Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter!

Only weeks left for IADR-2020. I have compiled the program relevant to our group in this Newsletter.

Election results for the OMPG executives were announced in November 2019: Vice President: Saman Warnakulasuriya, Secretary/Treasurer: Diana Messadi and Councilor: Faizan Alawi. Congratulations colleagues!

I need your support to run this newsletter, please send me your research stories, significant research grants, publications and awards that you think is relevant to the group and worth sharing with our member community.

Raj Nair
President, OMPG
Newsletter Editor
Message from IADR/AADR CEO

Christopher H. Fox, DMD, DMSc

Dear IADR/AADR/CADR Meeting attendees,

The IADR General Session & Exhibition in Washington, D.C. March 18-21, 2020 will proceed as planned.

The International Association for Dental Research (IADR) and its Divisions have been closely following the developments regarding the new strain of coronavirus causing pneumonia-like symptoms first identified in China, although now in over 60 other countries, including the United States. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) refers to the virus as "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2)" and the World Health Association (WHO) refers to the virus as a Novel Coronavirus (nCoV). On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and the next day the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States.

The U.S. [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and [WHO](https://www.who.int) websites are the best resources for staying up to date on this rapid evolving situation.

On February 29, 2020, the WHO updated their recommendations for international travel in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. The WHO continues to "advise against the application of travel or trade restrictions to countries experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks," Despite the WHO recommendation, the U.S., by *Presidential Proclamation*, has suspended entry of foreign nationals from China (this does not include Hong Kong, Macau, or the island of Taiwan) and Iran or foreign nationals who have traveled to those countries in the last 14 days.

Both the WHO and CDC recommend basic personal hygiene practices to reduce the transmission of disease, including frequent hand washing with soap and water, hand sanitizers, covering nose and mouth with flexed elbow during sneezing or coughing, and avoid touching your face. Masks for healthy individuals are not recommended at this time.

Delegates unable to travel to Washington DC due to coronavirus-related travel restrictions or their own illness should refer to IADR [refund, cancellation and substitution policy](https://www.iadr.org)

**Steps IADR is taking to provide a safe environment in Washington, DC.**

The health and safety of our delegates coming to Washington, D.C. to celebrate the IADR Centennial is our top priority. The IADR is taking the following steps:

- Prominent reminders throughout the meeting to follow WHO and CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19; including:
  - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Cover your cough by flexing your elbow or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Avoid touching your face.
  - Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
  - Avoid handshaking or cheek-kissing as greetings – Use the elbow bump.
• The Washington DC Convention Center is taking additional steps, including:
  o Increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the facility.
  o Increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
  o Prominently placed “Cover your Cough” signage throughout the facility.
  o Increased frequency of HVAC system filter changing.

• The IADR has contracted with the Department of Emergency Medicine of the George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates (GW MFA) to staff the dedicated First Aid Room at the DC Convention Center. The GW MFA are also coordinating with the CDC and the Washington DC Department of Health regarding preparedness.

If you have any additional questions please contact us at registration@iadr.org.

**COVID-19 statement:**

[https://www.iadr.org/Message-regarding-Coronavirus](https://www.iadr.org/Message-regarding-Coronavirus)
(Photo: Prof Graham Ogden receiving Oral Medicine & Pathology Research Award at the IADR-2019, Vancouver, Canada)

**Title: Contributing Towards a Better Understanding of Oral Cancer**

Graham Ogden  
Thursday, March 19th, 2020  
8:00a.m.

Graham Ogden, Dundee Dental Hospital & School, Scotland, was the 2019 recipient of IADR Distinguished Scientist Award in Oral Medicine & Pathology Research Award. Ogden is the Chair in Oral Surgery at the University of Dundee, Scotland and Dean of the Dental Faculty in the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons in Glasgow, Scotland. He completed his Ph.D. on “cytoskeletal and nuclear morphology of normal and malignant oral epithelium” at the University of Dundee and his post-doctoral research focused on effect of alcohol on cell function and morphology. Since then, Ogden has published more than 100 peer-reviewed publications on the topic of oral cancer ranging from basic science to chair-side management.

For raising public awareness and contributions to professional education on oral cancer, Ogden received the 2012 Ian Stevenson Award for Public Engagement with Research in from the University of Dundee. Ogden won the Senior Colgate Prize in 1992 for his research on “oral exfoliative cytology” awarded by the British Society for Dental Research and represented the United Kingdom as participant at the IADR Hatton Awards in 1993.
The following symposia are scheduled to be presented at the 2020 IADR/AADR/CADR General Session:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organiser/Chair</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Areca nut and oral cancer</td>
<td>Saman Waranakulasuriya, Kings College, London, England</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18,</td>
<td>10:15AM TO 11:45AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treating the Tumor Immune Microenvironment in Head and Neck Cancer</td>
<td>Yu Lei, University of Michigan, USA</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18,</td>
<td>10:15AM TO 11:45AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Random and Systematic Bias in Population Oral Health Research</td>
<td>Lisa Jamieson, University of Adelaide, Australia</td>
<td>THURSDAY, MARCH 19,</td>
<td>8AM TO 9:30AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saliva Liquid Biopsy</td>
<td>David Wong, UCSF, USA</td>
<td>THURSDAY, MARCH 19,</td>
<td>8AM TO 9:30AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomarkers for Head and Neck Cancers – a Precision Oncology Perspective</td>
<td>Raj Nair, Griffith University and Queensland Health, Australia</td>
<td>FRIDAY, MARCH 20,</td>
<td>8AM TO 9:30AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botulinum toxin in orofacial pain: Does it work?</td>
<td>Malin Ernberg, Karolinska Institute, Sweden</td>
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</table>
Listing of the oral, poster and ePoster discussion sessions for the OMP Group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>End Time</th>
<th>Session Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keynote Address; Oral Medicine &amp; Pathology</td>
<td>Thursday 3/19/2020</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Oral Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular Basis of Head &amp; Neck Cancers</td>
<td>Wednesday 3/18/2020</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Oral Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gene Regulatory Mechanisms in Oral &amp; Head &amp; Neck Cancers</td>
<td>Friday 3/20/2020</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Oral Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update on Translational Research</td>
<td>Saturday 3/21/2020</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Oral Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Medicine &amp; Pathology I</td>
<td>Thursday 3/19/2020</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Medicine &amp; Pathology II</td>
<td>Friday 3/20/2020</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Medicine &amp; Pathology III</td>
<td>Friday 3/20/2020</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Medicine &amp; Pathology IV</td>
<td>Saturday 3/21/2020</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Medicine &amp; Pathology</td>
<td>Friday 3/20/2020</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>ePoster Discussion Session</td>
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OMPG AGM and Reception

Date: 19th March 2020, Thursday
Venue: Room 140B
Time: 5:00PM start

Oral Medicine and Pathology Group Executive Committee meeting will take place from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m., followed by the Group’s reception from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. and the Business Meeting AGM from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Scheduling information may be found at: https://www.iadr.org/2020iags/Featured-Presentations

Please send your research stories and ideas to improve our Newsletter to Raj Nair, r.nair@griffith.edu.au