Jet 'to replace dentist's drill'

A futuristic 'plasma jet' that eradicates tooth decay without fillings could be replacing the hated dentist's drill in as little as three years, it was claimed.

The space-age device fires a beam of electrically-charged oxygen atoms into tooth cavities to obliterate decay-causing bacteria. Traditionally, the same job is done by drilling holes into the tooth that has to be filled.

Unlike the dentist’s drill, the plasma jet is non-invasive and harmful.

First Emirati professor joins Masdar

ABU DHABI // An academic who has received numerous awards for her scholastic achievements has become the first Emirati faculty member at Masdar Institute of Science and Technology.

Dr Amal al Ghaferi will be an assistant professor at the institute, which is the research arm of the US$22 billion (Dh80.8bn) carbon-neutral Masdar City project. She will teach materials science and engineering and carry out research in nanotechnology and energy.

“I believe my position at Masdar Institute will open doors to carrying out research in nanotechnology and related fields,” said Dr al Ghaferi. “I am looking forward to this challenging mission and hope to become a role model for all UAE nationals.”

She graduated in physics from UAE University, where her grade-point average was 3.98 on a 4.0 scale. She later earned a PhD in materials science and engineering from Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine – are discussed in an article in the February issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

The article explains that bleeding in the gums allows bacteria in the mouth to enter the bloodstream and potentially infect a foetus – but can be stopped by the immune system.

However, in this case, the mother also experienced an upper respiratory infection like a cold and low-grade fever just a few days before the stillbirth. She was later examined by the baby.

Approximately 75% of pregnant women experience gum bleeding due to the hormonal changes during pregnancy.

The first-ever documented link between foetal death and a mother’s pregnancy-related gum disease has been reported.

The first-female professor at Masdar Institute will open doors to carrying out research in nanotechnology and energy.

She graduated in physics from UAE University, where her grade-point average was 3.98 on a 4.0 scale. She later earned a PhD in materials science and engineering.

“We believe my position at Masdar Institute will open doors to carrying out research in nanotechnology and related fields,” said Dr al Ghaferi. “I am looking forward to this challenging mission and hope to become a role model for all UAE nationals.”
Countries in Asia less than average in health care spending

Daniel Zimmermann

LEIPZIG, Germany: Asian countries have been found to spend less of their GDP's for health care than the average of all observed countries. Japan, Korea, and Australia, however, spent less than the OECD average of 8.9 per cent of GDP. The US currently spends more on health care than any other country—almost two and a half times greater than the OECD average of US$2,984, adjusted for purchasing power parity. Luxembourg, France and Switzerland also spend far more than the OECD average. At the other end of the scale, health-care expenditure in Turkey and Mexico is less than one-third of the OECD average.

The latest edition of Health at a Glance demonstrates that all the countries observed could do better in providing good quality health care; key indicators presented in the report provide information on health status and the determinants of health, including the growing rates of child and adult obesity, which are likely to drive higher health spending in the coming decades.

Based on new data on access to care, the report demonstrates that all OECD countries provide universal or near-universal coverage for a core set of health services, except the US, Mexico and Turkey.