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Letter to Editor Open Access

My View on My Research

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I enrolled Faculty of Medicine – Department of Dentistry out of love. In fact, as a little girl I adored my dentist, so my teddy bear was often sat on a chair as patient. I mixed flour and water in the saucers, and put it in teddy bear's mouth as a base. I imitated dentist movements for reparation or washing teeth. Later, when I grew up, my parents influenced me (my mother was professor microbiologist, my father was professor of pathology) and I loved both the scientific and educational work.

I got a job in 1990 as an assistant trainee at the Department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology, and made it to full professor in 2012. All this time I worked on the problems of patients with diabetes mellitus – my postgraduate work and later my doctoral thesis [1,2]. The focus of research is oral manifestations in diabetics, specific microbial flora in periodontal pockets with significant findings of Porphyromonas gingivalis, Bacteroides forsythus, Vellonella parvula, Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans, etc. I am thankful to my mentor Prof dr Milenko Bačić (Dental Faculty in Zagreb), Prof dr Bernhard Guggenheim and Prof dr Nick Gmur (Dental faculty Zurich) for their immense help.

My doctoral thesis was concerned with patohistological, microbiological and cytological investigations in periodontal pockets of diabetic patients. One of the most important finding was identification of fibroclast in gingival diabetic tissue.

With master and PhD students I continued research related to diabetes mellitus [3-9], the connection between periodontal disease and cardiologic disease [10], as well as microorganisms in gingival and periodontal diseases [11-17], usage of low level lasers and hyaluronic acid [18-24]. These were mainly interdisciplinary research dealing with potential therapeutic modalities in different patient groups.

A large part of work is related to clinical cases in oral medicine. I would like to single out Oral Lichen Planus [25,26], oral hygiene and future investigations connected with oral hygiene in drug addicts, prisoners, pregnant women, Romani children, etc. The cooperation with undergraduate students led me to organize the education of educators which was done through lectures in the relevant field of oral medicine or periodontology and intended for a specific group of patients.

I am particularly proud of the Serbian Oral Lasers Application Society (SOLAS). Namely I was initiator and proponent of the use of lasers in dentistry. I was member of Scientific Comitee of Laser therapy Congress 21-23.9.2006 on Rhodos, 2007 in Bridge, 2010 in Wienna and 2011 in Istanbul.

The result were some large studies-MSc and PhD theses related to the use of lasers (where I was a mentor) [27-30], as well as usage of lasers in treatment of hypersensitive dentine [31,32], mouth burning syndrome [33], after root resection34, diabetic periodontal disease [6,8,9], common therapy with lasers and bone substitutes [35-37]. Some interesting clinical cases were presented in articles [38-43].

Work with young people is creative and very exciting. I like to participate in student congresses. The article entitled 'Comparative analysis of different therapeutic procedures in the treatment of gingivitis' by author Vukašin Voštinić, and me as mentor, was ranked third at the International Student Congress in Moscow 2010.

I participated in practice and theoretic lessons, as well as examinations for Italian students in International Study Center in Lugano, Switzerland, which was a wonderful experience.

Future interdisciplinary investigations concern the periodontal disease and its therapy – using lasers, phytotherapy at different patient groups. Particular attention is given to preventive program, oral hygiene and patient motivation with the aim of promoting the oral health.

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