Beyond endodontics: Roots Summit 2010

Claudia Salwiczek

BARCELONA, Spain: What do Barcelona and endodontics have in common? For me, the answer was nothing, until last week’s Roots Summit. From now onwards, I will forever connect Gaudi, Paella and La Sagrada Familia with root canals.

It is certainly not an exaggeration to say that Roots Summit 2010 had all of those lucky enough to attend falling in love with endo all over again. Organised by Drs Noemí Pascual and Nuria Campo and their team, the meeting was a grand success. Long hours in the dark, yet always crowded lecture hall, despite the perfect weather, were followed by a wonderful social programme with a distinct Spanish touch.

Dr Fred Barnett, who lectured on Trauma injuries: Long-term treatment planning based on Dx and Pulpar regenerative surgeries to Nuria and Noemí Pascual for organising a fantastic Roots Summit. The venue was awesome and the lectures top notch.

Roots should be proud of their efforts.” The impressive list of international speakers included Dr Giuseppe Cantatore from Italy, Drs José María Malfaz and Enrique Martínez Merino from Spain, and Drs Hans-Willi Herrmann and Jorg Schröder from Germany, to name a few.

Dr Sashi Nallapati from Jamaica held two very interesting lectures on rare and challenging cases: Endodontic challenges. Many in the audience had never encountered such cases and, thus, were absorbed in these presentations.

In many of the lectures, the lectures were very entertaining and of extremely high quality with regard to the content as well as presentation. “It was great to see presentations that staggered me with the quality of the material and the multimedia that were shown,” commented Dr Glen van Ass, who lectured on Microscope centred practice: Ergonomics and documentation. “Videos through the operating microscope and still photos from some of the experts was incredible. It is impressive to see the quality of the work that these teachers and talented clinicians can provide in a humble yet confident manner.”

The meeting was sponsored by major industry players, like VDW, Zeiss, Dentsply Maillefer, SybronEndo Europe and Kodak. Dr John Schoeffel from the US, who introduced EndoVac—an endodontic irrigation technology system—in his lecture, also presented the product to interested attendees at the Discus booth. EndoVac enables safe irrigation to apical termination with an abundant supply of fresh irrigant. Unlike positive pressure systems that use cannulas to deliver irrigants into the canal, the EndoVac is a true apical negative pressure system that draws fluid apically by way of evacuation.

“It’s not often that meetings inspire and rejuvenate people and make them look forward to future meetings,” commented Dr Nallapati. “To me, certainly, this Roots Summit has done all that. And that is a testimony to the wonderful effort of Nuria, Noemí and their team.” Attendee Dr Mahalaxmi Sekar agreed, saying that he pitied all those who had missed this event in Barcelona.

A majority of the lectures, for which continuing education credits can be obtained, were recorded live and will be made available for review on www.dtsstudyclub.com. For more information on how to register and how to obtain credits, please contact Ms Julia Wehkamp at julia.wehkamp@dtsstudyclub.com.

The date and venue for next year’s meeting are yet to be decided. But one thing is for sure: this year’s attendees are counting down the days.

Scientists link dental X-rays to cancer

Lisa Townsend

LONDON, UK/LEIPZIG, Germany: A dental X-rays and increased numbers of thyroid cancer. After factoring X-rays taken of 500 patients in a hospital in Kuwait, they found that men and women who had had up to nine dental X-rays were more than twice as likely to have developed the disease than those who had never had any dental X-rays. For those patients who had had between five and nine X-rays, their risk rose more than four-fold.

Although thyroid cancer is one of the least deadliest cancers, incident rates have almost doubled in countries like Australia in recent years.

The findings are consistent with previous reports of increased risk of thyroid cancer in dentists, dental assistants, technicians and X-ray workers, suggesting that sensitivity of the thyroid to radiation is not necessarily related to direct irradiation of that organ but to any exposure to ionizing radiation. Besides thyroid cancer, significant risks have been also observed for leukaemia and cancers of the breast.

The researchers warned that the results of their study “should be treated with caution” because the data was based on self-reporting by the participants and the fact that other factors could be contributing to the increase in thyroid cancer cases. Further research is required to confirm the exact effect of dental X-rays, they added.

“It is important that our study is repeated with information from dental records, including frequency of X-rays, age & dose at exposure,” Dr Anjum Memon, Senior Lecturer and consultant in Public Health Medicine at Brighton and Sussex Medical School, who led the study, said.

“If the results are confirmed, then the use of X-rays as a necessary part of evaluation for new patients, and routine periodic dental radiography, particularly for children and adolescents, will need to be reconsidered, as will a greater use of lead collar protection.”

(Edited by Daniel Zimmermann, DTT)