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Trevor Burke

Thanks to the BSP

Welcome to the special 'Perio' issue of *Dental Update*, put together by the British Society of Periodontology (BSP). Special thanks are due to Drs Praveen Sharma, Phil Ower and BSP President Mark Ide, plus all the authors who have contributed to a superb issue. Periodontology has changed much in the last decade: then it was considered that 'the foundation for periodontal treatment is the mechanical removal of biofilm'.¹ Now, periodontology has become more than cleaning teeth,

with its association with diabetes and other medical factors, plus the increasing ramifications surrounding peri-implantitis. The issue could be subtitled 'all you need to know about periodontology'. I am certain that readers will find it to be relevant. Enjoy all of it!

References

1. Chapple ILC. Periodontal diagnosis and treatment – where does the future lie? *Periodontol 2000*: 2009; **51**: 9–24.

Cover Picture

The Most Profound Mystery (2019)

Artist: Anna Dumitriu

Medium: Altered antique bone fan, silk impregnated with *Prevotella intermedia* and *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, and gold-plated wire.

In earlier times fans were popular accessories for everyone, but aside from keeping people cool their other purpose was in fact to hide the rotten teeth and foul breath of their owners. In his 1845 essay on *Artificial Teeth* WH Mortimer described false teeth as 'the most profound mystery' because they were something of which no-one ever spoke. False teeth wearers then did not laugh or show their teeth because the prostheses were made of bone and gold wire and had a tendency to fly out unexpectedly. This is an altered antique fan made from animal bone (as the false teeth of the period would have been) and mended with gold wire (as the false

teeth would have been attached). The silk of the fan and ribbon has been grown and patterned with two species of oral pathogens *Prevotella intermedia* and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (the cloth having been embedded in the bacteria on agar plates and in liquid media and then sterilized).

Anna Dumitriu Biography

Anna Dumitriu is a British artist who works with BioArt, sculpture, and digital media to explore our relationship to infectious diseases, synthetic biology and new technologies. She was the 2018 President of the Science and the Arts Section of the British Science Association and is Artist in Residence on the Modernizing Medical Microbiology Project at The University of Oxford and with the National Collection of Type Cultures at Public Health England. (www.annadumitriu.co.uk)