Dr Philip Preshaw from the University of Newcastle’s School of Dentistry was awarded the Young Investigator’s Award at the 86th General Session and Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) held in Toronto, Canada. The IADR Young Investigator Award, supported by Crest Oral-B, P&G Professional Health, is designed to stimulate basic research in all dental disciplines. The recipient must not have reached their 40th birthday at the time the award is presented and the award consists of a cash prize and a plaque.

MK: What factors contributed to you being awarded this honour by the IADR?

Philip Preshaw: I was recognised for my research focusing on clinical periodontology and applied laboratory research, specifically periodontal immunobiology, risk factors for periodontal disease (such as smoking and diabetes), and clinical trials design and execution. One study in particular that I conducted focussed on the effect of quitting smoking on periodontal treatment outcomes. This study was the first longitudinal project of its kind to confirm the benefits of quitting smoking in smokers with periodontal disease, and attracted significant international media attention.

I have also conducted research that has identified a hugely increased risk for aggressive periodontitis in young adults with Type-1 diabetes mellitus. In addition to this, I was involved in research that led to the development of a new systemic drug therapy (subantimicrobial dose doxycycline) for the management of periodontitis that is now available in the UK and other countries throughout the world. I have been able to conduct all of this research due to the support I have received from colleagues at Newcastle University and because I received a five-year Clinician Scientist Award from the MRC (Medical Research Council) and Department of Health that has enabled me to focus on research over the last few years.
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