrated into 
the two-day main programme for 
continuing professional educa-
tion. It will focus on providing 
them with contemporary, tech-
nology-focused education and 
cover various aspects of using 
digital dentistry in the lab envi-
noment. Participants will learn 
how to take advantage of the 
latest digital technologies and 
the most up-to-date CAD/CAM 
methods and applications for 
CAD/CAM systems. The unique 
course will demonstrate key fac-
tors in increasing lab productivity 
and improving the efficiency of the dental team.

The parallel session on the 
second day of the conference will 
be dedicated to dental lab tech-
nicians, with presentations by 
professional speakers on the state 
of the art. In his presentation, 
“CAD/CAM technology... Flexi-
ability at its best”, Lutz Ketzela 
from DeguDent will review ten 
years of CAD/CAM in dentistry, 
including materials, produc-
tion methods and indications. 
Patrizio Coroni from Zirkonzahn 
will present quality, perfection, 
precision and an intelligent and 
wide variety of solutions in “Ready to face the future—End-
less possibilities”. This will be 
followed by a hands-on course, 
“Digital functional prosthetics— 
Best practice”, by Barry Calgar 
from AmannGirrbach and a 
workshop on “IPS e.max CAD on 
traditional ceramics: application 
STRENGTH and ESTHETICS 
combine” by Pitsau Intoratat from 
Ivoclar Vivadent.

The session will conclude with a 
lecture by Richard Jacobs from 
Vertex Dental entitled “Thermo-
Sens monomer-free thermoplas-
tic denture base material”.

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Global oral health in the context 
of preventive or treatment interventions and materials

Dr Peter Cooney

The appropriate use of dif-
ferent oral health promotion 
or preventive interventions and 
materials, as well as treatment op-
tions in public policy is crucial for 
the improvement of the oral health 
of dental and other health pro-
essionals. 

Canada recently completed 
an oral health survey that estab-
lished the current oral health 
status of Canadians and, in ad-
dition to describing the needs of 
the population, it established a 
baseline to which the effective-
ness of any intervention can be 
compared. This assessment, 
along with an in-depth under-
standing of the dental public-
ting between composite or amal-
gam fillings for treatment of caries, establishing the ease of 
access to a dental professional and the size of the cavity are 
key. Amalgam is inexpensive, 
durable, and relatively fast and 
easy to place. Composites may 
cost more, may not be as strong or 
durable in locations where they 
are subject to forces produced by 
chewing, and are often more dif-
ficult to place. In some remote 
areas, gam fillings may be the material 
of choice.

In summary, it is essential 
when making an intervention or 
treatment decision to evaluate 
and consider the results of a thor-
ough needs assessment, the pros, 
cons and effectiveness of the pro-
posed intervention, as well as 
the associated costs. This detailed 
planning from the outset will 
translate into health improve-
ments in a population.

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A major obstacle

Dr Martin Gillis
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In September 2011, a UN High-level Meeting on Noncom-
municable Diseases (NCDs) was 
held in New York City. This was a 
watershed moment in the global 
fight against NCDs with the adop-
tion of a declaration by UN mem-
ber states, meaning that all na-
tions must take action against 
this global epidemic.

Oral disease, the most com-
mon NCD and one of the most 
expensive to treat, is a global public health concern. The political 
declaration notes that oral dis-
eases “share common risk fac-
tors and can benefit from com-
mon responses”. Therefore, in-
ventions and strategies to im-
prove nutrition should have a 
positive impact on all NCDs, in-
cluding the prevention and con-
trol of oral disease.

The World Health Organiza-
tion will be the lead agency im-
plementing prevention and con-
trol measures for NCDs; how-
ever, progress will require a mul-
tifaceted approach from multiple 
sectors. Partnerships are crucial 
to the success of future endeav-
ours against NCDs. The FDI and 
IDF recognise this as witnessed 
by the release of “A call to action 
for integrated case management 
of the diabetic patient” during 
the 2007 Annual World Dental 
Congress in Dubai. This led FDI 
to create oral health resources 
for diabetes care providers and 
raised awareness about the im-
portance of oral health in dia-
betes management.

Today we have the task of im-
plementing the Political Decla-
rations on NCDs by addressing 
complex issues such as poor nu-
trition. Mitigating this risk factor 
will help with the prevention and 
control of oral disease and type 2 diabetes. Now is the time for both 
federations to renew efforts for 
collaborative action on this 
global concern.

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