

SYMPOSIUM THEME – “ATTACKING KEY QUESTIONS” (DISCUSSION DRAFT)

Now that the D3 field is developing into an international movement that's both cross-sector and translational, a wonderful opportunity exists to improve global health through a networked approach. This advance in turn begs for a **“translational roadmap”** that takes us from today's beginnings through to a holistic effort directed at improving management of, and ultimately preventing, major D3s (*download draft concept chart here*). Fundamental to such a framework will be a **staged set of questions** that are **pivotal** regards where we're headed and **approachable** by today's capabilities. In turn, such key questions will underpin the conceptualisation of worthy **global projects** that can be approached translationally. Consequently, we venture that **“attacking key questions”** is an appropriate theme for this inaugural D3 symposium – **what** are the key questions, **how** can they be tackled and **by whom**, and **what's needed** to get this ball rolling?

We invite feedback on this tentative **theme** plus your thoughts on **leading questions** that will stimulate constructive discussions. Building from our experiences with **PRACTITIONERS**, some examples we've already thought of are:

- **Researchers** – would a worldwide networked “demonstration project” help the field?
- **Educators** – would a “universal curriculum” help fill the educational gaps?
- **Clinicians** – would standardised (researchable) D3 protocols benefit quality of care?
- **Population health** – should dental decay (caries) monitoring take account of D3s?
- **Industry** – do D3s/chalky teeth deserve customised products and marketing?

PLEASE HELP US DESIGN THIS COLLABORATIVE EVENT

DESIGNING A TRANSLATIONAL EVENT

What needs to be discussed, and by whom?

GLOBAL ASPIRATIONS FOR D3s?

1. Medical prevention

2. Better management

FIRST STEPS?

1. Identify key questions

2. Cross-sector mandate

PARTICIPATION?

Aspects covered?

- population health
- clinical management
- research
- education
- translation

Contributors?

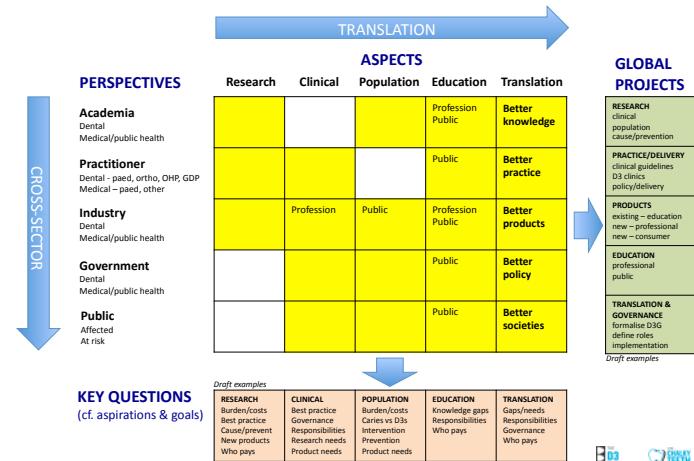
- academia
- health professions
- government
- industry
- public

Format?

- presentations
- panels
- audience input
- networking
- no frills

We think the following possibilities stem logically from what D3G has accomplished to date and aspires to achieve in the future, but they remain far from concrete – so please put your thinking caps on and send us any thoughts regards improvement and/or endorsement.

COVERING ALL THE BASES – A cross-sector, translational roadmap for D3s



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A. Addressing **goals** for the Symposium and thinking translationally, a first step is to ask “what needs to be discussed, and by whom?”. The latter seems obvious given D3G’s unique **cross-sector foundations** (see **D** below). And while the former might sensibly focus on highly prevalent Molar Hypomineralisation and its links to childhood tooth decay, the contextual importance of other D3s (*including AI, fluorosis and enamel hypoplasia*) should also be recognised.

B. What then should the global **aspirations** be for the D3 field? Ultimately it’d be fantastic to stop D3s happening in the first place, or at least alleviate their impacts, through medical intervention. As that will rely on time-consuming R&D, much good could be done in the meantime regards better healthcare management.

C. What **first steps** are needed to approach these goals and aspirations? Given the nascent state of our field (e.g. *patchy dental awareness, and worse still in other healthcare areas*), we suggest the highest priority is identification of key questions that underpin our aspirations. Hand in hand with this is need for these questions to be relevant across the sector – hence we should aim for a cross-sector mandate that these are the questions most deserving of initial pursuit.

D. Asking what **perspectives** should be canvassed, five main areas can be proposed: population health, clinical management, research, education and translation. And to represent all stakeholders within those areas, **contributors** should be welcomed from academia, health professions, government, industry and the public.

E. Finally, regards event **format**, the need to gather perspectives from across the sector and around the world prompts thoughts of scene-setting presentations followed by panel discussions with audience input – followed of course by consolidatory networking. Given D3G’s financial reserves (*sub-zero*), event planning will necessarily start with a **no-frills budget** – but should sponsorship be forthcoming as hoped then we’d gratefully loosen this belt.