**Press Release**

**The challenges of an ageing population**

**GC Symposium at the CED-IADR congress**

**On September 16-18, the Continental European Division of the International Association for Dental Research (CED-IADR), together with the Scandinavian Division (NOF), welcomed more than 500 participants from 47 countries all over the world at the 2021 Hybrid CED-IADR/NOF Oral Health Research congress in Brussels, Belgium. The two-and-half-day event comprised a broad scientific programme, consisting of state-of-the-art symposia, keynote lectures, and presentations of researchers from Europe and beyond. On the first day, GC Europe hosted a symposium focusing the challenges of an ageing population with respect to cervical lesions.**

The symposium, chaired by Prof. Avijit Banerjee from King’s College London (United Kingdom), was opened by Prof. Jo Frencken (University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands) with consensus recommendations for the primary and secondary prevention of root caries lesions and their operative management. Being a founding father of atraumatic restorative treatment (ART), he emphasized the ease of application and effectiveness of its use in modern caries management. According to Prof. Frencken, ART with high-viscosity glass ionomer cement was proven to be a successful approach for managing root surface caries.

The next speaker was Prof. Falk Schwendicke (Charité University, Berlin, Germany), who pointed out the importance of cost assessment of treatments. The prevalence of non-carious cervical lesions increases with age. The first focus should always be on prevention and none-restorative treatment. However, when the treatment fails or symptoms arise, restorative treatment is unavoidable. In his clinical study with EQUIA Forte on Class V restorations, he could not only demonstrate the good performance and advantages of glass hybrid restoratives, but also their cost-effectiveness, being 20% less costly than composite over the 3-year follow-up period.

The series of lectures was closed by Prof. Gerry McKenna (Queen’s University Belfast, United Kingdom) who provided a broad overview on ways to optimize treatment for older adults. In addition to prevention and preservation of natural teeth, he also called for tooth replacement to follow a functionally oriented approach.

At the end of the day, Prof. Avijit Banerjee moderated a Q&A session where the participants could resume the discussion on this trending topic. With over 100 participants online and onsite, we can look back with contentment on a fruitful symposium!

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