

REPORT: "LAUNCHING THE D3 MOVEMENT – towards better understanding and care of people with Developmental Dental Defects"

Official launch of D3G's website and medico-dental initiative, Saturday 24th August 2013

Following pre-launch to the dental community in April (a success, judging from >9,000 website visits since!), the public launch of D3G's online education initiative took place at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne.



DCD student Amanda Leen

1. Showcasing D3G research

The translationally-themed event started with 6 lectures from postgrad students/graduates addressing diverse aspects of Molar Hypomin. These talks, heard by >70 attendees over the course of 2 hours, were notable not just for their quality but also for the "world-first" explanation and exclusive use of D3G's draft terminologies.

Session 1 – Translational Research: Towards understanding the problem

Chair: **Roger Hall**

1. **Jon Mangum** (PhD student): What is translational research and research translation?
2. **Amanda Leen** (DCD student): Orthodontics and Molar Hypomineralisation. A bi-directional relationship
3. **Marilyn Owen** (DCD student): Molar Hypomin - deciduous molars as well?

Session 2 – Translational Research: Towards solving the problem

Chair: **Jon Mangum**

4. **Aghareed Ghanim** (PhD graduate): Epidemiological studies of Molar Hypomineralisation in Iraqi, Iranian and Malaysian communities
5. **Vidal Perez** (PhD student): Molecular pathogenesis of Molar Hypomineralisation
6. **Felicity Crombie** (PhD graduate): Lab characteristics. Implications and implementations?

2. Meet the D3G family

Following an introduction by MRUFD founder and clinical director Andrew Heggie, the hour-long official launch started with "D3G family" representatives giving personal perspectives on Molar Hypomin – this involved a "Hypomin Mum" and her dentist, a hospital dentist, a South American dentist, and three industry reps (coincidentally, one of whom has experienced Molar Hypomin first hand!).

1. **Vicki Ditcham** ("Hypomin Mum"): Parental perspectives on Luke, a "Hypomin kid"
2. **Margarita Silva** (Paediatric dentist): Dental perspectives on Luke's case
3. **Roger Hall** (Retired Paediatric/Hospital dentist): Hospital perspectives on Molar Hypomin
4. **Vidal Perez** (Paediatric dentist/PhD student): Caries and Molar Hypomin in South America
5. **Sandy Junior** (Acteon): An industry and personal perspective on Molar Hypomin
6. **Lenore Tuckerman** (Colgate): An industry and personal perspective on Molar Hypomin
7. **Sue Dafnias** (Dentsply): An industry and personal perspective on Molar Hypomin

3. Meet D3G's Patron

A closely kept surprise for those attending the D3G launch event was news that research pioneer Grace Suckling has agreed to be D3G's patron. Under the title "*Great science that didn't get translated*", D3G co-director Mike Hubbard outlined how, as "doyen of the DDE era", Grace made huge contributions to the D3 field, including the first diagnostic index for "Developmental Defects of Enamel" (DDE index) and publication of 29



D3G Patron, Grace Suckling

research papers spanning a remarkably broad range of science (epidemiology, pathogenesis, biophysics). Still going strong after 91 years, Grace was interviewed for the event by D3G-NZ rep, Erin Mahoney (see video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNLE40eFKS0). Pursuing its translational mission, D3G plans to bring more of Grace's fabulous and oft-overlooked contributions to the forefront shortly (including Erin's entire hour-long "conversation with Grace").

4. Launching D3G's educational website

In a segment titled *"Building a global education resource – from dream to reality"*, website authors Mike Hubbard, Bec Williams and Sharon Dunn described how the website evolved "from dream to reality". The presentation was framed under headings of Inspiration, Realisation and Perspiration. A highlight of Sharon's humorous contribution was seeing how the Sam and PJ characters were developed from Mike's onerous prescription (child-friendly AND gender neutral!!) through pencilled sketches to digital full-colour glory.

Maria Myers, representing MRUFD benefactors Allan and Maria Myers, described their decade-long founding association with MRUFD and pleasure at seeing D3G evolve as one of its outcomes. She then launched the website, officially and virtually, by cutting an on-screen ribbon. As commemoration, MRUFD co-founder Paul Schneider presented Maria with the first glossy-print copy of the Sam storybook, which had been dedicated to her and Allan.



Paul Schneider presents a commemorative hard copy of the Sam book to Maria Myers



From L to R: D3G instigator and co-director Mike Hubbard, paediatrician Sharon Goldfeld, and benefactor Maria Myers after the launch

5. Launching D3G's medico-dental initiative with RACP and RACDS

Next, our collaborative intent to have "Doctors+Dentists+Scientists" work together to combat "D3-caries" was announced by paediatrician Sharon Goldfeld, representing the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. This exciting advance stems from D3G's recent involvement in RACP's Oral Health strategy and allied liaison with the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons. The initial plan is to foster preventive aspects of the Hypomin problem, by developing new website content focussed on early intervention

6. Closure and thanks

The event was closed following open discussion about D3G's exciting future. Following "translational networking" over wine and cheese, many attendees translated further to a gourmet pub for further discussions.

We gratefully acknowledge all those who contributed to this milestone event, including our financial supporters (Colgate, GC, A-dec, Acteon, Wrigley, MRUFD).



From L to R: D3G co-director David Manton, "Hypomin Mum" Vicki Ditcham, Mike Hubbard, D3G website designer Sharon Dunn, and website builder Suzanne Thomson

