

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible. Please direct your correspondence to the News Editor, Arveen Bajaj at the BDJ, 64 Wimpole Street WIG 8YS or by e-mail to bdj@bda-dentistry.org.uk

DoH changes bring 'dentistry minister'

New health secretary John Reid announced the responsibilities of his health team last month.

New Minister of State is Rosie Winter-ton (below) and one of her responsibilities includes dentistry and pharmacy. She was MP for Doncaster from May 1997 and has been Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department from 2001 until her latest appointment. Her other responsibilities include emergency care, NHS Direct, clinical negligence and transplants and organ donation.



Electronic tags

Readers may have noticed some numbers appearing in the BDJ at various points in the journal. These are Digital Object Identifier (DOI) numbers and provide unique identification for the item they are assigned to, eg. a letter or a paper. The DOI number is intended to help readers to speedily find that item on the internet.

Typing in dx.doi.org/ followed by the DOI number that appears in the journal will bring you to the title page of that item. DOIs can also be used in reference citations. The DOI initiative is an international effort for electronic content identification, composed primarily of academic publishers and societies.

GKT students awarded for excellence



Six final year students from Guy's King's and St.Thomas' Dental Institute have been awarded prizes for excellence by the Maurice Wohl General Dental Practice Centre. The Centre provides a general dental practice environment in which final year students perfect their clinical skills and learn successful team work and practice management. The prize winners were Shafaq Hussain (front left) Luke Williams (back centre) and Rifat Coskunsu (back right). The GDP Centre certificate of merit went to Neeta Bavisha (front centre) Kelly Loft (back left) and Chetan Kaher (front right). The prizes are awarded to students who fulfil the highest standards in all aspects of the Centre's teaching including general professional attitude, time-keeping, ability to handle laboratory protocol, treatment planning ability and clinical skills. The final selection of winners was decided upon by dental nurses, senior staff and the director of the centre, Brian Davies.

Keep it close to home, says report

There has been an improvement in access to routine dental and specialised treatment in England, according to new research carried out by the University of Birmingham's School of Dentistry and Health Services Management Centre.

The three year study of Personal Dental Services (PDS) examined twenty pilot schemes that were introduced in England as part of a government initiative to find alternative methods of delivering dental services and as a trial to move towards a locally commissioned service.

Results showed that PDS pilots, through local contracts were effective in developing local solutions to local problems. Several pilots also examined new methods of payment to dentists by moving away from the traditional item-of-service to a capita-

tion-based payment system. This resulted in greater flexibility and a better retention of participating dentists within the NHS and improved availability of dental care for the local population.

The PDS scheme was also used as a means of developing new and enhanced professional roles for therapists, hygienists and oral health educators within local dental services. The national evaluation was commissioned by the Department of Health as part of its Policy Research Programme and data for it was collated from several hundred interviews over three years, as well as 2500 questionnaires distributed to users, dentists and PCDs. The final report of the National Evaluation is available from the Health Service Management Centre on 0121 414 7050.

DIARY

September 2003

Young Dentist Conference Scotland

Date: 13.09.03

Venue: Hilton Dunblane Hydro

Contact: BDA Scotland

Tel: 01738 441 040

Fax: 01738 441 042

E-mail: bda.scotland@bda.org

The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) - Preservative Dentistry: Is less more?

Date: 25.09.03

Venue: Manchester Dental Education

Centre, Manchester

Tel: 0161 275 6600

www.den.man.ac.uk

Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Prevention of Tobacco Induced Diseases

Date: 29.09.03-01.10.03

Venue: Winnipeg, Canada

Contact: PTID-Society (Congress 2003)

Fax: +1 (204) 789-3913

E-mail: PTIDSociety@AOL.COM

May 2004

BDA National Annual Conference

Date: 06.05.04 - 08-05.04

Contact: Events Office,

British Dental Association

Venue: Bouremouth International Centre

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7563 4590

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7563 4591

E-mail: events@bda.org

International Association for Dental Research awards 2003



Dr Angus WG Walls was awarded the 2003 Geriatric Oral Research Award at the IADR during the opening ceremonies of IADR's 81st general session. The Professor of Restorative Dentistry in the School of Dentistry at the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne's work has furthered the understanding of oral health care needs of the ageing population and in particular the association between oral health status and nutrition. He has more than 100 publications to his credit and has presented many of these findings at major conferences worldwide.

Dr Maxine Partridge has been named the recipient of the Oral Medicine and Pathology Research Award. The initial focus of her research was to elucidate the molecular pathogenesis of tumors and their associated precursor lesions, with the aim of using this information to improve diagnosis and treatment. Her career spans over two decades as a clinician, teacher and researcher. She has previously been the recipient of many awards and is currently senior lecturer at the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department at King's College Hospital.



The 2003 Wilmer Souder Award for research in the field of dental biomaterials was presented to Dr David Watts, Professor of Biomaterials at the University of Manchester. Dr Watts graduated with a BSc in chemistry and physics from the University of Wales in 1967 and gained his PhD in polymer science in 1970. His research focused on the structure-property relationships of polymers used in dentistry and particularly upon the nature and effects of setting reactions. The Wilmer Souder award is the oldest of the IADR's 15 Distinguished Scientist awards.

Orthodontic practice gains iP



Octagon Orthodontics, an orthodontic practice based in Wycombe has been recognised as an Investor in People. The practice was assessed according to criteria which included ongoing current standards, commitment to improve, planning, meeting set objectives, evaluating the outcomes of training as well as understanding and supplying the training needs of staff in the present and the future.

Fitness to practice

The GDC has now completed the short-listing process for potential candidates for its Fitness to Practice Panel, and 103 candidates have been invited for interview.

In the past, GDC members sat on committees which made decisions on dental professionals' fitness to practice. However, in the future membership of the new Fitness to Practice Panel will be drawn from an independent pool of dental professionals and lay people.

The panel will consist of 35 members made up of 15 dentists, 15 lay people and 5 PCDs. Once appointed, members of the panel will be introduced on to panels hearing conduct and health cases from September 2003.

The appointees will be expected to give each case a fair hearing. This will involve deciding whether the facts alleged are found proved to the required standard and whether action needs to be taken against the registration of a dentist or PCD to protect the public.

Queen's Birthday Honours announced

The following have been honoured in the Queen's New Year Honours list. A full report will follow in a later issue of the *BDJ*.

CBE

John Lowry

Chairman, Standing Dental Advisory Committee, and Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery RCS England, formerly chairman of the BDA's CCHDS. For services to hospital dental surgery.

MBE

Eveline Gray

Senior dental hygienist tutor.

For services to dental hygiene in Scotland.

Amolak Singh

Chief Executive, General Dental Practitioners' Association. Formerly a member of the GDC and the GDCS.

Professional Conduct Committee update

The GDC Professional Conduct Committee met for seven days between 23 April and 2 May.

Neil Richard Attenborough was found guilty of serious professional misconduct. The committee decided to postpone judgement until January 2004.

Yusuf Harun was found guilty of serious

professional misconduct and the case was concluded.

Rajesh Amrit Parmar's restoration application was adjourned pending further evidence.

The committee is due to meet for ten days between 2-13 June and plans to hear five conduct cases.