Digital dentistry conference draws over 500 to Singapore

Published on 12 October, the paper “Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020” identifies the threat of NCDs in achieving health-related development goals in low- and middle-income countries and provides recommendations on addressing the situation over the next seven years.

NCDs currently account for 36 million deaths worldwide each year with the majority to be occurring in less developed countries, according to Geneva-based organisation.

While admitting to current constraints of the WHO, the FDI said in its statement that the leadership role of the WHO is essential to keeping oral health a priority in the fight against NCDs. It stated that it had addressed a formal request to the organisation for WHO recognition of oral diseases and the threat of NCDs to achieving the health-related development goals in low- and middle-income countries and provides recommendations on addressing the situation over the next seven years.

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EAO celebrates successful anniversary event in Copenhagen

20th congress of the European Association for Osseointegration presented latest concepts and developments in implant dentistry

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: Celebrating the achievements of implant dentistry in the last 20 years, thousands of clinical specialists from Europe and around the globe recently gathered at the Bella Center exhibition and congress venue in the Danish capital for the annual scientific congress of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO). Following a successful event in Athens last year, the congress event more than 2,300 scientists and clinicians involved in implant and restorative dentistry over the course of four days.

Besides an extensive scientific programme covering topics like imaging and factors of implant loss, the event saw a record number of companies exhibiting established clinical solutions and a number of new products, including dental implants and sophisticated surgical equipment. Market leader Nobel Biocare, for example, had its new OsseoCare Pro drill motor, which can be operated entirely through Apple’s iPad tablet computer, on display. Italian manufacturer mecron presented its multi-piece pro device, which can be used for ultrasonic implant cleaning, in Copenhagen.

New implant devices were exhibited by MIS Implants, MegaGen and BioHorizons. Held for the 20th time, the EAO’s latest annual meeting looked back on various issues related to implant dentistry from the last two decades. Acknowledging the progress being achieved in the field, a Saturday morning session titled “Future perspectives of implant dentistry” discussed future prospects of bioactive implant surfaces and the use of computer-guided implant planning, among other topics. For the first time, a session organised by members of the EAO’s Junior Committee also presented new revolutionary ideas that could shape implant dentistry in the years to come.

Having originated from a clinical meeting by implant specialists in the late 1980s, the EAO is today an established authority and one of the most important scientific and clinical forums for implant dentistry in Europe. It is comprised of renowned clinicians and researchers from around the world. With more than one third of visitors coming from regions outside the continent, its annual scientific congress has recently gained more relevance internationally.

Schein Dental expands into Asia

Dental equipment provider also buys US ortho and lab biz

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BANGKOK, Thailand: In a recent acquisition spree, Henry Schein has bought a major share in dental products provider Accord from Bangkok. While financial details of the deal were not disclosed, the Thai company is expected to add US$5 million in sales to Schein’s global dental business and expand its position in the growing Asian dental markets.

In addition to its purchase of Accord, the world’s largest supplier of medical and dental products has bought Ortho Technologies, a provider of orthodontics supplies, to facilitate the growth of its orthodontics offering. In a third buy, Henry Schein also acquired medical laboratory service provider MLS in Bakersfield, California.

The partial takeover of Thailand’s largest dental dealer may come as a surprise for some, as Henry Schein had earlier announced that it was pursuing growth opportunities in Asia but mentioned expansion into India and China as its first priority. Chairman and CEO Stanley M. Bergman said in a statement that the latest acquisition of Accord will not only give his company the opportunity to establish its presence in the fifth largest dental market in Asia, but also serve as an anchor for further expansion into South-East Asia.

According to figures from the US Commercial Service in Bangkok, the heavily import-driven dental market in Thailand was estimated to be worth more than US$120 million in 2008. Run by the Charlwood family since 1976, Accord currently distributes dental products, including well-known brands from global manufacturers like Shofu, Planmeca and the GC Corporation, to over 5,000 customers in Thailand. Through the acquisition, the family will still retain 25 per cent of its former business, while Henry Schein will hold the remaining 75 per cent, both companies said last week.

Henry Schein maintains other business operations in the Asia-Pacific region through affiliates and subsidiaries in Australia (Henry Schein Healthcare) and New Zealand (Henry Schein Healthcare). Since last year, the company has also distributed its dental portfolio through Aniam Biomedical to customers in Hong Kong and the People’s Republic of China.

Worldwide, Henry Schein operates in 26 markets with a focus on North America and Western Europe. Last year, the company reported record sales of US$8.5 billion through its medical, dental and veterinary businesses.