

REPORT

The boundaries between **caries** and **gum disease**

Highlights of Perio Workshop 2016 on
the boundaries between dental caries
and periodontal diseases - jointly
organised by the EFP and ORCA

Compiled by **Prof Nicola West** from the
consensus reports prepared by the working
groups chaired by **Prof Mariano Sanz**,
Prof Søren Jepsen, **Prof Iain Chapple**,
and **Prof Maurizio Tonetti**



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Introduction

Periodontal diseases and dental caries are the most common non-communicable diseases in mankind and the leading cause of tooth loss. Both diseases can lead to nutritional compromise and negative impact on self-esteem and quality of life.

The dental biofilm is a major biological determinant common to the development of both diseases, which share common risk factors and social determinants, important for their prevention and control.

Most recent scientific discussion points out that similar preventive approaches, based around routinely performed oral hygiene with a fluoride toothpaste, are effective for both periodontal diseases and dental caries.

Due to worldwide population growth and increased tooth retention, the number of people affected by dental caries and periodontitis has grown, thus increasing the total burden of these diseases globally, mainly in the older population.

Executive summary - the key messages

1. Caries and periodontal diseases are the most common human oral diseases - both are preventable.
2. The benefits and impact of tooth retention relate to nutritional status, speech, self-confidence and quality of life.
3. The burden of these diseases increases as the population ages.
4. We should be assessing dependence and frailty, rather than chronological age *per se*.
5. Periodontal disease is associated with general health issues, raising the need to integrate the medical and dental professions.
6. The oral healthcare team has to consider advising on weight loss, smoking integrate and exercise, as well as controlling diabetes and glycaemia in general.
7. Reducing the amount and frequency of sugar and starch intake is important in preventing periodontal disease and caries; limit intake to mealtimes.
8. Bleeding gums are *not* normal and patients should be referred for oral health screening.
9. Educational programmes should target mothers-to-be, new mothers, care home workers and other groups that care for those with dependence.
10. Risk assessment using validated tools should be routine in dental practice to drive individualised preventive care.
11. Periodontal disease should be seen as a signpost for other general health issues.
12. Brushing twice daily with fluoride toothpaste is essential and can also be supplemented with chemical agents.
13. Remuneration approaches for dental professionals should reward prevention.
14. Dental check-ups should be provided free of charge at key touch points across the life course – 2, 5, 12, 26, 40 and 70 years of age.
15. Store toothbrushes separately in bathrooms to avoid horizontal transmission of potential pathogens.
16. Check saliva levels routinely and consider drug substitution in people with a dry mouth as well as fluoride applications.

Oral healthcare team

All members of the oral healthcare team have a role to play in educating and motivating patients to reduce their intake of free sugars, to practice effective dental plaque control and encourage smoking cessation. Effective preventive and therapeutic interventions are available to manage both dental caries and periodontal diseases.

Over the last two decades, progress in prevention and treatment of dental caries and periodontal diseases has led to better oral health. However, due to an ageing population, increasing expectations of good oral, health-related wellbeing and quality of life in older age, this is posing formidable challenges for clinical care and healthcare systems.

Dental caries

The oral healthcare team should be aware of the following concerning dental caries:

- Data support the role of a genetic component in dental caries susceptibility.
- Susceptibility varies substantially throughout the life course, being particularly high in the young. Elders are also more vulnerable.
- There is an association between lower socio-economic status and higher dental caries risk.
- Dietary fermentable carbohydrates (sugars, starch) are a necessary component of dental caries initiation and progression.

Recommendations for the oral healthcare professionals concerning dental caries:

- Recommend use toothpastes containing fluoride agents for the control of dental caries.
- In addition to home-use high fluoride toothpastes, consider professional fluoride application for individuals of high dental caries risk.
- Educate and motivate patients to reduce their intake of free sugars.
- Provide advice on dietary starch reduction for individuals with root caries.

Periodontal diseases

The oral healthcare team should be aware of the following concerning periodontal diseases:

- Data support the role of a genetic component cause to periodontal diseases, modified by lifestyle (acquired) and environmental factors.
- There is an association between lower socio-economic status and higher prevalence of periodontitis; prevalence is lower in females than males.

Recommendations for oral healthcare professionals concerning periodontal diseases:

- Educate, motivate and support patients to practice individualised dental plaque control; oral hygiene instructions should be enhanced by motivational approaches.
- Recommend that fluoride toothpaste can be supplemented by adjunctive chemical plaque control agents to manage gingivitis in the primary prevention of periodontitis.
- Engage the entire oral healthcare team to give advice and support on smoking cessation and refer, where necessary, to specialist services.
- Engage in discussions on weight loss.
- Increase awareness of the importance of vitamin D and antioxidant micronutrients through natural dietary sources, particularly for the elderly.
- Encourage adherence to glycaemic control regimes in diabetes patients.

Dental caries & periodontal diseases

The oral healthcare team should be aware of the following concerning dental caries/periodontal diseases:

- Both dental caries and periodontal diseases are preventable. Preventive measures and treatment strategies are effective at all ages.
- Benefits related to retention of healthy dentitions and mastication go beyond oral health, wellbeing and self-esteem, as they foster a healthy diet that is necessary to delay physical decline and loss of independence.

Recommendations for oral healthcare professionals concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Consider routinely questioning patients about their family history of periodontal diseases and dental caries.
- Consider routinely including questions on dietary behaviour or habits in order to identify risk in individuals/groups.
- Encourage conducting a nutritional assessment when there is disease activity.
- Examine intra-oral saliva production/moisture levels and consider fluoride supplements and/or saliva substitutes for patients with reduced salivary flow.
- Focus on identifying risk in individuals using validated risk assessment tools and design a regular individualised risk-based prevention programme for each patient.
- Provide advice and support for a healthy diet according to national dietary guidelines.
- Refer to a dietitian or general medical practitioner, where necessary.
- Encourage sugar ingestion cessation for individuals with active dental caries and/or gingival bleeding or a minimum reduction in the frequency of sugar intake at mealtimes.
- Incorporate professional tooth cleaning in a thorough, structured prophylaxis programme including oral hygiene instruction, motivation, dietary advice and fluoride application.
- Provide the same standard of prevention and care across all age ranges (whenever possible without consideration of age) to retain natural teeth and dentitions into older age.
- Consider level of dependence, rather than chronological age, in order to individualise preventive and treatment approaches for elders.
- Modify dental care where ageing is associated with a change in dependency, including medical status, with the aim of retaining a pain-free, functional dentition, using appropriate (minimally invasive, also palliative) treatment strategies.
- Consider medical aspects when treating oral diseases and collaborate with physicians and other caregivers.
- Consider mobility needs of elders in the dental practice.

