Prevention and treatment of peri-implant diseases

Cleaning of titanium dental implant surfaces

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Acknowledgements

A “thank you” note for a journey towards knowledge.

“As you set out for Ithaka, hope the journey is a long one, Full of adventure, full of discovery.”
C.P. Cavafy, ITHAKA

My journey started many years ago when as a dental student I started working in the periodontal practice of George Makris in Thessaloniki, Greece. His work and enthusiasm inspired me to become periodontist. Of course nothing would have happened if Ubele van der Velden and Bruno Loos did not give me the chance to start my journey and become periodontist. For that I own them gratitude.

My journey would have been a short one if I had not met Dick Barendregt. He believed in me and gave me the opportunity to work with him. He gave me as young periodontist at that time the space and freedom to expand my knowledge and skills in clinical periodontology; but always supervising from a distance ready to help, if necessary. I thank him for his mentorship and for the confidence he showed in me.

Thanks to Dick I came in contact with Fridus van der Weijden, a visionary, a true scientist who is continuously seeking new knowledge. My cooperation with Fridus made possible a dream to come true. Fridus became my companion in the most challenging part of my journey. He introduced me into the world of science, stimulating me with not only scientific but also philosophical discussions, coaching and motivating me. His guidance is still invaluable.

All journeys have surprises, hidden treasures that one is grateful to discover. The hidden “pearl” in my journey was Dagmar Else Slot. Dagmar was always there for me ready to help. She has an unbelievable gift in finding solutions even for the most challenging situations. The quality of her supervising is much more than I ever wished for.

Last but not least I want to thank my parents Dimitis and Athina and my husband Pavlos, my steady companions in my pursuit of knowledge. Thank you for all the sacrifices you did, the psychological and physical support and the encouragement you provided me.
“Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you are destined for.
But do not hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
So you are old by the time you reach the island,
Wealthy with all you have gained on the way,
Not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you would not have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
You will have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.”

C.P. Cavafy, ITHAKA

As an introduction but also epilogue to this note I chose a poem from the Greek poet Cavafy. Reaching the destination is not the most important part of the journey. The knowledge and experience acquired and the people you come across along the way is what actually matters. When I started this thesis I thought that its completion would be the end of my journey but now I realise that my journey towards knowledge has just begun. I thank you all for everything you did for me.
List of publications

Other publications from the same author


Velthoven CC, Louropoulou A, Slot DE, van der Weijden GA Chemical root conditioning and recession coverage procedures: a systematic review and meta-analysis (submitted)


Abstracts


Honours

Graduate Research in EFP (2nd prize)

Anna Louropoulou received her DDS degree from the Dental School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in 2002. She practiced general dentistry in a private office in Thessaloniki for almost two years. In 2004 she was enrolled in the postgraduate program for Periodontology and Implant Dentistry at the Academic Centre for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA), which she finished in 2007. After graduation she started working as periodontist and implantologist in a private practice for Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, in Rotterdam and in Utrecht, The Netherlands. In 2008 she started her PhD research at the department of Periodontology at ACTA, concerning the prevention and treatment of peri-implant diseases and more specifically the cleaning of titanium implant surfaces.