Treated gum disease and lower risk of cancer

It is well recognized that periodontal disease is associated with enhanced risk of developing cancers.\(^1\) The Taiwan National Health Insurance (NHI) system database is a detailed national clinical database that represents a valuable epidemiological tool to enhance our understandings of disease. Hwang et al. utilized this national resource to address whether there was any difference in cancer prevalence in patients with treated vs. untreated periodontal disease. Over 38,000 treated patients with periodontal disease were identified and these were compared with over 70,000 untreated patients with periodontal disease. They found a subsequent significant reduction in cancer prevalence, particularly lung, brain and gastrointestinal cancers in treated patients. The authors, while recognizing the limitations of nationwide clinical databases, argue for more aggressive treatment of periodontal disease.

Neurogenic control of inflammation—the role of the para-sympathetic nervous system

One of the exciting developments in recent years within inflammatory cell biology is the key regulatory role played by the autonomic system in regulating the inflammatory response. Yang and colleagues provide in the current issue of the QJM an informative review of the role of the cholinergic system in dampening down the inflammatory response. The cholinergic inflammatory reflex was first described by Kevin Tracey just over 10 years ago\(^2\) and in subsequent years his research group and others have defined the important role the parasympathetic system plays in regulating host response to injury, organ ischemia and pathogens.

The Association Medical Summer Research Studentships

The Association of Physicians of Great Britain & Ireland are pleased to announce significant investments in Medical Summer Research Studentships beginning June 2015. The Association has long recognized the value of introducing undergraduate medical students to the rewarding discipline of academic medicine. It wishes to encourage and to provide an opportunity for the next generation of clinical scientists to work in academic laboratories of distinction.

It is envisaged that up to \(\times 20\) of these prestigious studentships, to the value of £1500, will be awarded following open competition. The closing date for applications is 27 November 2014. Further details can be obtained at http://theassociationofphysicians.org.uk/index.php/our-activities/summer-studentship-m.

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References