Non-dental health professionals

Fortunately, effective preventive and therapeutic interventions are available to manage both dental caries and periodontal diseases.

There are numerous groups of healthcare professionals that need to know more about these diseases and understand the ongoing balance between risk factors (e.g. smoking), protective factors (e.g. fluoride in dental caries, high levels of oral hygiene in periodontal diseases) and pathological factors.

This group of healthcare workers includes physicians (from paediatricians to general practitioners to geriatricians), nurses (from public health nurses to community health visitors to those working in oncology and geriatric settings), pharmacists (that are aware of the cariogenicity associated with salivary depletion and the dangers of medicines with added sugar, and the importance of smoking cessation to periodontal diseases), dieticians (including those involved with diet and nutrition), nursery care workers and midwives working in well-baby clinics.

Dental caries

Non-dental health professionals should be aware of the following concerning dental caries:

- Dental caries is a biofilm-mediated, sugar-driven, multifactorial, dynamic disease that results in the episodic demineralisation of dental hard tissues over time.
- Dental caries risk in individuals and groups will vary considerably; the dental caries process produces lesions in a range of extent and severity - each stage can either be active or inactive.
- Lifestyle changes and dietary and behavioural factors may influence both new disease and progression of existing lesions that may, at the early stages, be arrested or reversed.
- A multifaceted approach - minimising all pathological factors while focusing on diet and self-care, including frequent use of a toothbrush with a fluoride toothpaste - is most likely to be effective in controlling this largely preventable disease.
- Aside from the common risk factors associated with dental caries, obesity and links to hyposalivation and maternal smoking, robust evidence for direct links to systemic disease and specific genetic factors is absent.

Recommendations for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dieticians and other health professionals concerning dental caries:

- Substitute medicines where reduced salivary flow rate is a complication of a specific medication.
- Educate and motivate patients to reduce their intake of free sugars.
- Ensure food and drinks distributed at schools meet the latest health recommendations.
- Promote absence of processed foods for pre-school and school children.
- Recommend toothpastes containing fluoride agents.

Periodontal diseases

Non-dental health professionals should be aware of the following concerning periodontal diseases:

- There are different forms of periodontal disease (gum disease), but the most common are gingivitis and periodontitis. Gingivitis is a necessary pre-requisite for periodontitis. Whilst

not all cases of gingivitis will progress to periodontitis, managing the former is a vital primary preventive strategy in preventing the latter. If left untreated, periodontitis causes tooth loss. In its more severe forms, periodontitis is independently associated with higher mortality rates and robust evidence shows an increased risk for atherogenic cardiovascular diseases, diabetes control and related complications.

- Developing periodontitis does not necessarily mean that someone has neglected proper oral self-care. Susceptibility varies, and the most highly susceptible individuals may acquire the disease even with relatively good oral hygiene.
- Risk of periodontitis has a strong heritability, but lifestyle, environmental factors and behaviours are key to determining whether disease develops or progresses.
- Periodontitis is treatable to the extent that teeth can be retained for life; however, early diagnosis is vital and the disease can start in adolescence or in later teenage years.
- Bleeding gums are not normal and the appearance of blood in saliva following toothbrushing is not normal either. A dental care professional should be consulted to investigate further and provide adequate treatment.
- Whilst periodontitis is not a communicable disease, the bacteria that initiate the disease can be transferred between individuals. If transferred to a susceptible individual, their immune response may start to trigger the signs and symptoms of periodontitis.
- Periodontitis should be regarded as a “signpost” condition that may indicate malnutrition or that a patient may have an underlying chronic non-communicable disease (e.g. undiagnosed diabetes). The advice of a dental care professional should be sought.

Recommendations for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dieticians and other health professionals concerning periodontal diseases:

- Encourage patients with bleeding gums, bad breath, any loose teeth, or with gaps between teeth to visit a dental care professional for an examination and diagnosis.
- Encourage anyone with signs of periodontal disease to clean between their teeth once daily, as directed by a dental care professional.
- Ensure that patients understand that unhealthy gums can be associated with other general health issues and that the mouth is a vital part of the body and not a separate organ.
- Educate, motivate and support patients to practice proper dental plaque control.
- Encourage care workers to seek advice on implementing individual oral hygiene for care home residents.
- Advise smoking cessation.

Dental caries & periodontal diseases

Non-dental health professionals should be aware of the following concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Both dental caries and periodontal diseases are preventable. Preventive measures should be applied to retain natural teeth and dentitions into older age.
- Wherever possible, provide interventions and advice that help the individual link the benefits of preventing dental caries and periodontal diseases to systemic health.
- Dental caries and periodontal diseases are distinct diseases with different patho-biological mechanisms. Consider the ongoing balance between risk factors (e.g. smoking), protective factors (e.g. fluoride in dental caries, high levels of oral hygiene in periodontal diseases) and pathological factors.
- Preserving a functional dentition into old age is possible and may be associated with better overall quality of life and delayed frailty and dependence.

- Chewing is an essential function to ensure adequate nutrition, best preserved with natural teeth. Good oral health and comfort are integral parts of healthy ageing.
- Epidemiological evidence and analysis of trends in risk factors suggest that the burden of dental caries and periodontal diseases will increase as ageing populations tend to retain more teeth.
- Oral health is a critical component of healthy ageing and requires the ability to self-care and access preventive services and treatment.
- As older people become increasingly reliant on the care of others for their daily life activities, they need increased assistance in preserving their oral health and chewing function.
- Physical and mental health decline associated with ageing has a substantial impact on the ability to perform oral self-care; caregivers need to overcome these barriers.
- The level of dependence, rather than chronological age, has to be considered to individualise preventive and treatment approaches for older people.
- Benefits related to a retention of healthy dentition and mastication go beyond oral health, wellbeing and self-esteem as they foster a healthy diet, which is necessary to delay physical decline and loss of dependence.

