In conjunction with the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP), the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) hosted the World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions from Nov. 9-11, 2017, at the Gleacher Center in Chicago.

More than 100 international researchers, educators and clinicians gathered there to review the latest literature and come to consensus on up-to-date guidelines for periodontal and peri-implant disease diagnosis and definition.

Participants conducted literature reviews, established case definitions and deliberated diagnostic considerations for the following topic areas: periodontal health and gingival diseases and conditions; periodontitis; developmental and acquired conditions and periodontal manifestations of systemic conditions; and peri-implant diseases and conditions.

The inclusion of peri-implant diseases and conditions within periodontal disease classifications was a first, accommodating for what scientists and practitioners have come to understand about implant dentistry.

“Since the last World Workshop was held in 1999, periodontics has made notable advancements in the treatment and diagnosis of periodontal disease. The 2017 workshop intended to account for what we’ve learned in the last 18 years and help standardize the specialty’s definition of disease,” said Dr. Steven R. Daniel of the AAP shortly after the workshop concluded. “Our collaboration with the EFP and periodontists from all over the world will work to positively shape the quality of patient care globally.”

Now it is time to release the findings from that workshop for the industry to hear.

On Monday, from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., members of the 2017 World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions will discuss findings from the recently updated disease classification. This ticketed event will highlight the newly developed staging and grading model for classification as well as the update’s implications on patient care and dental education.

The new classification reflects what has been expertly reviewed today about the diseases and attempts to improve clinicians’ level of comprehension and appreciation of disease progression, clarify gingival health and mucogingival conditions and address peri-implant diseases for the first time and eliminate overlap of former disease categories and achieve more diagnostic precision.

By attending the session, attendees can learn how worldwide consensus was reached and how the new classification differs from the 1999 version; familiarize themselves with an innovative model for identifying and diagnosing periodontal diseases that introduces a multi-dimensional staging and grading system, similar to the method used in oncology; gain an appreciation for the complex nature of each patient and his/her individual response to treatment; and describe what new dental students will be taught about identifying and classifying periodontitis in their patients.

The 2017 World Workshop was the second recent collaboration of the EFP and AAP. The groups’ joint workshop on periodontitis and systemic disease in 2012 was a major milestone in the specialty’s understanding of the perio-systemic link.