The role of interfaces – not only between materials and tissues

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Abstract

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica the term “interface” means the place at which independent and often unrelated systems meet and act on or communicate with each other. Interfaces are a common phenomenon in the field of dental, oral and craniofacial research. This can be illustrated using the example of the material-tissue interface. The specific interaction between the two systems (tissue and material) leads to specific, in some cases adverse reactions to both the material and the patient. Identifying the underlying mechanisms is the basis for a better understanding of both systems and for improvements. In a broader sense, interface also means communication not only between systems, but also between colleagues and within society. It was not for nothing that scientific societies such as the Royal Society were founded at the beginning of the scientific age in the Renaissance. Today and in our area or research communication, the IADR plays an important role with its Divisions in different countries and more recently the six European Divisions have merged to form the Pan-European Region. The future of research in our field (e.g. oral/craniofacial biologic topics) urgently needs such joint approaches but also to jointly bring our research topics to the political agenda. Prof. Graham Embery advocated such a joint approach already more than 20 years ago.