Recommendations for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dieticians and other health professionals concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Encourage mothers to instil twice daily toothbrushing in their children from the moment the first baby tooth appears.
- Encourage everybody to brush their teeth twice daily with a fluoridated toothpaste. For those with a full dentition, each session should last at least two minutes.
- Encourage nursing mothers and other child carers to avoid sugared drinks from birth.
- Advise about the risks of diets high in sugar and medications containing sugar, which could lead to dental caries and periodontal diseases, especially in the very young and the elderly.
- Encourage everyone to limit the amount and frequency of sugar intake (ideally only at mealtimes) and to brush their teeth twice daily.
- Encourage the use of sugar-free drinks, mints and chewing gum.
- Include oral health (dental caries and periodontal diseases) in medical preventive programmes, particularly for diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease (periodontal diseases).
- Increase knowledge in nursing homes of the impact of diets high in sugars and low in antioxidant micronutrients on oral health.

The public

Even if the risk of gingivitis and periodontitis typically increases with age, and caries often strikes during childhood and adolescence, all three diseases remain extremely widespread in the general public, posing a very serious threat to their teeth. Both current and future patients face the dual risk of gum disease and caries throughout their life. Fortunately, effective preventive and therapeutic interventions are available today to manage these conditions.

Irrespective of your age and health status, it is important to reduce the intake of sugars, brush your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and stop smoking, in order to prevent these diseases. Teeth are for a lifetime; it is important to visit your dentist regularly, particularly if you have bleeding gums, which are not normal.

Dental caries

The public should be aware of the following concerning dental caries:

- Susceptibility varies substantially throughout life; it is particularly high in the young.
- There is an association between lower socio-economic status and dental caries.
- Dietary fermentable carbohydrates (sugars, starches) are a necessary component for dental caries initiation and progression.

Recommendations for patients and future patients concerning dental caries:

- Refrain from giving pre-school and school children processed foods.
- Use a fluoride toothpaste twice daily.
- Ask your dentist for professional fluoride application if you are at high risk of dental caries.

Periodontal diseases

The public should be aware of the following concerning periodontal diseases:

- There are different forms of periodontal disease (gum disease), but the most common are gingivitis and periodontitis. Gingivitis is a necessary prerequisite for periodontitis. Whilst not all cases of gingivitis will progress to periodontitis, managing the former is a vital primary preventive strategy in preventing the latter. Periodontitis causes tooth loss if left untreated. In its more severe forms, periodontitis is independently associated with higher mortality rates due to an increased risk of atherogenic cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and related complications.
- Risk for periodontitis has a strong heritability, but lifestyle, environmental factors and behaviours are key to determining whether the disease develops or progresses.
- Periodontitis is treatable, to the extent that teeth can be retained for life, however early diagnosis is vital. The disease can start in adolescence or in later teenage years.
- Glycaemic control in patients with and without diabetes is a strong risk-prevention strategy for periodontitis.

Recommendations for patients and future patients concerning periodontal diseases:

- Bleeding gums are not normal, nor is the appearance of blood in saliva following toothbrushing either. To treat this, you should consult a dental care professional.

- If you have bad breath, loose teeth, or gaps appearing between teeth, you should visit a dental care professional.
- Engage in discussions on weight loss.
- Brush your teeth twice a day.
- Consider advice on how to stop smoking.
- Consider supplementing fluoride with additional effective agents to reduce plaque such as chemical agents found in mouthwash and toothpastes.
- Encourage adherence to glycaemic control regimes in individuals with diabetes.

Dental caries & periodontal diseases

The public should be aware of the following concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Both dental caries and periodontal diseases are preventable.
- Retaining healthy teeth improves nutritional status, reduces the risk of general ill health caused by dental caries and periodontal diseases, helps reduce health inequalities, has significant positive health economic impacts and improves quality of life and general wellbeing.
- Chewing is an essential function to ensure adequate nutrition and is best with natural teeth.

Recommendations for patients and future patients concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Encourage all nursing mothers to ensure their babies enter regular dental care pathways.
- Encourage all care homes to develop mechanisms and processes to maintain the oral health status of their residents.
- Retaining your teeth as you age is possible and is important for eating, speaking, smiling and feeling good about yourself. Teeth are for life.
- Look after your teeth and gums. Brush your teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste and clean between your teeth with interdental brushes or other oral hygiene products, as advised by your dentist.
- Refrain from consuming sugary foods and sweet drinks as much as possible and restrict them to mealtimes only.
- Ask your carer for help if you have difficulty in cleaning your teeth and gums.
- See your dentist/oral care professional for preventive care for tooth decay and gum disease and have the necessary treatment.

Policymakers

Gum disease and dental caries are the most common non-communicable diseases known to mankind and underlie virtually all tooth loss. Retaining healthy teeth improves a person's nutritional status, reduces the risk of general ill health due to these diseases, helps reduce health inequalities, has significant positive health economic impacts and improves quality of life. Effective preventive and therapeutic interventions are available to manage both dental caries and periodontal diseases.

When dealing with health policy, it is important to reinforce positive social change by inspiring good habits among the population to prevent these diseases; reducing the intake of sugars, brushing teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and stopping smoking.

There are a number of groups of healthcare professionals that need to know more about these diseases and understand the ongoing balance between risk factors (e.g. smoking), protective factors (e.g. fluoride in dental caries, high levels of oral hygiene in periodontal diseases) and pathological factors. This need should be addressed.

Policy interventions should be significant for the population/individual, designed to offer combined benefits when dealing with dental caries, periodontal diseases and systemic health.

Dental caries

Public health agencies and policymakers should be aware of the following concerning dental caries:

- Dental caries is a biofilm-mediated, sugar-driven, multifactorial, dynamic disease, resulting over time in the episodic demineralisation of dental hard tissues.
- The ongoing balance between protective and pathological factors will determine whether health is maintained or whether dental caries lesions will be initiated and then progress.
- Adequate use of fluoride is a condition sine qua non for dental caries prevention.
- Lifestyle changes, as well as dietary and behavioural factors, may influence both new disease and the progression of existing lesions, which can be arrested or reversed at the early stages.
- Both primary and secondary preventive interventions are available for reducing the risk of new dental caries and dental caries progression.

