

Editorial



The Korean Academy of Periodontology's focus on national promotion projects for periodontal health

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Conflict of Interest

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The Korean Academy of Periodontology conducts a high volume of researches on periodontal disease, the highest cause attributing to tooth loss in adults. Despite such efforts to improve periodontal health of the public, the National Health Insurance statistics show gingivitis and periodontitis are still one of the most common diseases among Koreans resulting in over 17 million outpatient visits each year. Also, the associations between periodontal disease and various systemic diseases continue to be discovered.

Recognizing an urgent need for a national campaign for periodontal health, the Korean Academy of Periodontology participated in the Korea Adult Disease Expo in 2007 as the first and only dental academic association in Korea. In 2008, Korean Academy of Periodontology produced a documentary titled 'Periodontal Disease Threatens Our Bodies' which was broadcasted on MediTV.

However, information dissemination by means of newspaper articles or media outlets has limits. Since 2009, Korean Academy of Periodontology designated March 24th as 'Gum Day' with the aim to more widely inform the public about the risks of periodontal disease and provide accurate medical information. The reason for selecting March 24 as 'Gum Day' is that it represents the combination of 3+2+4 which in Korean translates to 'every three months, take care of your gums.' This slogan was created to educate simple and effective prevention against periodontal disease, which is caused by pathogenic bacteria in periodontal pockets.

On 'Gum Day' each year, our society selects important topics in the field of periodontal science and shares research materials of professors who are conducting these research. Press conferences are hosted to propose policy guidelines on issues related to preventive measures as well. For nearly 10 years since 2013, Korean Academy of Periodontology has promoted oral health jointly with local public health centers implementing prevention-oriented projects, as a part of the strategy to educate and increase public awareness on periodontal disease.

The Korean Academy of Periodontology will continue to spare no efforts to provide the public essential information on periodontal disease.