



## COVID-19: an opportunity to lead

In the last few weeks we have all been experiencing uncertainty in our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed our plans, schedules, work, and lives in a way that we could not have imagined few months ago. There is a sense of confusion and doubt in every corner, and people are looking for guidance and answers to the strange and unknown situations that we are facing worldwide. As dental professionals, we are considered a rather at-risk profession as we work in very close proximity to a large number of patients on a daily basis. This has caused many dental offices to close their doors or to limit their practice to emergency treatments. It is a very frustrating and also financially crucial situation for many of us.

The dental community, on the other hand, can take this crisis as an opportunity to lead and guide our society. As dental practitioners we are very well versed in infection control and prevention measures. We understand profoundly the way viruses and other microorganisms work, infect, and transmit among the population. We are also used to working under the threat of different transmittable infectious diseases on a regular basis. As such, we should try and use this knowledge and experience in helping our communities understand what viral infections are and how to fight this COVID-19 pandemic.

We can serve as ambassadors of prevention and infection control by educating our patient population and the communities around us about those topics. Being creative, and generating online forums and short webinars for patients can help us bring the message forward and contribute in our own way to the global effort to control the COVID-19 pandemic. This is well

connected to our overall role in promoting not only oral health, but also general systemic health.<sup>1</sup> It will also create more trust and confidence of the patient population in the dental profession as a whole.

Let us all join forces and work together to bring this worldwide crisis to an end.

Stay healthy!

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### Reference

1. Levin L. Editorial: medicine and dentistry: different entities? Quintessence Int 2015;46:371.



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