IOWC - INTERDENTALE ONLINE WORLD CONGRESS

Programme 5 December 2026

LITTLE SMILES, BIG IMPACT - ADVANCING PAEDIATRIC ORAL HEALTH

14:00 – 14:05 (UTC+1)
Welcome to IOWC 2026
Marina Papachroni, D.D.S., M.Sc. & Julia Hoyer

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14:05 – 14:45 (UTC+1)
A Revolution in Timing: Developments in Pediatric Dentistry
Marina Papachroni, D.D.S., M.Sc.

This lecture makes the case that in paediatric dentistry, timing - not technique alone - is the decisive variable in outcomes. Building on the mission of the specialty itself, to protect a developing dentition and a developing person at the same time, the talk traces why “early” has moved from being merely preferable to clinically decisive, and sets out what that shift should change in everyday practice.

The talk opens with the scale and inequity of the problem. Early Childhood Caries (ECC) is the most prevalent chronic disease of childhood, more common than asthma or obesity, affecting an estimated 600 million children worldwide at a pooled global prevalence of 49%. Disease burden is concentrated inequitably in lower-income settings, and - counterintuitively - prevalence in children under five has been rising over the last decade, most steeply in high-income countries. Untreated caries reaches far beyond the tooth, with consequences for growth, sleep, school attendance, and quality of life, and the specialty's remit has widened accordingly to include safeguarding and collaborative, child-centred care.

It then turns to timing itself: the case for establishing a dental home within a child's first year of life, the evidence for treating dental fear and anxiety - which affects roughly one in four children and gates access to every subsequent advance - as a clinical problem in its own right, and the comparative cost, clinical, financial, and behavioural, of early versus delayed care. Molar-incisor hypomineralisation is

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The lecture closes with fifty years of movement from surgical to biological caries management - silver diamine fluoride, resin infiltration, selective caries removal, and the Hall Technique - alongside recent developments in trauma care, bioceramics, digital diagnostics, and precision dentistry, and asks how specialists can translate this evidence into practice without losing sight of the equity gap that determines who benefits from it.

Learning Objectives:

1. Why paediatric dentistry exists as a distinct specialty
2. That timing, rather than technique alone, is the decisive factor
3. Practical steps for incorporating them into everyday paediatric clinical care

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14:50 – 15:45 (UTC+1)

Controversies Regarding Systemic and Topical Fluoride

Prof. Dr. Norman Tinanoff

The use of dietary and topical fluoride therapy is complex and controversial. Since the introduction of water fluoridation and topical fluoride therapies in the late 1940s, the mechanisms of actions and dosages have been debated and have evolved. The dosage of water fluoridation and fluoride supplement have evolved due to epidemiological studies showing changing prevalence of caries and risk of mild fluorosis, as well as some reports ascribing high dose of fluoride to developmental issues.

Topical fluorides also have evolved with fluoride varnishes becoming more prevalent for office treatment because of the safety of premeasured doses, better acceptance by children and evidence of effectiveness from clinical trials.

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Overlaying both issues of community water fluoridation and topical fluoride therapy is the current focus on primary prevention, caries risk assessment, and cost versus benefit.

This presentation will address fluoride mechanism and fluoride benefits in an era of less caries, changes in clinical guidelines and misinformation in the era of social media.

Learning Objectives:

1. The differences between the systemic and topical approaches to fluoride therapy
2. The mechanisms of how fluoride affects caries reduction
3. The evidence of effectiveness of community water fluoridation, and fluoride delivery from toothpaste, varnish, and professional topical treatments

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15:50 – 16:45 (UTC+1)

Early Childhood Caries: From Etiology to Contemporary Treatment Strategies

Univ. Prof. Dr. Katrin Bekes

Early Childhood Caries (ECC) remains one of the most prevalent oral diseases in young children and represents a major challenge in paediatric dentistry. Its multifactorial etiology involves the interaction of cariogenic microorganisms, dietary habits, oral hygiene, fluoride exposure and social and behavioural factors. If left untreated, ECC may rapidly progress, causing pain, infection and impaired quality of life.

Contemporary management has shifted from a primarily restorative approach towards prevention, caries control and minimal intervention. Depending on disease severity, caries risk and the child's ability to cooperate, treatment options range from non-operative strategies to selective caries removal, adhesive restorations, preformed metal crowns, the Hall Technique and silver diamine fluoride.

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This presentation will provide an overview of current concepts in ECC etiology, prevention and treatment, with particular emphasis on evidence-based and minimally invasive strategies for young children.

Learning Objectives:

1. Etiological factors and risk indicators of Early Childhood Caries
2. Contemporary preventive and treatment strategies for ECC
3. Clinical decision-making for caries management in young children

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16:50 – 17:45 (UTC+1)

Clinical Workflow and Outcome Prediction for MIH Associated Opacities

Dr. Susanne Effenberger

Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation (MIH) lesions on anterior teeth present as demarcated opacities varying in location, shape, size, and color, from white to yellow-brown. They may cause functional and esthetic impairments and negatively affect the oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) of children and adolescents. This overview summarizes current evidence on minimally invasive treatment options for anterior MIH lesions and underlines the value of a structured clinical approach.

Microabrasion, resin infiltration, and external bleaching are among the least invasive options. While effective for superficial opacities and mild discolorations, outcomes are less predictable in deeper, more porous, organically rich, or more intensely discolored lesions. These cases require individualized, severity-based planning, often combining modalities and, where enamel loss is present, selective composite restorations.

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Literature also highlights expectation management as essential for treatment success. Clear communication about achievable outcomes, limitations, and the possible need for staged or combined therapies supports patient satisfaction and compliance, especially in esthetically demanding anterior regions.

In conclusion, evidence supports a stepwise, minimally invasive approach to anterior MIH management, supplemented by restorative interventions when needed. Combining structured diagnostics with clear communication can improve predictability and patient-centered care.

Learning Objectives:

1. Clinical presentation of MIH Lesions in anterior teeth
2. Clinical decision-making and comprehensive treatment planning for vestibular MIH Lesions
3. Outcome Prediction and expectation management

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17:45 – 18:00 (UTC+1)
Closing questions & farewell
All speakers & Julia Hoyer