Prosthodontic Challenges of Old Age
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COURSE OUTLINE
The local and global population is changing at an unprecedented rate with the result that the retired population is beginning to place enormous strains on healthcare systems, including dentistry. Yet our ability to manage chronic oral diseases and disorders, such as caries and tooth loss, for people who are frail is fraught with uncertainty and challenge, a challenge that is one of the major frontiers of healthcare.

This course will consider the effects of our aging population on general dental practice. It will offer solutions to some of the more obvious demands that we get from our older patients. Prosthodontics has been at the forefront of dental geriatrics because of the obvious association between caries, tooth loss and old age. However, caries and tooth loss are not inevitable consequences of advancing age, and implant-prostheses have changed the way that we replace teeth. Yet, implants, despite all their advantages, pose other challenges, especially to oral hygiene and the risk of pneumonia as frailty increases. The course will focus attention on caries and the design of fixed and removable prostheses to simplify rather than complicate oral health. It will review the well-established but frequently overlooked principles of managing caries, and of fixed and removable partial dentures, oral implants, and complete dentures. Above all, it will help to prepare dentists and dental hygienists for the impending and unavoidable demands and challenges from our aging patients.

MICHAEL MACENTEE LDS(I), DIP. PROSTH., FRCD(C), PHD, was Chair of the Division of Prosthodontics and Dental Geriatrics at UBC from 1984-2004. He is a past-president of the Association of Prosthodontists of Canada, the International Association of Prosthodontics, and the Royal College of Dentists of Canada. He is a leading authority in dental geriatrics and recently received a Distinguished Scientist Award from the International Association of Dental Research. He is the senior editor of the textbook: “Oral Healthcare and The Frail Elder: A Clinical Perspective” published in 2011 by Wiley Blackwell, and Editor-in-Chief of Gerodontontology: “The International Journal of Dental Geriatrics.” He has published clinical and research reports extensively on prosthodontics and gerodontology, and has lectured at major dental conventions around the globe.

For more information visit: www.elders.dentistry.ubc.ca/research/our_people/cv/MacEntee.pdf