

Media release

Thirteenth André Schroeder Research Prize awarded to Karthikeyan Subramani

Bern, 05 May 2006: The André Schroeder Research Prize, an annual award worth CHF 20 000 for the advancement of dental research and development, was presented in Bern today to Mr Karthikeyan Subramani, an Indian biomedical nanotechnologist currently conducting research at the School of Surgical and Reproductive Science at Newcastle University Medical School in the UK. The award was presented by Straumann's President and CEO, Gilbert Achermann, at the André Schroeder Memorial Symposium, an important dental congress currently taking place in the Swiss capital.

Karthikeyan Subramani commended for work on hydrogels in guided tissue regeneration

Karthikeyan Subramani (28), who is the thirteenth recipient of this prestigious prize, holds a Bachelor's degree in dentistry and a Masters in nanotechnology. He was selected by the jury for his scientific investigation of the cell adhesive properties of polyethylene glycol (PEG) hydrogel and its potential as a carrier for growth factors. A possible application of this might be to modify implant surfaces in order to guide and promote differentiated tissue attachment to specific areas, while preventing attachment to others.

Mr Subramani's work looked at PEG hydrogels coated on a surface using photolithographic techniques. The gels were shown to be ideal for incorporating proteins, such as osteoinductive growth factors, which were released over time to provide a signal to cells. Most impressively, the project succeeded in creating micropatterns on the hydrogel surface. The patterns were made up of tiny defined areas (wells or grooves), as small as 50 micrometers, which contained the osteoinductive growth factor VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor). The adjacent areas on the other hand were empty. The study showed that bone-forming cells (osteoblasts) clearly migrated to the areas containing VEGF. It is postulated that this research might lead to modified implant surfaces that stimulate bone formation in specific areas, while preventing it in others. It may therefore offer intriguing possibilities to implant designers in the future as they seek to improve treatment outcomes and further enhance the standard of patient care.

About the André Schroeder Research Prize

First presented in 1992, the Prize serves to promote new scientific findings in oral implantology and related fields. It is given in honor of the late Professor Schroeder, who pioneered dental implantology and whose life's work contributed greatly to modern dentistry. Sponsored by Straumann, the André Schroeder Prize furthers illustrates the company's commitment in the field of research and development, where it ranks among the leading contributors in the industry.

Previous winners are: Dieter Weingart (1992), Franz Sutter (1993), Daniel Buser (1995), David Cochran (1996), Joachim Hermann (1997), Siegfried Heckmann (1998), Alexandra Behneke (2000), Leif Persson (2001), Lisa Mayfield (2002), Yuelian Liu (2003), Michael Hänggi (2004), and Xiaolong Zhu (2005).

A selection of **photographs** is available from approx. 4 p.m. for a limited period at: http://straumann.imagedirector.net/album?album_code=c65mtdno78id.

Applications for the 2007 André Schroeder Research Prize

Application can already be made for the 2007 award, which will be presented by Straumann at the 2007 ITI¹ World Symposium in New York. Deadline for manuscript submission is Wednesday, 28 February 2007. Further details will be published on the Straumann website and are available from Straumann Corporate Communication.

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¹ International Team for Implantology