

COLGATE AND LAOHA Improving Oral Health in Latin America

On January 30th in São Paulo, Brazil, the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA) held a regional symposium entitled: **“Periodontal disease and its impact on general health in Latin America - Latin American Consensus”**.

The aim of this symposium was to develop a regional plan to address gingival health issues in Latin America. Leaders of the dental and periodontal associations in Latin America were invited to participate in this symposium. This meeting was sponsored by LAOHA and Colgate Palmolive Company.

Among the invited guest were:

- Representatives from 18 countries;

- 15 Latin American Periodontal Associations;
- Representatives of the Ibero-Panamerican Federation of Periodontics (FIPP).
- Representatives of the Divisions of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) from Caribbean and Brazil;
- Brazilian Association of Dental Education (ABENO);
- Latin American Dentistry Federation (FOLA);
- Members of the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI);
- Members of the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA) and
- Members of Colgate-Palmolive Company.

Coordination:

LAOHA | Claudio Pannuti | Cristina Villar | Juliano Cavagni | Luciene Figueiredo
Zilson Malheiros | Bernal Stewart

Support

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The meeting was structured to present six lectures:



INTRODUCTION I

Impact of the Global Burden of Periodontal Diseases on Health



INTRODUCTION II

Impact of the Global Burden of Periodontal Diseases on Health in Latin America



PREVENTION

Prevention Strategies for Latin America



DIAGNOSTICS

Problems Associated with Diagnostic of the Condition and Possible solutions for Latin America



TREATMENT

Problems Associated with Treatment of the Condition and Possible Solutions for Latin America



GENERAL DISCUSSION

The main Key messages from the consensus meeting were:

1. Periodontitis is a chronic non-communicable disease (NCD) that impacts on quality of life and represents a major public health problem around the world.
2. Alliances between periodontal associations and different governmental organizations should be encouraged with the purpose of creating a joint effort to replace Oral Health Programs by Oral Health Policies. The suggestion offered was that these policies should prioritize the concept of "Full Mouth Health".
3. Prevention of oral diseases is crucial in terms of public health and should be concentrated not only on dentists, but also on interdisciplinary groups working together.
4. In Latin America, health professionals should routinely perform individual periodontal clinical examination, and researchers should attempt to develop a standardized diagnostic test that could help with clinical periodontal screening (for epidemiological studies).
5. NSPT and/or SPT alone may not be sufficient to re-establish periodontal health in patients with severe periodontitis, or in those with associated risk factors. Therefore, other adjunct therapies, such as lasers, systemic antibiotics, host-modulators and probiotics were suggested.

Next Steps:

1

Promote regional events with the purpose of disseminating the recommendations of the Consensus among Professionals.

2

A draft paper of the consensus report will be circulated among attendees for a final review and approval.

3

The approved consensus report will be submitted for publication in the Brazilian Oral Research Journal.

3



Testimonials

Dr. Maria Ryan

VP & Chief Dental Officer – Colgate-Palmolive

“This meeting is extremely important to promoting oral health in Latin America and the Caribbean. The thought leaders that are in this room are contributing to the processes that need to be put into place to communicate the needs and the services that are available to the communities throughout Latin America”.



Dr. Mariano Sanz

Complutense University of Madrid - Spain

“This union between FIPP and LAOHA is very important to develop a core of experts that will be able to, on the long or mid-term, follow and assess the state of the periodontal health in Latin America and especially how preventive and therapeutic measures can be implemented for these relevant diseases for the human health.”



Dr. Marsha Butler

VP - Oral Health & Prof. Relations - Colgate-Palmolive

“It’s an opportunity to get experts from around the world together to really come to a consensus on what we, as a profession, need to do to address periodontal disease around the region. I’m really excited about being here.”



Dr. Marco Medina

FIPP President

“The important thing of about meeting is that we make a strategic alliance with LAOHA and FIPP. Therefore, we can carry out preventive campaigns and public health policies.”



Dr. Vania Fontanella

Brazilian Association of Dental Education

“We have a great challenge of working together in order to achieve better results. I’m very grateful to be here and to be a part of it. ”



Dr. Gilberto Pucca

Ibero-American Observatory of Public Policies in Oral Health

“This is an excellent initiative and a priority. All gathered to collectively think, elaborate and study health protection and preventive practices focusing on periodontal disease but mainly as a consequence of oral health and its repercussion on people’s quality of life.”



Cesar Buitrago

Professional Oral Care Director - Latin American Division - Colgate-Palmolive

“Periodontal disease is often under diagnosed and under-treated. We have to empower people with these diseases, and even those without, to take preventive actions. The thought leaders that are here are contributing to the processes that need to be put into place to communicate the needs and the services that are available to the communities throughout Latin America.”



The initiative was coordinated by Dr. Zilson Malheiros, Executive Director of LAOHA and a member of Colgate’s Clinical Research team. “It was a great opportunity to discuss periodontal disease in Latin America and how we can contribute to improving the oral health of the population.” According to him, this was an important step, but there is still much to do so that the outcome of this meeting can help changes or improvements in public oral health policies.

According to Dr. Magda Feres, the Consensus Meeting was an important milestone for LAOHA. “We were able to bring together scientific leaders from various Latin American countries to discuss and establish goals for improving oral health in Latin America, taking into account the particularities of the region. Finally, the Consensus Meeting provided us with the great and unique opportunity to put together a list of recommendations that may help to design future public

policies to help improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment of periodontitis in Latin America”.

Dr. Giuseppe A. Romito reinforce the importance of the meeting: “Getting together the opinion makers of the Latin America region in order to discuss and create a common, complete and strong document will help the regional organization and governments to improve the oral health in their countries.”

According to Bernal Stewart, also executive director of LAOHA/COHI and director of clinical research at Colgate for LATAM, the activity was an important landmark because periodontal disease is one of the most prevalent in the world and especially in Latin America, thus requiring specific and effective strategies for the region where all the actors involved: companies, government, teaching institutions and dentistry professionals are responsible for the improvement.



**Together we can improve
the oral health of the Latin
American population.**

LAOHA | *Latin American Oral Health Association*

www.latamoralhealthassociation.org