Recommendations for public health agencies and policymakers concerning dental caries:

- Ensure that food and drinks distributed at schools meet the latest health recommendations.
- Promote the absence of processed foods for pre-school and school children.
- Educate the public to brush twice daily using a fluoridated toothpaste.
- Incorporate professional tooth cleaning in a thorough, structured prophylaxis programme that includes oral hygiene instruction, motivation, dietary advice and fluoride application.
- Agencies and governments should implement a locally-appropriate combination of aligned upstream, midstream and downstream policies and activities aimed at dental caries prevention and control.
- Comprehensive implementation of the recent WHO guidelines on sugar consumption should be delivered, combined with other fluoride-related interventions. The focus should be on reducing the risk of dental caries initiation and progression across populations and risk groups. For example, in some countries, taxes on sugar and beverages with added sugar are being introduced and show some promise.

- Effective education is needed to update the public, patients, health professionals, healthcare providers and decision makers on the dynamic and initially reversible nature of the dental caries process.

Periodontal diseases

Public health agencies and policymakers should be aware of the following concerning periodontal diseases:

- It is important to recognise that the evidence base for periodontal disease risk factors has strengthened; smoking cessation and glycaemic control in patients with and without diabetes are strong risk prevention strategies for periodontitis.
- There is a need to focus limited resources on preventive strategies for periodontal diseases and remuneration systems that encourage their uptake and implementation.
- Incorporate professional tooth cleaning in a thorough, structured prophylaxis programme including oral hygiene instruction, motivation and dietary advice to effectively manage periodontal diseases.

Recommendations for public health agencies and policymakers concerning periodontal diseases:

- Take responsibility for developing public health campaigns to educate the public about gum disease.
- Develop education packages that will become embedded in key stage health services spanning the life course, from antenatal (midwifery) clinics to health visitors to primary schools and secondary schools and care homes.
- Lobby to recognise oral health as a vital and integral aspect of general health and wellbeing.
- Ensure messaging about reducing sugar consumption is applied to gum diseases as well as dental caries by flagging that sugar causes inflammation.
- Ensure that the dental profession encourages education and motivation of patients to practice proper dental plaque control.
- Ensure that the entire oral healthcare team recommends smoking cessation advice and support; engage specialist services as part of managing gingivitis and periodontitis if necessary.
- Ensure that periodontal screening becomes a mandatory component of the oral health examination and consider mandatory reporting of periodontal screening to appropriate local commissioning bodies.
- Focus on behaviour changes to prevent and reinforce good lifestyle practices.
- Focus on the wider oral health workforce.
- Develop educational programmes for antenatal midwifery classes, health visitors, teachers at primary and secondary schools, pharmacists, general nurses as well as care home workers.
- Develop public awareness campaigns about gum diseases that are independent from the oral healthcare industry.

Dental caries & periodontal diseases

Public health agencies and policymakers should be aware of the following concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Epidemiological evidence and analysis of trends in risk factors suggest that the burden of dental caries and periodontal diseases will increase in ageing populations, which tend to retain more teeth. This requires urgent action.

- Good oral health and comfort is an integral part of healthy ageing. Demographic transitions, trends in risk factors and medical comorbidities, better prevention and management of dental caries and periodontal disease earlier in life are leading to tooth retention. All of these point to an urgent need for system-wide measures to align policy, practice, education and public information on changing oral health needs for the ageing population.
- Increased attention to the specific oral health needs of an ageing population. Preservation of a functional dentition into old age is possible and may be associated with better overall quality of life and delayed frailty and dependence. Specific actions are required, with input from relevant stakeholders and adapted to different health systems.
- Wherever possible, policy interventions should be meaningful at a population/individual level and should be designed to combine benefits for dental caries, periodontal diseases and systemic health.
- Dental care professionals should be an integral part of medical and social health teams involved in the care of elders. Routine sharing of relevant health information will be necessary to achieve this goal.

Recommendations for public health agencies and policymakers concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Encourage that all nursing mothers ensure their babies enter regular dental care pathways.
- Ensure all care homes develop mechanisms and processes for maintaining the oral health status of their residents.
- Develop remuneration approaches that encourage prevention and an individually tailored plan of care, rather than intervention in dental contracts and payment systems.
- Embed risk assessment and risk-driven care pathways into clinical care.
- Develop strategies to address oral health inequalities in areas of high socioeconomic need.
- Lobby and influence nutritional policies to reduce sugar-containing snacks and foods in public areas, educational and recreational environments.
- Lobby to reduce the cost of healthy snacks, fruits and vegetables high in micronutrients.
- Include prevention and development of individually-tailored oral care plans in national reimbursement systems.
- Seek to provide a free dental check-up at key stages in life, using 'touch points', for example at 2, 5, 12, 26, 40 and 70 years of age.
- Carry out counselling on dietary sources of antioxidant micronutrients such as vitamin C and vitamin D, particularly for pregnant women and parents.
- Plan for the increasing oral healthcare needs of the ageing population. Specific actions are needed to overcome barriers in the care for vulnerable elders.
- Integrate assisted daily oral care in the professional profile of caregivers as well as provide access to dental care.
- Tackle inequalities in oral health for preventing and controlling dental caries and periodontal diseases. This requires strategies tailored to the determinants and needs of each group according to socioeconomic status.
- Encourage future oral health research, practice and policy towards a "social determinants" model. A closer collaboration and integration of dental and general health research is needed using a common risk factor approach.
- Translate prevalence data into disease burden data, in order to plan and allocate resources for the dental workforce.
- Take into account changing epidemiology and demography, as well as the changing needs of older adults, while developing and delivering both knowledge- and competence-based curricula at undergraduate and postgraduate level and as part of continuing education of oral healthcare professionals.
- Strengthen knowledge and increase awareness of medical comorbidities and medications relevant to the oral care of older adults.

Researchers

To advance researchers' understanding of the role played by genetics in dental caries and periodontal disease initiation and/or progression, further research is required. There is an urgent need for epidemiological surveillance of dental caries, periodontal diseases, tooth loss and oral health related to quality of life in older populations.

Dental caries

Researchers should be aware of the following concerning dental caries:

- Dental caries is a complex disease with multiple and diverse exposures that affect risk of disease initiation (risk factors) or progression of existing disease (prognostic factors). Such exposures include those that are inherited (e.g. susceptibility), those that are acquired (e.g. social, educational and economic factors and the local environment) and other diseases as well as lifestyle (e.g. sugar consumption, carbohydrate intake) factors. These may arise in different combinations in different individuals; at an individual patient level they may also have differentially weighted effects.

