

Press Advisory: AAP Foundation to Announce \$2.5M Initiative Linking Gum Disease and Systemic Health

Levi-Richman Integration Initiative to fund research, enable advocacy, and conduct education programs to champion periodontal health as the oral-systemic link.

CHICAGO, IL, UNITED STATES, May 12, 2026

/EINPresswire.com/ -- WHAT

Virtual press conference announcing array of programs designed to expand the understanding of the connection between periodontal disease and systemic health conditions. The [Levi-Richman Integration Initiative](#) will spearhead research, education and advocacy programs aimed to promote prevention and early treatment of periodontal disease linked to systemic health. Among other components, the Initiative is providing funding to the [Working Together](#) program organized by Spain's SEPA Foundation, designed to raise awareness of periodontal disease among physicians and patients around the world.

WHO

Dr. Chris Richardson, President of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation

Dr. Mia Geisinger, Chair of the Initiative's Advisory Committee

Dr. Paul Levi and Patty Levi, founding donors

Dr. Colin Richman, founding donor

Dr. Paula Matesanz, President of the SEPA Foundation

WHEN

May 19, 2026, 1:00pm Central

WHERE

Virtual press conference; announcement issued from Chicago



Patty and Dr. Paul Levi, Levi-Richman Integration Initiative Founding Donors

[Registration Here:](#)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tv7Bc8ypRa6phYXyzSgSnA>

WHY

Research links gum disease to major systemic conditions such as diabetes, respiratory infections, pregnancy complications, and heart disease. Despite decades of research, awareness of the oral-systemic link remains low among both physicians and the public.

ABOUT THE AAP FOUNDATION

Founded in 1990, the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Foundation serves as the premier philanthropic entity ensuring the viability and sustainability of the specialty of periodontics and dental implant surgery. For more information about the AAP Foundation, visit www.periofoundation.org.



Dr. Colin Richman, Levi-Richman Integration Initiative Founding Donor



Microbial dysbiosis and inflammation associated with periodontal and peri-implant diseases have been linked to many systemic conditions, from diabetes to heart disease to dementias.”

Dr. Mia Geisinger, Advisory Committee Chair

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Dr. Mia Geisinger, Levi-Richman
Integration Initiative Advisory Committee
Chair

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