Dentsply Sirona Instruments Introduces Online Knowledge Sharing Platform for Laser Dentistry

The Sirona Laser Platform is the ideal one-stop resource for dentists for basic information on how they work to clinical case reports, discussion forums, and training and e-learning offerings.

By Dentsply Sirona

Dental lasers are an easy way to provide dentists and their patients with greater comfort and more treatment options. The range of application possibilities has been considerably improved as a result of blue laser technology—an opportunity to increase the popularity of laser dentistry. In order to promote knowledge sharing in laser dentistry, Dentsply Sirona introduced the first international online platform.

BENSHEIM/SALZBURG: The development of blue laser technology has vastly increased the possible applications of diode lasers in dentistry. The international “Sirona Laser Platform” from Dentsply Sirona, which was introduced at the beginning of March, is meant to acquaint dentists with the different areas of laser dentistry in a lively way. Dentists who wish to take advantage of this opportunity can receive free access to the knowledge-sharing platform of the global market and technology leader in the dental industry via the link http://www.sirona.com/en/sirolaser.

The information available on the platform is very diverse and encompasses the various types of lasers in the market, the differences between diode and traditional lasers and how they work. Images and videos are also used to illustrate the different application areas of dental lasers. Experience reports on the new SIRONLa-ser Blue, clinical case examples and the possibility to view upcoming training courses on specific products all complement the range of information offered.

Additionally, a corresponding forum is included in this platform as well. This gives participants a place to exchange knowledge and information on all things related to laser dentistry with other colleagues. Whether it be difficulties, treatment approaches or everyday tips, the community is welcome to openly discuss all dental-related experiences with lasers.

Blue lasers are especially well-suited for surgical procedures. Lasers were introduced about 50 years ago and have been used in dentistry since the mid 1990s, especially the diode laser. The SIRONLa-ser Blue is one of the newly developed diode lasers. The Blue laser light, with a wavelength of 445 nm, is mainly indicated for soft tissue surgery because of the superior absorption properties and excellent cutting performance; however, it is also used in implantology and prosthetics. This allows dentists to offer their patients virtually pain-free treatment. With two additional wavelengths, the SIRONLa-ser Blue covers the complete treatment spectrum of diode lasers: a red laser light (660 nm) for biostimulation, low level laser treatments and an infrared laser light (970 nm) for reducing bacteria in endodontics and periodontics as well as for the treatment of aphthae and herpes.

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New sugar tax could save South Africa billions in health care costs, experts say

By DTI

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa: Calculations by the University of the Witwatersrand suggest that South Africa’s sugar-sweetened beverages tax, which is underway and proposed for implementation in April 2017, could save the country R10 billion (€560 million) in expenditure related to treating Type 2 diabetes over the next 20 years. The fiscal initiative, which was introduced by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan in his national budget speech in February, is an effort to help reduce excessive sugar intake and curb obesity in the country.

Although Gordhan said that the sugar tax will be implemented in April next year, he has not yet said how high the levy will be. With the measure, South Africa will follow countries such as Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico and Norway, which all tax sugar-sweetened drinks already.

“Treasury will need to decide on the tax rate and what qualifies to be taxed,” remarked Aviva Tugendhaft, Deputy Director of PRICELESS SA at the university’s School of Public Health. The research programme is one of 26 representatives of the Public Health Community of South Africa that submitted a letter to treasury endorsing the tax plans in April. “The government may decide to institute a flat rate on all beverages, as has been done in Mexico, or consider taxing the caloric content of the drinks,” she said.

Financial and health benefits resulting from the levy on beverages with added sugar, including soft drinks, fruit juices, energy drinks and vitamin waters, could be extensive, a 2015 study by Wits University has shown. If the tax is implemented at 20 per cent, Wits researchers calculated savings of R10 billion in costs for hospitalisations and medication related to treating rising cases of Type 2 diabetes. Moreover, the analysts estimated that the tax could prevent obesity in about 280,000 young adults.

South Africa has the highest obesity rate in sub-Saharan Africa. According to figures from the World Health Organization, 26.8 per cent of South Africans were obese in 2014. Just last year, the country’s health department released its national strategy on the prevention and control of the condition. It stated that fiscal measures were the most cost-effective ways to combat rising obesity compared with measures such as food labelling, advertising regulations or media campaigns.

Aside from increasing the risk for obesity, various studies have confirmed the direct relation between the intake of dietary sugars and dental caries. Soft drinks and juices are especially harmful to the teeth, since they tend to be very acidic, which makes the teeth particularly vulnerable to both dental decay and tooth erosion.
CAPP launches new long-term “Associate Fellowship” and “Diploma” CME programs in Dubai

By Dental Tribune MEA/CAPPmea

DUBAI, UAE: The Centre for Advanced Professional Practices (CAPPmea) has launched two new long-term programs for continuing dental education starting in Dubai coming September 2016. The programs are in partnership with the American Academy of Clinical Orthodontics (AACD) and British Academy of Restorative Dentistry (BARD) respectively.

