I will be discussing self-ligation and how to utilize modern wire materials in orthodontics. I will look at the developments made in the technology and benefits of using these new self-ligation methods. I will also look at the differences these new treatments provide compared to older mechanisms. In addition, I will demonstrate the benefits of 3M Unitek’s SmartClip™ SLJ Self-Ligating Appliance System. What benefits does using SmartClip™ have compared to other brackets?

We are now working with the 3rd generation of the SmartClip™ which has been developed to offer better control and increased versatility. The SmartClip™ bracket system increases efficiency through their versatility and the reduction of target time. Self-ligation technology offers reduced friction leading to more efficiency in the treatment using lighter forces and reduced chair time. The increased efficiency in treatment time is due to the ‘click in, click out’ action of the wire into the SmartClip™.

Where can patients receive this treatment?

This treatment is available at most orthodontist surgeries across the region.

Where is your role within 3M Unitek?

I work as the Professional Services Manager for 3M Unitek and head up a team which runs product development, education and professional services for orthodontics. Working for 3M is not just about the products on offer. Education and development are also crucial, and with my background as an orthodontist, I use my knowledge and experience of the field to show how 3M’s products can be used efficiently in practice.

A little bit about your background?

I am from Stockholm, Sweden and I have over 25 years of experience in clinical work in Pedodontics (dentistry for children) and Orthodontics. I got my Dental License in Sweden in 1975. In 1983 I joined the board of Pedodontics, Sweden and in 1986 I specialized in orthodontics and joined the Swedish board of Orthodontics. Since 2001, I have been a visiting Professor at USC in L.A.. I am additionally a member of the Swedish Dental Association, Swedish Dental Society, Swedish Orthodontic Society, British Orthodontic Society, European Orthodontic Society, IADR, World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO) and the American Orthodontic Society.

I also run a private practice in Stockholm.

3M Unitek’s plans for the future?

We have three Incognito workshops planned for 2010 and our next Unitek Symposium planned for 2011. These are all important, because as we are continually developing our products, we need to share the changes with the orthodontists that will later use them. These workshops, like the one here in Dubai, are very hands on – and the orthodontists present will be able to test out what 3M Unitek has to offer.

I personally think the future of orthodontics is digital. Digital technologies are still in their development and evolutionary stages and we are working on a way for these digital technologies to be more cost-effective.