

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*, The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW or by email to bdj@bda.org

Send your journals overseas

Are you wondering what to do with your dental books and journals when you have finished with them? Dental text books and journals are urgently required by dental schools in developing countries in the Commonwealth, particularly in Africa.

The Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) is facilitating this scheme. The CDA is an association of dental organisations, formed in 1990, which aims to improve dental and oral health in Commonwealth countries by raising the skills of practitioners and increasing awareness of oral health. It is supported by the Commonwealth Foundation.

If you have any text books or journals that you would like to donate, please contact Julia Champion, Administrator, CDA by email at JuliaChampion@cdauk.com or by telephone on 020 7229 3931 for information on where to send them in the UK for onward despatch overseas.



First for implant dentistry graduates



The University of Warwick's Medical School is celebrating the graduation of its first cohort of MSc Implant Dentistry students. The 22 students collected their qualifications during a special ceremony at the university. The part-time course is a new concept in postgraduate education and is run by the School's recently established Postgraduate Dental Education Unit to address the higher educational needs of general dental surgeons. The MSc in Implant Dentistry is a flexible, modular course and can be studied in stages leading to a Postgraduate Diploma or MSc, over a time frame suited to each student.

The Unit also runs a Masters programme in orthodontics, which follows a similar pattern of study and is attracting large numbers of dental practitioners. These programmes are both delivered by leading professionals, academics and researchers in the field of implant dentistry and supported by respected academics in the field of continuing professional development. Pictured above, the graduates with Director of Postgraduate Dental Education Research Professor Malcolm Harris, Education Director Alyson Quinn and Head of Postgraduate Dental Education Professor Jeremy Dale.

Success for clinical dental technicians

The first set of student clinical dental technicians have passed the exams set by the Faculty of General Dental Practice at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and are now in the process of registration as the first Clinical Dental Technicians/Denturists in the UK. The remainder of students take their final exams this month.

The UK qualifications are only open at present to graduates of George Brown

College in Canada who have passed the two and a half year long academic and clinical programme. The Clinical Dental Technicians Association is currently progressing towards the building of a £2.5 million facility in Hertfordshire to undertake clinical dental technician training wholly within the UK. The shell is under construction and a major announcement is expected later this year.

The project will have ten fully serviced dental units, a 25 place dental laboratory, lecture theatres, audio visual and internet distance learning, accommodation and restaurant facilities. There will also be radiography units and a central sterile department as well as patient reception areas and offices. The centre will be available for all members of the dental team for training and continuing professional development as well as providing dental services to the local Primary Care Trust and patients.

Study looks at gunshot injury

A man who was shot at close range with a home-made gun is the subject of a *BDJ* case report, in the next issue of the journal. The study, by F.A. Fernandes and A. Fernandes, looks at symptoms produced by contaminated foreign bodies that enter a patient as a result of trauma.

The authors report a case where the patient had a history of a single gunshot injury to the face around 12 years earlier. Radiographic evidence revealed bullet fragments in the mandible.

The authors say, 'The patient did not have any major complaints relating to the bullets lodged in his mandible or any symptoms of lead poisoning. These foreign bodies have remained clinically silent for more than 12 years.'

The authors added that foreign bodies embedded in tissues do not necessarily result in clinical presentation and removal of the foreign body should be considered only if there is discomfort, infection or uncontrolled toxicity.



An illuminating alternative to antibiotics

Antibiotics may not be the most effective way to treat periodontal diseases, according to a new study. According to the study in the *Journal of Periodontology*, photodynamic therapy (PDT) could be a more effective way of treating the bacteria associated with periodontal diseases. Researchers at São Paulo State University, Brazil,

found that using PDT was effective in minimising the destruction of periodontal tissue which can accompany treatment for periodontal diseases. In a rat population, PDT did minimal damage to periodontal tissues, in comparison to other techniques including scaling and root planing and antibiotic therapy.

Study author Dr Valdir Gouveia Garcia, from the Department of Periodontology at the university said, 'We found that PDT is significantly less invasive than other treatments for periodontal diseases. It can provide improved dentine hypersensitivity, reduced inflammation of the tissues surrounding the teeth, and allows tissues to repair faster.'