**Practical Clinical Orthodontics – Associate Fellowship with AACD**
The Associate Fellowship Program targets General Practitioners focusing on Clinical Orthodontics and consists of five six-day modules spread over the course of one year. The program is accredited by the American Academy of Clinical Orthodontics (AACO) which will award 210 CME and an Associate Fellowship to successful participants. ADA C.E.R.P and local accreditations in the United States of America.

The program is based on in-depth clinical experience and practical knowledge of various orthodontic treatment procedures ranging from diagnosis to finishing and detailing, relevant to the management of basic clinical situations. Participants will also benefit from well-documented case studies offering a detailed step-by-step approach to treatment planning. The course aims to give participants a deeper understanding of the biological and mechanical principles of tooth movement through various appliances and protocols thus contributing to a more complete appreciation of the science and art of contemporary orthodontic treatment.

The focus of the course is on “individualized diagnosis and customized treatment mechanisms and care” in order to carefully match and optimize all aspects of patient care. After all, it all boils down to helping clinicians treat their patients with better results.

The program will be conducted by Dr. Dubravko Pavlin, Dr. Brent Callegari, Dr. Bradley Pierson, Dr. Bryan Jennings, Dr. Ryan Reyes and Dr. Doug Jimson all from the United States of America.

**Restorative & Aesthetic Dentistry Course – Diploma with British Academy of Restorative Dentistry**
CAPP-Tipton Dental Academy is launching the Restorative & Aesthetic Dentistry Diploma course in Dubai, starting on September 15th, 2016. The two-year program will award successful participants 210 CME, accredited by the American Dental Association, Dubai Health Authority and Health Authority Abu Dhabi and a further diploma upon successful completion and passing of the exams.

The program is divided into two parts. During the first year of study participants will be able to participate in 4 modules over a total of 15 days.

Obtaining 105 CME. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a Certificate in Restorative Dentistry from the British Academy of Restorative Dentistry (BARD).

holders of the certificate will be qualified to resume their study for Year 2 Diploma Part 2 is also grouped into 4 modules spanning 15 days, leading to a Diploma in Restorative & Aesthetic Dentistry from BARD after passing exams which include several parts including submission of 5 clinical cases.

Each of the two-year-long course comprises of a series of lectures, practicals on phantom heads, seminars and webinars, aiming to teach dentists to apply scientifically proven restorative and aesthetic techniques in order to achieve great results. After the courses, clinicians will also gain more confidence in taking on more complex cases and ultimately find better job prospects, increase their income and transition into successful private practices. The unique program has been very successful for over 20 years with Professor Paul Tipton in the United Kingdom and can be seen as a pathway to a further MClinDent with City of London Dental School (CoLDS) or an MSc with Manchester University.

The program is taught by some of the most experienced, knowledgeable and passionate lecturers, whose enthusiastic approach aims to inspire participants to improve their skills and become more confident in their daily practice including the likes of: Prof. Paul A. Tipton, Prof. Edward Lynch, Prof. Goran Urde, Prof. James Prichard, Prof. Geoffrey Sharpe, Dr. James Russell, Dr. Julian Caplan, Dr. Adam Toft and Mr. Jonathan Parsonson.

CAPP-Tipton Dental Academy has prepared special registration packages for delegates willing to take on the clinical challenge including a promotion for everyone who recommends the courses to their friend/colleague.

Registration for the programs in Practical Clinical Orthodontics and in Restorative & Aesthetic Dentistry are now available on www.cappmea.com/cappptipton and www.cappmea.com/ortho.
Bristol researchers receive funding for super-chlorhexidine

“We’re very excited about Pertinax’s potential.”

By DTI

BRISTOL, UK: A University of Bristol spin-off has been awarded almost £1 million to bring a new technology to the market that could help to fight infections in the mouth and body. An enhanced form of chlorhexidine, the substance, named Pertinax, is said to offer improved properties compared with those of the original substance.

Overall, Pertinax Pharma has received around £900,000 from southern England technology investor Mercia Fund Management, Innovate UK (through its Aid for Start-Ups scheme) and an unnamed private investor. The company’s founder and chief scientific officer, Dr Michele Barbour, who is also a senior lecturer in biomaterials at the university’s School of Oral and Dental Sciences, said that the company will focus on the development of applications in dentistry first, where the technology already has relevance to a number of areas. Further uses in medicine will follow in time.

“We’re very excited about Pertinax’s potential,” she said.

A proven antimicrobial agent, chlorhexidine has been used in a wide range of products and treatment processes to prevent and treat bacterial infections. Since it is a new formulation of the substance, Pertinax is reported to possess the same antibacterial properties, but without some of the shortcomings of the original formulation, such as short efficacy time. Possible future applications are its use in cements to reduce the failure rates of dental fillings, for example.

“With a strong management team and innovative product, Pertinax Pharma has the potential to take its product from dental tool to a must-have anti-infective across a wide range of industries, from veterinary care, to cosmetics and even home appliances,” Investment Manager at Mercia Fund Management Dr Brijesh Roy commented.

Mercia Fund Management recently provided funding for another oral health care-related project by the University of Manchester.