

## **Periodontal health and prevention of systemic diseases in the aging patient**

### ***Salute parodontale e prevenzione delle malattie sistemiche nel paziente che invecchia***

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Patients generally age on one of two paths relative to timing of first chronic disease experiences, and those paths indicate a 20 to 30-year difference in when individuals lose their wellness. As individuals age the “cause” of certain chronic diseases becomes less clear, perhaps indicating more accumulated environmental effects on a compromised host or more epigenetic implications. The additional influence of multiple drugs suggests that the linkages between periodontitis and other chronic diseases may become more complicated and less predictable. This presentation will consider how individuals age relative to chronic diseases and examine which biological mechanisms provide opportunities to modulate the aging path. Current evidence suggests a potential need for different treatment endpoints if we are going to help control systemic diseases by means of periodontal interventions.