

Dale Anne Woodnutt

Dr. med. Dent.

**Modulation der Genexpression von Integrin  $\alpha\beta3$ ,  $\alpha5\beta1$  und anderen Liganden der extrazellulären Matrix in parodontalen Ligamentzellen unter dem Einfluss mechanischer Dehnung**

Promotionsfach: Mund-Zahn-Kieferheilkunde

Doktorvater: Prof. Dr. Pascal Tomakidi

This study investigated the effects of mechanical strain on human PDL-fs and osteoblasts with the goal of identifying important extracellular matrix mediators in relation to mechanical forces which also act on the periodontium during clinically-induced orthodontic tooth movement. We examined gene and protein expression using the techniques of RT-PCR and western blot analysis, as well as gene array analysis. Surprisingly, many of the extracellular matrix molecules showed no or minor modulation in PCR studies, including integrins  $\alpha\beta3$  and  $\alpha5\beta1$ . MMP-1, MMP-13 and IGF-1 did show significant modulation in response to mechanical strain. Protein expression of MMP-13 in PDL-fs was also up-regulated in response to cell strain, but not MMP-1 and (MMP-13 inhibitor) TIMP-1. Western blot analysis was further used for the study of the mechanistic pathways MMP-13 uses following cell strain, where kinases p38 and p42/44<sup>ERK</sup> both demonstrated an up-regulation of the phosphorylated or activated protein form. Inhibitors to these kinases identified that MMP-13 relies on both kinases in its signal-/mechan-transduction response to cell strain in PDL-fs. Thus, MMP-13 may be a candidate molecule to be involved in the turn over processes, addressing the extracellular matrix (ECM) in response to mechanical stretch/strain forces. Translation of this knowledge into clinic suggests matrix

metalloproteinases, such as MMP-13 also to be involved in the ECM turn over induced by therapeutically applied mechanical forces during orthodontic tooth movement.