



### Dental Informatics

Dr Titus Schleyer talks about a new field of dentistry

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### Dr Stefano Dallari

A dentist from Italy in love with Tibet

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### Extra

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## Dentists issue warning for children's teeth

Penny Palmer & Daniel Zimmermann  
DT United Kingdom & DTI

**LONDON/LEIPZIG:** Children should brush their teeth no more than twice a day and not straight after meals, according to a leading dental academic. Professor Jimmy Steele of the School of Dental Sciences at The University of Newcastle, UK, is urging parents to change their habits after a survey by the company Sensodyne found, that 79 per cent of dentists are seeing the effects of acid erosion on children's teeth at least once a week. It also found that 53 per cent of five year-olds had some form of tooth erosion.

More than nine in 10 parents asked in the survey knew acid was bad for teeth but they were unsure about which types of food and drink contained it. The situation is made worse because parents, who believe they are doing the right thing, get their children to clean their teeth after every meal. "Encourage children to avoid brushing their teeth immediately after consuming acidic



More and more children are showing signs of tooth erosion. Photo: Jean Schweitzer.

food or drinks as this is when the enamel is at its softest," said Professor Steele. "It's best to wait as long as possible after an acidic meal or brush beforehand."

Dentists believe the main causes of acid erosion in children worldwide to be the consumption of acidic soft drinks

without a straw. A survey conducted in 2006 has shown that Asians consume more than twice of the global average. "It is important for parents to take small steps to minimise the risk to their children's teeth," Prof. Steel says. He urged parents to encourage children to drink acidic drinks with a straw placed towards

the back of the mouth away from the teeth.

Acid erosion is often considered harmless and can be difficult to detect, especially in the early stages. If undetected, it can result in pain from dental sensitivity, loss of tooth shape and even the exposure of underlying dentine. [D](#)

## FDI appoints Executive Director

**FERNEY-VOLTAIRE/LEIPZIG:** The FDI World Dental Federation has appointed Dr David Alexander, as the new Executive Director. He will take over duties from Dr John Hunt, who has served as Interim Executive Director for the federation since October 2007.

Having graduated in dentistry from the University of Liverpool, Dr Alexander was selected among several candidates from around the world. "The Council looks forward to working with Dr Alexander, who has many years of experience in dentistry and the area of global oral health," said Dr Burton Conrod, FDI President to our newspaper.

Dr Alexander has extensive commercial and administrative experiences from various settings, most recently with GlaxoSmith-Kline. He also led a working group of world leaders from industry and dental education to draft consensus recommendations for industry-academic partnerships at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Congress on Dental Education in Dublin, Ireland. [D](#)



Medical College of Georgia student Alpesh Patel examines how blue light stops oral cancer cells from growing. Photo: Phil Jones. ▶ INTERNATIONAL NEWS, Continued on page 6

### Hormones speed osseointegration

**GRANADA:** According to researchers at the University of Granada, Spain, the use of growth hormones can help to regenerate bone and hasten implant osseointegration to only two weeks. The research obtained the direct biochemical joint between the raw bone and the surface of the implant irrespective of any mechanical joint mechanism. [D](#)

### Philippines releases exam results

**MANILA:** A number of 356 out of 818 have passed the dentist licensure examination in the Philippines, the Professional Regulation Commission in Manila has announced. According to latest figures of the World Health Organisation, the country currently has a total of 8,500 dentists who serve a population of 90.5 million. [D](#)

## NZealanders approve of health system

**ROCHESTER, USA:** A poll conducted in 10 countries by *Harris Interactive* has found that New Zealanders are generally satisfied with their health system. According to the findings, 26 per cent think the system works well but needs only minor changes. With that, the country is on par with Canada and ranks third most popular behind the Dutch and French systems but ahead of Australia, Spain, Britain, Germany, the US and Italy.

The data which comes from a survey conducted for The Commonwealth Fund in 2007 also shows that only 17 per cent of New Zealanders think the system needs to be completely rebuilt, compared to 33 per cent of people in the US whose system was considered as least popular. [D](#)