Recommendations for researchers regarding dental caries:

- Conduct studies on dental caries in adults to better understand which are the most important acquired risk factors and whether their modification (where feasible) improves dental caries outcomes.
- Determine the efficacy of other dietary interventions, such as functional foods and sugar alcohols, with regard to prevention/ management in dental caries.
- Conduct randomised clinical trials (RCTs) on the inactivation and monitoring of active dental caries lesions.

Periodontal diseases

Researchers should be aware of the following concerning periodontal diseases:

- Periodontal diseases are complex diseases with multiple and diverse exposures impacting upon risk of disease initiation (risk factors) or progression of existing disease (prognostic factors). Exposures include those that are inherited (e.g. genetic variants), those that are acquired (e.g. social, educational and economic factors), the local environment (e.g. biofilm load or composition), other diseases (e.g. sub-optimally controlled diabetes) and lifestyle (e.g. smoking) factors. These may arise in different combinations in different individuals; at an individual patient level they may also have differentially weighted effects.
- Effective preventive and therapeutic interventions are available to manage periodontal diseases.

Recommendations for researchers regarding periodontal diseases:

- Consider further trend studies in periodontitis to better understand whether or not there is a decline in periodontitis. If yes, determine what is driving the potential decrease of periodontitis in different populations.
- Gather authoritative evidence on whether interdental cleaning aids help prevent periodontitis and tooth loss.
- Address the gap of knowledge on gingivitis in children.

- Conduct further high quality research in the elderly in order to ascertain whether risk factors for periodontal diseases change across the life course.
- Clarify strategies for risk factor reduction in frail older people and those living in care homes that lack independence
- Investigate the effects of sugar through mechanisms other than those impacting on the biofilm in periodontal diseases.
- Determine the efficacy of other dietary interventions, such as pro/prebiotics in periodontal disease with regards to prevention/ management.

Dental caries & periodontal diseases

Researchers should be aware of the following concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Research priorities should be on how preventive and therapeutic regimens may preserve oral health, quality of life and nutrition into older age, as comorbidities present unique challenge to the delivery of intrinsically efficacious and effective strategies.
- There is a need to evaluate the effect of legislation, restrictions, guidelines and public campaigns on changes in behaviour and improved parameters of oral health on the efficiency level.
- Robust studies on the incidence of chronic periodontitis and increment of dental caries are highly desirable to improve understanding of the risk factors for periodontitis and dental caries in adults.
- The dental scientific community should harmonise epidemiological data sets across cohorts to allow common analysis, improving understanding of the prevalence, as well incidence, of periodontitis and dental caries or the influence of risk factors on these diseases.

Recommendations for researchers concerning dental caries and periodontal diseases:

- Develop clear definitions of disease in order to facilitate the identification of individuals at the highest risk of developing the disease.
- Develop methodological consensus on suitable and robust epidemiologic measures for:
 - aspects of disease burden;
 - disease surveillance over time within and across national and geographical boundaries;
 - aetiologic research.
- Conduct studies that are sufficiently powered.
- Undertake studies that employ longitudinal designs to better inform questions around causality.
- Conduct research in diverse populations of different geographical origins and different age groups.
- Analyse existing epidemiological data sets to determine whether dental caries and periodontitis co-occur due to the effect of common risk factors.
- Link existing registries (education, socio-economic conditions, general health) with dental registries (dental caries and periodontitis) to evaluate the effect of risk factors on dental caries and periodontitis or vice versa; the effect of dental caries and periodontitis on general health to circumvent the problem of decreasing response rate in epidemiological studies.
- Implement tailored, multifaceted and comprehensive preventive programmes for dental caries and periodontal diseases and evaluate them on efficiency levels. Such approaches have already proven efficacious and efficient in early childhood dental caries.
- Monitor changes in dental disease prevalence subsequent to the introduction of new dietary guidelines, such as those recommended by WHO.

- Design hypothesis-driven (candidate gene) or hypothesis-free (GWAS) studies of dental caries and periodontal diseases within the same population cohorts and take into account interaction between different factors.
- Studies to unravel the mechanisms underlying genetic associations should be undertaken in search of the role of gene variants, including gene expression and other mechanisms of controlling gene function (epigenetics).
- Genetics studies reporting low p values but having employed small sample sizes should clearly state their limitations regarding a low 'strength' of association due to low study power; similarly they should not conclusively exclude potential gene associations.
- Undertake research designed to improve understanding of potentially modifiable risk factors for both dental caries and periodontal diseases, specifically in relation to the following:
 - Hyposalivation and reduced salivary flow.
 - Smoking/tobacco use.
 - Carbohydrate (sucrose and starches) impacts upon biological pathways to disease, specifically exploring the effects of sugar frequency/amount in relation to dental caries and periodontal diseases.
 - Micronutrient deficiencies and their impact upon disease initiation and progression, specifically in relation to vitamin's C, D and K, B6, B12, docosahexaenoic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid and trace elements and minerals such as magnesium, calcium and phosphate.
 - Longitudinal controlled studies focusing on the influence of dietary fats, fat types and proteins on dental caries and periodontal diseases.
 - Multi-centre intervention studies analysing the efficacy of micronutrient supplementation and carbohydrate restriction upon disease status.
 - Metabolic syndrome (including diabetes and obesity) and the impact of its management upon periodontal diseases and dental caries.
- Evaluate whether dental caries and/or periodontal diseases can be managed through dietary changes with the help of motivational interviewing.
- Recommend comparative superiority studies with different types of psychological approaches in different groups both with regards to efficacy and efficiency.
- Obtain evidence on the use of interactive devices to aid oral hygiene such as electronic support systems for power toothbrushes and timers that are currently promoted. At present, evidence for a long-term successful change in behaviour is not available.
- Design RCTs addressing the simultaneous management of gingivitis and dental caries on the efficacy of:
 - Self-performed oral hygiene including tooth-brushing considering fluoridated toothpaste and interdental cleaning.
 - Different intervals between recall appointments in structured prevention programmes.
 - The adjunctive use of chemical plaque control agents including toothbrushing with fluoridated toothpaste as the control.

