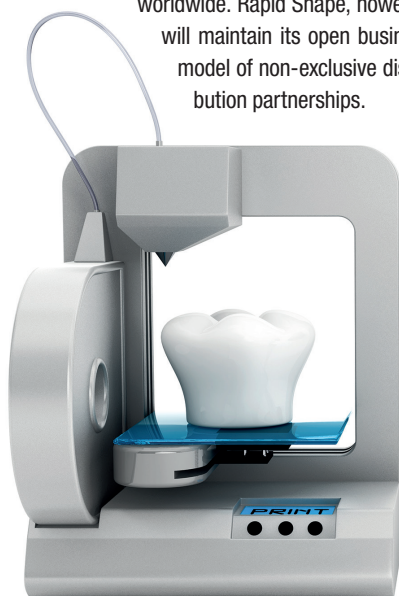


Straumann and Rapid Shape to

## Drive 3-D printing technology

In June, Straumann and Rapid Shape announced that they have expanded their partnership with the goal of accelerating the uptake of 3-D printing technology in dentistry. Straumann has purchased a 35 per cent non-controlling stake in the Germany-based company for an undisclosed sum, enabling Rapid Shape to invest further in development and production, as well as increasing its service footprint.

The acquisition follows a non-exclusive distribution agreement signed in March, allowing Straumann to supply Rapid Shape 3-D printers worldwide. Rapid Shape, however, will maintain its open business model of non-exclusive distribution partnerships.



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Rapid Shape's 3-D printers are designed to enable dental laboratories to produce temporary prosthetic restorations, models and drill templates for guided surgery with certified precision very efficiently.

An open-system approach allows customers to choose from a wide variety of certified materials from multiple suppliers. Straumann will sell the printers under its own brand, offering seamless connectivity with its validated digital workflow for tooth replacement.

According to industry intelligence, the installed base and output of dental 3-D printers are expected to triple over the next five years, Straumann announced.



Alpha-Bio Tec launches its

## Scientific Research Collaboration Programme

At this year's EAO congress in Madrid, Spain, Alpha-Bio Tec will be launching its Scientific Research Collaboration Programme for the sponsorship of clinical and preclinical studies in dental implantology, tissue regeneration and dental prosthetics. Additionally, participants will be able to experience live Alpha-Bio Tec's new NeO implant and CAD/CAM guided surgery tool kit. Alpha-Bio Tec will also take part in the EAO research poster exhibition, offering a unique opportunity to meet Prof. Ofer Moses and Dr Zoabi Hasan, who will be presenting two studies selected by the EAO, which are an *in vitro* comparative study of bacterial growth on grooved and non-grooved healing abutments and

the effect of coronal implant design and drilling protocol on bone-to-implant contact.

At the lunch symposium, Alpha-Bio Tec will be hosting Prof. Ofer Moses and Prof. Dieter Bosshardt with their lecture "The way to Ithaka: From vision to clinical implication". The lecture will discuss the combination of vision, open minds, animal models and surgical skills in revolutionary surgical solutions exploring implant housing biology, and collaboration with histology experts to obtain high-quality results and the implications for academic and clinical use.

**Source: Alpha-Bio Tec**

Dr Karsten Wagner is now responsible for

## The global development of Ankylos and Xive

Dr Karsten Wagner is taking over the position of Global Director Platform Implant Systems Ankylos/Xive at Dentsply Sirona Implants. This means that he will be responsible for product innovation and brand strategy for the Ankylos and Xive implant systems worldwide.

Dr Wagner, CEO of Dentsply Sirona Implants Germany, has initiated successful events for both implant systems with the Xive Roadshow and the Ankylos Congress in Germany, which also

attracted a great deal of interest internationally. Now he can bring his strategies to the global promotion of the premium dental implant brands. His excellent customer contacts and many years of experience in the dental market will be of great benefit in this role.

Dr Karsten Wagner is solidly anchored in medical technology. After working at Abbott, where he gained experience in sales, product management and later as Head of Key Account Management, he then switched to National Sales Manager of the former Astra Tech GmbH in 2004, and became Business Unit Director in 2008. With the merger of Astra Tech Dental and DENTSPLY Friadent into DENTSPLY Implants in 2013, Dr Wagner was first responsible for sales, then became CEO in Germany and took over the overall management of sales for the D-A-CH region (Germany, Austria, Switzerland). He is also retaining the function of CEO of Implants in Germany in order to oversee the planned restructuring measures in Germany.

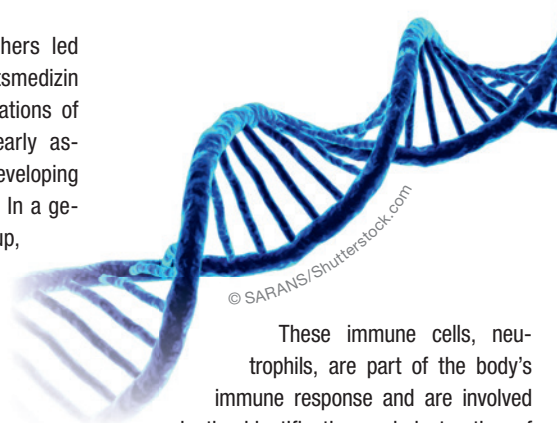


### Researchers identify

## DNA sections responsible for periodontitis

An international network of researchers led by scientists at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin in Germany has identified variations of certain DNA sequences that are clearly associated with an increased risk of developing different forms of periodontal disease. In a genome-wide association study, the group, led by Prof. Arne Schäfer from the Charité Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Sciences, investigated the relationship between sequence differences in genetic information and the incidence of the disease in several thousand patients with aggressive and chronic periodontitis. The results were compared with healthy individuals.

The scientists found two gene regions that appeared to be associated with an increased risk of developing different forms of periodontitis. One of the two regions is responsible for the synthesis of alpha-defensins (antimicrobial peptides), which are produced by specialised immune cells.



These immune cells, neutrophils, are part of the body's immune response and are involved in the identification and destruction of microorganisms. The second gene region inhibits the activation of these immune cells.

"Our results show that the different forms of gum disease share a common genetic origin," said Schäfer. He emphasised: "This means that there are groups of patients who are susceptible to developing gum disease, but whose susceptibility is independent of other risk factors, such as smoking, oral hygiene or aging."

### Researcher aims to

## Regrow teeth with biocompatible material

The ability to grow new teeth has long been a pipe dream in dentistry. Recent breakthroughs, however, have shown that it is possible to promote regeneration of dental tissue with the aim of reducing the use of filling material and helping teeth to self-repair. Dr Azam Ali from the University of Otago in New Zealand has now launched a research project that seeks to develop a biomaterials system that would allow regrowth of entire teeth.

Ali's "No drill, no fill" project was initially intended to create a suitable biocompatible alternative to traditional filling materials used to treat dental caries. The study's parameters soon expanded to producing new dental tissue as the potential of the materials to be used became apparent during preliminary testing.

In recognition of their innovation, Ali and his team have been awarded an explorer grant of A\$150,000 (US\$113,171) from the Health Research Council of New Zealand. This grant

is intended to provide financial support for the study for up to 24 months.

"Developing a technique to regrow teeth, for example, is an extraordinary concept and offers huge potential for people suffering dental health problems," said Health Minister Dr Jonathan Coleman upon awarding the grant to Ali.



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