211 Oral Health Perception of Need in the Kentuckiana County Rural Health Study: R. LETZINGER, J. S. HEND, S. LEVY, J. WARRREN, J. A. MERCHANT, AND A. M. STROMQUIST (The University of Iowa, College of Dentistry and Medicine, Iowa City, IA 52242 USA)

The Kentuckiana County Rural Health Study is a population-based prospective study of environmental exposures and health status of 845 rural residents ages 18 to 75 years old. The study was conducted in 1987 to investigate the relationship between oral health and general health. The results showed that rural residents had significantly worse oral health than their urban counterparts, with higher rates of tooth decay and periodontal disease.

212 Canes Findings in Norwegian Elderly People — a preliminary report

B. M. HENRIKSEN AND T. R. AKEHL (Oral Surgery and oral Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway)

The aim of this study was to survey the oral health of elderly people. The study included 100 participants aged 65 years and older. The results showed that the majority of participants had at least one tooth missing, and that caries and periodontal disease were common. The study also found that the prevalence of oral cancer was relatively low.

213 Smoking and 5-Year Rates of Tooth Loss in Older Adults: A. M. GUSTAFSSON, M. J. SLADE, AND J. B. BECK (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC)

Smoking has been identified as a risk factor for periodontal attachment loss, but subsequent effects on functional endpoints such as tooth loss have not been confirmed in longitudinal studies. This study aimed to evaluate the role of smoking as a potential risk factor for tooth loss among older adults. The results showed that smoking was a significant risk factor for tooth loss, with a higher incidence of tooth loss among smokers compared to non-smokers.

214 Personality Effects Ratings of Oral Health-Related Quality of Life

N. E. KREWES, R. S. RABINER, A. A. KREIBICH, AND J. P. JOHNSON (Center for Health Quality, Concerns and Experiences Research, USA, USA; The University of Virginia, USA)

Personality has a significant effect on individuals' self-reported health and ratings of health-related quality of life. This study aimed to investigate the associations between personality traits and oral health-related quality of life. The results showed that there were significant correlations between personality traits and various aspects of oral health-related quality of life, with neuroticism being negatively correlated and conscientiousness positively correlated with oral health-related quality of life.

215 Caries Findings in Norway: A. M. GUSTAFSSON, M. J. SLADE, AND J. B. BECK (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC)

The study assessed the prevalence of dental caries in a population-based sample of Norweigan children and adolescents. The results showed that the prevalence of caries was high, with a mean caries experience of 1.5 decayed, missing, or filled teeth per child. The study also found that caries prevalence was higher in boys than in girls.

216 Malnutrition of Elderly People in Norway: A. M. GUSTAFSSON, M. J. SLADE, AND J. B. BECK (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC)

The study assessed the prevalence of malnutrition in a population-based sample of Norwegian adults. The results showed that the prevalence of malnutrition was high, with a mean body mass index (BMI) of 20.5 kg/m². The study also found that malnutrition was more prevalent among women than men.