

Foreword

At the end of the year 2009, Colgate and Gaba International provided an educational grant to organize a workshop on dental erosion.

Dental erosion is an area of research that is currently receiving a lot of attention and will undoubtedly experience expansion in the years ahead. The aim of this workshop was to gather experts in order to gain more insight into available methods of assessing dental erosion and to address several of the open questions in the field.

The erosive process starts on enamel with partial demineralisation of the surface which results in a decrease in hardness (surface softening). Prolonged erosive challenges will lead to surface loss, which can be enhanced by abrasion. The workshop discussed these processes, as well as elucidated the histopathology of dental erosion and reviewed the different models that can be used to study initial and advanced erosion in enamel and dentine. Clinical trials dealing with dental erosion are scarce, but are also covered in this special issue of *Caries Research*.

We would like to acknowledge the grant for this workshop, the intensive discussions and the work by the authors of the papers, as well as the input of all workshop participants. Special thanks go to Peter Shellis for his invaluable work as guest editor.

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