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Perio & Caries, a project based on Perio Workshop 2016

The EFP project 'Perio & Caries' builds on the outcomes of Perio Workshop 2016, devoted to "The boundaries between dental caries and periodontal disease", jointly organised by the EFP with ORCA (European Organisation for Caries Research) in November 2016 and sponsored by Colgate. Perio Workshop is a leading annual scientific meeting focusing on state-of-the-art issues relating to gum health and gum disease, organised by the EFP in La Granja, Spain under the chairmanship of Mariano Sanz.

During Perio Workshop 2016, 75 leading global cariologists and periodontists from ORCA and EFP reviewed, for the first time, all available evidence on common links between these preventable oral conditions. Special emphasis was placed on associated causes and risk factors and prevention that may influence both periodontal diseases and caries. The conclusions of Perio Workshop 2016 are publicly available in a special open-access supplement of the EFP's *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*.

Caries and periodontal diseases share common genetic, aetiological and environmental factors, although they follow different trajectories. As a result, they have always been considered as separate entities, however no longer. The project 'Perio & Caries' came about to disseminate these identified similarities - and the distinct characteristics of each entity - and to recommend clear preventive measures for individuals and the population at large.

The consensus reports produced by the four working groups at Perio Workshop 2016 examined the role of microbial biofilms; the interaction of lifestyle, behaviour and systemic diseases; prevention and control and age-related effects, all in relation to dental caries and periodontal diseases.

Other major conclusions of Perio Workshop 2016 and the 'Perio & Caries' project include:

- Micro-organisms associated with both caries and periodontal diseases are metabolically highly specialised and organised as multi-species, microbial biofilms.
- The progression of these diseases involves multiple microbial interactions driven by different stressors. With caries, exposure to dietary sugars and fermenting organic acids results in increased quantities of acidogenic and aciduric species. In gingivitis, plaque accumulation at the gingival margin leads to inflammation and increased proportions of proteolytic and often obligate anaerobic species.
- There is moderately strong evidence for a genetic contribution to periodontal diseases and caries susceptibility, with an attributable risk estimated at up to 50 per cent.
- There has been a global decline in the prevalence of caries and possibly periodontal diseases, although the increase in the global population and tooth retention imply a bigger burden of disease at the population level.

Perio Workshop 2016 - four working groups

Working group 1:

Role of microbial biofilms in the maintenance of oral health and the development of dental caries and periodontal disease



This group, chaired by Mariano Sanz (EFP) and David Beighton (ORCA), reviewed the ecological interactions in the dental biofilm in health and disease, the role of microbial communities in the pathogenesis of periodontitis and caries and the innate host response in caries and periodontal diseases.

One of the main findings was that the biofilm is an essential component in the development of caries and periodontal diseases. As a result,

understanding the composition and inter-microbial interactions is fundamental in developing effective preventive and therapeutic measures.

In the same way, knowledge of the microbe-host interactions - in the maintenance of oral health and the initiation and progression of both dental caries and periodontal diseases - is key to improving preventive strategies and designing new strategies to improve oral health.

Chairmen:

Mariano Sanz, David Beighton

Review papers:

Dental plaque biofilm: ecological interactions in health and disease (by Egija Zaura & Philip Marsh)

Role of microbial communities in the pathogenesis of periodontitis and caries (by Alex Mira & Mike Curtis)

The innate host response in caries and periodontal disease, Part 1: the role of tissues and cellular players (by Mark Herzberg & Jörg Meyle)

The innate host response in caries and periodontal disease, Part 2: functional fluids and effector molecules (by Mark Herzberg & Jörg Meyle)

Reviewers:

Egija Zaura, Alex Mira, Mark Herzberg, Philip Marsh, Mike Curtis, Jörg Meyle

Participants:

Irene Dige, Svante Twetman, Jaime Cury, Rodrigo Giacaman, Eric Reynolds, Andrea Mombelli, David Herrera, Eija Könönen, Marc Quirynen, Lior Shapira

Colgate representative:

Irina Chivu

Staff member:

Ana Molina

Working group 2:
Interaction of lifestyle, behaviour or systemic diseases with oral health, dental caries and periodontal diseases



This group, chaired by Iain Chapple (EFP) and Andreas Schulte (ORCA), carried out a systematic review of genetic risk factors, a narrative review of the role of diet and nutrition and reference documentation for modifiable acquired risk factors common to both diseases.

There is moderately strong evidence that a person is genetically predisposed to periodontal diseases and caries, although the

literature is more substantial for the former than the latter. The genes involved in each differ and no common genetic variants were found.

Fermentable carbohydrates (sugars and starches) were the most relevant common dietary risk factor for both diseases, however the associated mechanisms differed. The working group also found that 'functional foods' or probiotics could prove helpful in preventing caries and managing periodontal disease. However, it noted that evidence is limited and biological mechanisms involved are not yet fully understood.

In terms of acquired risk factors for both caries and periodontal diseases, the most common of these are hyposalivation, rheumatoid arthritis, smoking, undiagnosed or poorly controlled diabetes and obesity.

Chairmen:

Iain Chapple, Andreas Schulte

Review papers:

Shared modifiable risk factors for dental caries and periodontal diseases (by Guglielmo Campus & Philippe Bouchard)

Genetic and epigenetic regulation of gene expression and its possible role in the pathogenesis of caries and periodontal disease (by Luigi Nibali & Alexandre Vieira)

Nutrition, dental caries, and periodontal disease: a practical overview (by Philippe Hujoel & Peter Lingström)

Reviewers:

Guglielmo Campus, Alexandre Vieira, Peter Lingström, Philippe Bouchard, Luigi Nibali, Philippe Hujoel

Participants:

Nadine Schlüter, Chris Rahiotis, Cor van Loveren, David Manton, Nigel Pitts, Marja Laine, Wim Teughels, Fridus van der Weijden, Henrik Dommisch

Colgate representative:

Michael Schneider

Staff member:

Eduardo Montero

**Working group 3:
Prevention and control of dental caries and periodontal diseases at individual and population level**



Chaired by Søren Jepsen (EFP) and Vita Machiulskiene (ORCA), this group reviewed the current state of knowledge on epidemiology, social-behavioural aspects and plaque control. They noted that dental caries and periodontal diseases share common risk factors and social determinants important for their prevention and control.

Its three systematic reviews focused on: (1) the global burden of dental caries and periodontitis on mankind; (2) socio-behavioural aspects in the prevention and control of dental caries and periodontal disease at an individual and population level; and (3) mechanical and chemical plaque control in the simultaneous management of gingivitis and dental caries.

