

Opening of seminar «Bridging the gap between oral and general health»

-Dear colleagues, welcome to the University of Oslo and the Faculty of Dentistry. Thank you for joining us here and for participating in this seminar titled “*Bridging the gap between oral and general health.*”

-This seminar is funded by UiO Life Science; it is the largest interdisciplinary priority area in the history of the University. The goal is to acquire new insight into the nature of life, ageing and disease, and help to address societal challenges with regard to health and the environment. The Faculty of Dentistry takes part in this initiative

-The topic of this seminar is an important and relevant topic, focusing on oral health as an integrated aspect of general health. The oral cavity is not something that is “separated” from the rest of the human body. Many symptoms of different serious diseases can be seen in the oral cavity such as blood diseases, immunological conditions and infectious diseases.

-In order to bridge the gap it is necessary to take a multidisciplinary approach, which should include medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, informatics, social sciences and maybe other disciplines.

Another example of bridging the gap. Yesterday we had a meeting with the dean and the staff at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Oslo Metropolitan University. One of the main topics for the discussion was planning for a closer relationship between the study programs in nursing and dentistry. Hopefully within a short time we will have nurse students in clinical practice at the Department of Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine as a beginning.

I am very pleased to welcome our guests from several disciplines and countries, including England, Sweden, and Denmark. Four of the faculties at UiO are represented, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry. We also welcome guests from Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet).

-Together, you will discuss important innovative aspects; such as digital dental card and nanoparticles in the treatment of dry mouth.

-You will also discuss the impact of research, and how we can ensure that research results are used and implemented in order to benefit society. It is crucial that research, education and innovation address the effects of the current demographic changes in our societies—including an aging population.

-On behalf of the faculty I wish you an interesting and productive seminar, and hope you have a nice stay in Oslo. Thank you.