

Periodontal Surveillance – Prospects for the Future

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I am very happy to serve as the Associate Editor for this special supplement to the *Journal of Periodontology* on periodontal surveillance. Drs. Paul Eke (Guest Editor and Workgroup Co-Chair) and Robert J. Genco (Workgroup Chair) have pulled together experts on this timely topic as part of a joint effort between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Periodontology.¹ The result is a fine assembly of work that provides the field of periodontal surveillance with the current status and some interesting future directions on the monitoring of periodontal disease. This supplement offers important tools to researchers and individuals in the public health sector with approaches in managing large periodontal disease patient populations.

The body of work in this supplement pays particular attention to the use of clinical and behavioral measures of disease in the clinical and field testing arenas. There is an interesting future ahead in the use of methods of periodontal surveillance that range from new salivary proteomic and genomic biomarkers of disease to other rapid identification procedures to

classify patients.^{2,3} This supplement provides a sound basis for future growth in the field, and we believe this work will provide our readership with an excellent resource for the continued growth in this important component of oral health monitoring and research.

REFERENCES

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3. Tabak L. Point-of-care (POC) diagnostics enter the mouth. *Ann NY Acad Sci* 2007;1098:7-14. Epub 2007 Feb 15.

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