Key findings showed that the incidence of dental caries has decreased in many regions in all age groups over the last three decades, but not all social groups have benefitted equally. In addition, while some studies have indicated a possible decline in the prevalence of periodontitis, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that this has changed over recent decades.

Global population growth and increased tooth retention mean that the number of people affected by dental caries and periodontitis has grown substantially: untreated caries by 37 per cent and severe periodontitis by 67 per cent between 1990 and 2013.

The most important behavioural factors for both diseases are efficient self-performed oral hygiene - toothbrushing with a fluoride toothpaste and interdental cleaning. Professional tooth cleaning, oral hygiene instruction and motivation, dietary advice and fluoride application are effective in addressing dental caries and gingivitis.

Chairs:

Søren Jepsen, Vita Machiulskiene

Review papers:

The global burden of caries and periodontal diseases (by Thomas Dietrich & Joannes Frencken)
Socio-behavioural aspects in the prevention and control of dental caries and periodontal diseases at an individual and population level (by Christof Dörfer & Julian Schmoeckel)
Mechanical and chemical plaque control in managing gingivitis and caries: a systematic review (Elena Figuero & Joana Carvalho)

Reviewers:

Joannes Frencken, Julian Schmoeckel, Joana Carvalho, Thomas Dietrich, Christof Dörfer, Elena Figuero

Participants:

Monique van der Veen, Wolfgang Buchalla, Livia Tenuta, Marisa Maltz, Susan Higham, Thomas Kocher, Filippo Graziani, Juan Blanco, Anton Sculean

Representative from Platform for a Better Oral Health in Europe:

Ken Eaton

Colgate representative:

Irina Chivu

Staff member:

Alberto Ortiz-Vigón

**Working group 4:
Age-related effects on oral health, dental caries and periodontal diseases**



Chaired by Maurizio Tonetti (EFP) and Sebastian Paris (ORCA), this group reviewed scientific evidence and developed specific recommendations for preventing tooth loss and retaining oral function - through preventing and treating caries and periodontal diseases later in life - and increasing awareness of the health benefits of oral hygiene as an essential component of healthy ageing.

Over the previous two decades, progress in preventing and treating caries and periodontal diseases has improved oral health and tooth retention in the adult population. The ageing population and increasing expectations of good oral health among older people pose big challenges to clinical care and healthcare systems.

Three systematic reviews were carried out on: (1) the aspects of caries and periodontal diseases in older people; (2) the impact of ageing on caries and periodontal diseases; and (3) the effectiveness of interventions.

The experts found that an increase in the total burden posed by caries and periodontal diseases among the older population is a likely consequence of an ageing population, trends in risk factors and improved tooth retention. It noted that specific surveillance is required to monitor changes in oral health in the older population and that ageing impacts oral health, including periodontitis and potentially susceptibility to caries.

Considering the evidence that caries and periodontal diseases can be prevented and treated in older adults, the group found that oral health and functional tooth retention later in life offer benefits, including improving quality of life and preventing physical decline and dependency by fostering a healthy diet.

In the light of these findings, it is recommended that oral healthcare professionals and individuals should not base their decisions affecting tooth retention on chronological age, but on the level of dependency, life expectancy, frailty, comfort and quality of life. As a consequence, health policy should remove barriers to oral healthcare for vulnerable elders.

Chairmen:

Maurizio Tonetti, Sebastian Paris

Review papers:

Ageing, dental caries and periodontal diseases (by Rodrigo Lopez & Falk Schwelldicke)

Changes in immune function (immune senescence) in caries and periodontal diseases: a systematic review (by Philip Preshaw & Georg Conrads)

Gingival recession and root caries in the ageing population: a critical evaluation of treatments (by Peter Heasman & Bente Nyvad)

Reviewers:

Falk Schwelldicke, Georg Conrads, Bente Nyvad, Rodrigo López, Philip Preshaw, Peter Heasman

Participants:

Peter Bottenberg, Alix Young, Jacques Vannobergen, Marie-Charlotte Huysmans, Gert Jan van der Putten, Stefan Renvert, Ian Needleman, Phoebus Madianos, Leonardo Trombelli, Peter Eickholz, Frauke Muller, Nicola West

Colgate representative:

Ian Pretty

Staff members:

Ignacio Sanz-Sánchez, Ignacio Sanz-Martín

Authors



Iain Chapple

Iain Chapple is professor of Periodontology and head of the School of Dentistry at the University of Birmingham, UK. He is a former scientific editor of the *British Dental Journal* and the *Journal of Periodontal Research* and is currently associate editor of the *Journal Clinical Periodontology and Periodontology 2000*. He has written seven textbooks and 16 book chapters.

Prof Chapple was president of the IADR Periodontal Research Group (2006-07), group programme chair (2008-2015) and council representative (2016).

At the EFP, he was treasurer (2007-2013), co-organiser of the Perio Workshops, chairman of the scientific advisory committee and editor of the *JCP Digest* (2014-2016). Currently, he is the EFP secretary-general.

In addition, Prof Chapple was president of the British Society of Periodontology in 2014-2015. He was awarded the Charles Tomes medal by the Royal College of Surgeons in 2011 and the Rizzo Research Award of the IADR Periodontal Research Group in 2001.

He leads Birmingham's Periodontal Research Group, which is part of Birmingham's MRC Centre for Immune Regulation. Prof Chapple has published over 170 peer-reviewed manuscripts of international scientific literature. He is director of Research for the Institute of Clinical Sciences. He runs a regional clinical NHS service for a population base of six million and also a national oral service for adults patients with *Epidermolysis Bullosa*.

Authors



Søren Jepsen

Søren Jepsen is professor and chairman of the department of Periodontology, Operative and Preventive Dentistry at the University of Bonn, Germany. Previously, he was assistant professor in the department of Prosthodontics at the University of Hamburg and later associate professor in the department of Conservative Dentistry and Periodontology at the University of Kiel, Germany.

Prof Jepsen received his dental and his medical degrees from the University of Hamburg in 1981 and 1986 and a MS in Periodontology from Loma Linda University, USA, in 1992. He became a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology in 1999.

Prof Jepsen became an elected member of Leopoldina (German National Academy of Sciences) in 2005. He was also elected and invited to become chair of the department of Periodontology, University of Berne, Switzerland in 2007. Since 2008 he is speaker of the Clinical Research Unit 208 "Aetiology and Sequelae of Periodontal Diseases" funded by the German Research Foundation at the University of Bonn.

