GENETICS IN DENTAL PRACTICE, ARE YOU READY?

DR. MARY MACDOUGALL

With the unmasking of the human genome, our comprehension of the genetic aspects of human disease are leading to new approaches in the prevention, diagnosis, and management of craniofacial, oral, and dental diseases in dentistry. We are now able to appreciate the role that hereditary factors contribute to caries, periodontal disease, missing or supernumerary teeth, altered tooth structure, and oral cancer. Based on the expanding market of commercial personalized genetic test kits, dentists should be prepared to discuss genetic factors, testing, and susceptibility to dental disorders with their patients. This presentation will provide a foundation in genetics, resources, genetic disorders, and the application of gene-wide association studies in the dental practice.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

• Understand the update on genetic competencies and family histories
• Understand the principles of dental genetic disorders and utilization of genetic resources
• Have a basic understanding of gene-wide association studies and their application to dentistry

CLINICIAN

MARY MACDOUGALL, BA, PHD is the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of British Columbia. She earned her Ph.D. in Craniofacial Biology at the University of Southern California, School of Dentistry and her B.A. in Biochemistry at the University of California at San Diego, Revelle College. She has held faculty appointments at three dental schools: University of Southern California, the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA, Adjunct Professor) and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB, Adjunct Professor). She served as Associate Dean for Research at both UTHSCSA and UAB, where she held the Presidents Council Chair in Dental Research and the James R. Rosen Chair in Dental Research, respectively. She is the founding Director of UAB’s Global Center for Craniofacial Oral and Dental Disorders (GC-CODED) and the NIDCR supported training programs DART (UAB) and CO-STAR (UTHSCSA). She served as both the President of the American Association for Dental Research (2005-2006) and International Association for Dental Research (2013). She has received a number of awards, including the IADR Distinguished Scientist Pulp Biology Research Award (2001), the Distinguished Scientist Mineralized Tissue Research Award (2005), the AADR National Student Research Group Mentor of the Year Award (2003), the AADR Distinguished Mentorship Award (2011), the Burton C. Borgelt/SCADA Faculty Advisor Award from the Student Clinician of the American Dental Association (2012), and the IADR Distinguished Women Faculty Mentor (2017). She is an AADR and AAAS Fellow. Dr. MacDougall’s research centers on the molecular mechanisms associated with tooth formation, dental tissue-specific cytodifferentiation, extracellular matrix formation, and dental genetic disorders. She is an internationally recognized scholar having published 18 book chapters and over 155 peer-reviewed articles. Her research has been funded by the NIH/NIDCR since 1985, with total career federal funding in excess of 22.5 million dollars.

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