
Never More Exciting: Oral Biofilms

A Minisymposium prior to ORCA 2008
June 23–24, 2008
Thesinge (9 km north of the city of Groningen),
The Netherlands

Topic
Oral biofilms have never been more exciting. The more we know about them, the advantages of the biofilm mode of growth, about the communication processes in biofilms, the mechanisms of attachment, the chemical control of biofilms, new antimicrobials and new brushing concepts, the less we understand. At least, that is sometimes how we experience the complexity of oral biofilms! Oral biofilms remain the number one cause for many oral diseases, despite all research efforts. This minisymposium will address the different aspects of oral biofilms and its prevention: from the fundamentals of bioadhesion, development of antimicrobials and brushing concepts to the clinical manifestation of oral biofilms.

Objectives/Goals
All participants are asked to contribute intellectual and other creative input to inspiring new ideas, new approaches and new information to the challenging problem of oral biofilm prevention and control. There will be ample time for informal discussion in a dedicated, amicable environment, in which all speakers will be easily accessible throughout the symposium.

Symposium Format
Informal with participation limited to ~50 people. Emphasis will be on exchange and discussion, and the program is set up such that we try to allow as many participants as possible to give a presentation. We will distinguish three different types of scheduled presentations and off-the-floor presentations:

(1) 40-min key-note addresses given by: Prof. Dr. Henny C. van der Mei, University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Biomaterials: ‘Mechanisms of Oral Biofilm Formation and Prevention’; Prof. Dr. Wim Teughels, Catholic University Leuven, Department of Periodontology: ‘Bacterial Interference in Periodontal Biofilms: Exploring the Concept of Guided Pocket Re-colonization’; Prof. Dr. Anne A. Scheie, University of Oslo, Department of Oral Biology: ‘Bacterial Communication and Biofilms’.

(2) Selected lecture: participants, upon selection of the organizers, will be invited to give a lecture (20 min).

(3) Minilecture: participants, upon selection of the organizers, will be invited to give a 10-min talk.

(4) Off-the-floor: opportunity will be given for 5-min of-the-floor addresses after each session.

In order to participate, please download the application-registration form www.bme.umcg.nl and E-Mail j.a.heidema-kol@med.umcg.nl. Applicants will be allowed to the symposium on a ‘first come, first go’ basis, and admission will be definitely closed after the number of 50 participants has been reached. Only a limited number of participants from one institution will be allowed. This symposium is sponsored by GABA.

Announcement