He has served on the executive committee of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) as chair of its research committee (2004–2010) as board member (2012-2017) and as president (2015-2016). He is also co-chair of the organising committee for the AAP/EFP World Perio Workshop on a New Classification of Periodontal and Peri-implant Diseases in November 2017, and scientific chair for EuroPerio9 in 2018.

Prof Jepsen has lectured and published extensively, has received numerous awards and is associate editor of the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* and editorial board member of *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, the *European Journal of Oral Implantology*, and the *Chinese Journal of Dental Research*.

Authors



Mariano Sanz

Mariano Sanz is professor and chair of periodontology at the University Complutense of Madrid (Spain) and a professor in the faculty of Odontology at the University of Oslo (Norway).

He graduated in medicine in 1981 from the University Complutense of Madrid, from which he received a degree in stomatology in 1983 and where he qualified as a Doctor of Medicine in 1985. He received his speciality in periodontology from the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1987. He has received honorary doctorates from the University of San Sebastian in Santiago (Chile), the University of Gothenburg (Sweden) and the University of Coimbra (Portugal).

Since 2005, Prof Sanz has been chair of the ETEP research group on the aetiology and therapy of periodontal diseases, whose main lines of research are oral microbiology, bacterial-host interactions, and antimicrobial approaches in the treatment of gingivitis and periodontitis. The research group has conducted clinical trials to measure the efficacy of different approaches to periodontal regeneration surgical protocols using dental implants, and therapeutic approaches to treat peri-implantitis.

Prof Sanz has published 230 articles in scientific journals, written 50 book chapters, and has participated as an invited speaker at more than 200 scientific events in the last five years. He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* and *Evidence-Based Dental Practice* and a member of the editorial boards of various other dental journals.

He has been awarded the Jens Waerhaug Research Prize by the Scandinavian Society of Periodontology (1984), the Outstanding Service Award from the International Association for Dental Research (2015) and the IADR Straumann Award in Periodontal Regenerative Medicine (2015).

He is a member of the executive committee of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) and chair of its workshop committee. He has previously served the EFP both as president (1993-1994) and secretary general (1998-2005). He is president of the Osteology Foundation, president of the International Association for Dental Research's continental European division, and president-elect of the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE).

Authors



Maurizio Tonetti

Maurizio Tonetti is currently clinical professor of Periodontology at the Faculty of Dentistry of the Hong Kong University and executive director of the European Research Group on Periodontology (ERGOPerio). Previously, Prof Tonetti was professor and head of the department of Periodontology at the School of Dental Medicine of the University of Connecticut. He also served as professor and head of the departments of Periodontology at the University College in London, at the University of Berne, and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. He is currently the editor in chief of the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*.

Regarding his clinical activity, as a specialist in periodontology Prof Tonetti maintains a part-time private practice limited to periodontology and implant surgery with an emphasis on regeneration, minimally invasive surgery and microsurgery. He has been working for years with leading colleagues to provide periodontal care and dental implant treatment to the world elite.

The focus of his recent research activity has concentrated on three areas: (1) improved understanding of periodontal infections and their general health consequences; (2) regeneration and bio-engineering of lost periodontal structures; and (3) replacement of irretrievable teeth with dental implants. The research of his team spans from fundamental discovery to clinical translation.

Prof Tonetti is widely recognised for his contributions to improved periodontal diagnosis and risk assessment, control of periodontitis, the practice of periodontal regeneration, and design and execution of large clinical trials in periodontology and implant dentistry. His scientific work has been cited 20,000 times and has an H-factor of 79. He has been engaged worldwide in the planning and delivery of advanced educational programs in the fields of periodontology and implant dentistry.

Authors



Nicola West

Nicola West is professor of Periodontology and Head of Restorative Dentistry and the Clinical Trials Unit at the School of Oral and Dental Sciences, University of Bristol, UK.

Prof West has been the secretary of the British Society of Periodontology since 2012 and EFP representative for the UK since 2015. She has been a member of the Royal College of England Specialist Advisory Committee and General Dental Council Specialist Listing assessor since 2015. At Perio Workshop 2015 she led a systematic review on dentine hypersensitivity.

Prof West leads the Clinical Trials Unit at the Bristol Dental School, conducting research at an international level, attracting substantial industrial funding alongside EC and charity grants. Current research interests include: developing periodontal research methodologies; scientific evaluation of oral health care products for plaque regrowth and gingivitis studies; toothwear (including erosion, abrasion and attrition); dentine hypersensitivity, tooth staining and whitening; and periodontal disease associated with Alzheimer's disease, bone augmentation, and peri-implant lesions. Postgraduate study is a key part of this scholarly environment. She leads a thriving postgraduate culture, and continues to seek and maintain her strong reputation for producing high quality PhD/MSc degrees.

Currently, Prof West is the regional postgraduate tutor for the British Society of Periodontology in the South West of England, advisor for the International Standards Institute for Oral Healthcare since 2014, fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a UK member of the International Standards Committee, has sat on the advisory board of the British Dental Health Foundation since 2015, and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Dentistry*. She has published 83 peer-reviewed papers, seven book chapters and has participated as an invited speaker at 186 scientific events.

Prof West leads the Periodontology, Bone Augmentation and Peri-implantitis Unit in the Bristol Dental School Masters Programme. She is also a member of the Association of Dental Implantology, where she sits on the advisory committee for the management of peri-implant diseases.

Since 1990, she has maintained, in parallel, a thriving private referral practice in the centre of Bristol undertaking specialist periodontal treatment, bone augmentation and implant placement. Her particular sphere of interest includes the management of peri-implantitis lesions.

Perio & Caries, a joint **EFP-Colgate Initiative**



The European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) is the leading global voice on gum health and gum disease and the driving force behind EuroPerio – the most important international periodontal congress – and the European Workshop on periodontology, a world-leading meeting on periodontal science. The EFP also edits the Journal of Clinical Periodontology, one of the most authoritative scientific publications in this field.

The EFP comprises 30 national societies of periodontology in Europe, northern Africa, Caucasia, and the Middle East, which together represent about 14,000 periodontists, dentists, researchers, and other members of the dental team focused on improving periodontal science and practice.

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