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# Statement of Purpose

Stephen H. Y. Wei, DDS, MS, MDS  
Symposium Planning Committee

This Symposium was conceived by the Department of Pedodontics as an activity to commemorate the International Year of the Child, and because of the increased recognition in dentistry of periodontal disease in children. It is hoped that this Symposium will generate increased interest in obtaining knowledge as to the causes, prevention and treatment of periodontal disease in children and young adults.

The two-day program has been planned to accomplish the purpose of this Symposium. The speakers and panelists have been selected on the basis of their scholarly contributions to the etiology, prevention, pathogenesis and clinical treatment of gingivitis, periodontal disease and common soft tissue lesions in children.

Our first speaker, Dr. Sven Poulson from Aarhus, Denmark will review the epidemiology and indices of gingival and periodontal diseases. He will emphasize recent studies in the application of preventive methods from Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

Dr. Richard Ranney will review the current concepts of pathogenesis and clinical progression of gingivitis and periodontitis with special reference to their differences in clinical manifestations in children versus adults.

Dr. Per Axelsson will discuss the concepts and practice of plaque control as carried out in the Karlstad studies using a combination of home care and professional tooth-cleaning, in depth. With good patient compliance, such plaque control programs can completely prevent the development of gingivitis and arrest the progress of periodontal disease. The effect of "key-risk" surfaces or the "non-risk" surfaces will be discussed both for children and in young adults.

Dr. James Bawden will present data on a recent survey on the incidence of periodontal disease in the state of North Carolina. This 1977 survey was compared with a similar survey in the same state in 1963 and the results showed some surprising findings on the prevalence of periodontal disease, especially in the 5 to 19 year age groups. These findings could be discussed in the light of "plaque control" programs in Scandinavia.

Juvenile periodontitis (periodontosis) has been a challenging and somewhat mystifying clinical entity. Dr. Michael Newman has carried out research on this unusual subject and his insightful analysis suggests a

possible systemic predisposition to juvenile periodontitis. Furthermore, certain specific microorganisms which possess an exotoxin may be involved in the pathogenesis. A combined mechanical and antimicrobial approach appears best for treatment of these conditions.

On our second day, Dr. Gil Lilly will discuss the pathology and clinical management of several of the most difficult and challenging oral tissue lesions in children; namely, epidermolysis bullosa, neutropenia and other conditions. His wealth of clinical experience and his impressive slide collection on these conditions should enlighten us all.

One of the most common conditions that affect handicapped children is dilantin hyperplasia. Dr. Arnold Steinberg will discuss the prevalence of this condition and present the more successful clinical management techniques for this condition.

Dr. Tom Hassell will bring to the Symposium his experience of last year, when he convened an international symposium on the topic of phenytoin hyperplasia at North Carolina. He will discuss the latest research on the pathogenesis of drug-induced gingival enlargement.

More and more children are receiving orthodontic treatment, which invariably produces some local irritation and requires specialized responses by the gingival and periodontal tissues. A better understanding of such processes will help us to preserve and maintain optimal dental health throughout the period of orthodontic treatment. Dr. Robert Vanarsdall will highlight the various mucogingival deformities, bone loss, tooth resorption and periodontal attachment problems and their clinical management.

We are particularly fortunate in having Dr. Wallace Mann, Dean of the School of Dentistry at the University of Mississippi as our banquet speaker tonight. Dr. Mann is a dental educator par excellence. He has instituted a most innovative curriculum at his school and will share with us his insight into the problems of dental research and their resolution. He proposes to develop some provocative but positive policy statements and recommendations on legislation and funding of dental research in the United States.

A panel discussion session is planned for Friday afternoon and we encourage all participants to submit their questions to me in advance. The questions will

be grouped and presented to our distinguished group of panelists. I am certain that there will be much discussion following these stimulating presentations. The discussions will be recorded and transcribed in the proceedings.

I wish to thank all the speakers who will deliver their presentations at this meeting and have also prepared manuscripts for a publication which will be published as a Special Issue of *Pediatric Dentistry*, the Journal of the American Academy of Pedodontics. I wish to thank the Office of Maternal and Child Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, Md., and particularly Dr. Bill Warren, Chief Dental Officer, who is here to represent the agency, for a grant which will cover the publication cost of the special Issue to *Pediatric Dentistry*.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Sam Kakehashi, Chief of the Periodontal Disease Section, and Dr. David Scott, Director of the National Institute of Dental Research, for their constructive suggestions for speakers for this Symposium.

I wish to thank several companies which have made generous gifts to support this program, enabling the invitation of our overseas speakers. They are: The Johnson & Johnson Company, the Warner-Lambert

Company, the Block Drug Company, and the John O. Butler Company. Without funding from industry sources we would not be able to bring our overseas speakers here to participate in this workshop.

I wish to thank my co-moderators of this Symposium, my colleagues in the Department of Periodontics at the University of Iowa and other guest moderators who will assure that the Symposium will go on schedule, and that the quality of the discussion will be maintained at the highest level.

Thanks also to Dr. Robert Musselman, Vice-President of the AAP, who is standing in for Dr. Stephen Moss, President. Dr. Moss sends his regrets for his inability to attend because of the accreditation visit to New York University by the Commission on Accreditation.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Planning Committee members who are, Dr. Jerry D. Walker, Dr. Ian McKenzie, Dr. David Nash from West Virginia, and Miss Jamie Sharp. A special word of thanks goes to Jamie who has been taking care of so many aspects of this Symposium, including the budget, mailing, scheduling, and every detail of your registration to ensure you will all have two days of enjoyable learning and socializing.