Improving local oral health awareness

Dr Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer for England, recently opened two fora aimed at raising awareness of oral health benefits. The fora looked

at the benefits of the Brushing for Life scheme, which encourages families with young children in disadvantaged areas to get into the habit of brushing

their children's teeth regularly with fluoride toothpaste, and at the evidence for including fluoride in the prevention of dental decay.

Kirklees and Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trusts, both identified as areas with high oral health need and with good records of involvement in oral health prevention, hosted the fora.

The delegates at each forum were welcomed by the Chair of the PCT who reinforced the importance of oral health as part of their overall plans to improve the health of their local people.

Speaking at the event, Dr Cockcroft said, 'The main objective of our reforms of NHS dentistry was to give Primary Care Trusts a statutory responsibility to commission primary dental care services to reflect the needs of their local populations. People can benefit as much from advice on how to prevent dental disease as from its treatment.'

The Brushing for Life scheme was launched by Minister for Health Services, Rosie Winterton as a joint initiative with Colgate in September 2006.



Pictured from left to right, Chris Pedersen, General Manager, Colgate-Palmolive (UK) and Dr Barry Cockcroft, CDO, England with the Tower Hamlets workshop leads

DIARY

April

Irish Dental Association Annual Scientific Conference

Date: 18-21 April 2007
Venue: Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork, Ireland
www.dentist.ie

The Society of Manchester Dental Alumni (SOMANDA) biennial meeting and reunion

Date: 20 April 2007
Venue: University of Manchester
Email: carolynstylianou@ntlworld.com

The International Team for Implantology (ITI) World Symposium 2007

Date: 26-28 April 2007
Venue: New York City
www.iti.org

29th Asia Pacific Dental Congress

Date: 26-28 April 2007
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 726 0088
Fax: +62 21 739 7555
www.apdc2007jakarta.com

May

ADI 20th Anniversary Congress

Date: 3-5 May 2007
Venue: ICC in Birmingham
www.adi.org.uk

International Osteology Symposium 2007

Date: 10-12 May 2007
Venue: Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
www.osteology-monaco.org

DSTG Annual Symposium 2007

Date: 15 May 2007
Venue: Birmingham Dental Hospital
www.dstg.co.uk

BDA British Dental Conference and Exhibition 2007

Date: 24-26 May 2007
Venue: Harrogate International Centre (HIC)
Tel: 020 7563 4590
Email: events@bda.org

Dentistry meets sport

The clinical dental need of athletes is the subject of a new programme for dentists who have an active interest in sport and athletics. Eastman Continuing Professional Development, together with the London Sports Institute at Middlesex University, will be repeating its course in Sports Dentistry which can be taken either as a module of the Diploma in Restorative Dental Practice or as a stand alone course leading to a Certificate of Attendance.

The programme has been designed specifically to broaden the background knowledge of medical and dental problems that are encountered in sport. The dental aspects of the course will include aetiology, prognosis and treatment of dental and maxillofacial trauma and

tooth surface loss and the relationship with sporting activity. In addition to the dental and maxillofacial subjects there will be lectures and demonstrations including sports physiology, diet and nutrition and the medico-legal aspects of dental injuries.

At the end of the course it is hoped participants will feel confident to take an active role in the health care of sports people and able to advise team doctors, physiotherapists and dieticians on those specific areas of dental care particularly relevant to athletes.

For more information please contact Caroline Skinner, Programme Administrator, on 020 7905 1251 or via email at c.skinner@eastman.ucl.ac.uk.



Death notice

Peter Clarke of Hillhead, Tarland, a Consultant Oral Surgeon who was made an OBE for his services to dental education, has died aged 79. Peter worked at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for 27 years until his retirement in 1988, and

was made an OBE for his services to postgraduate dental education in Scotland in 1980. He served as president of the Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society in Scotland and of the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and was an active member of the Territorial Army.

Calls to eliminate dental decay in children

Leading dental and public health specialists explored how to eliminate dental decay in children within 20 years at the inaugural Global Child Dental Health Taskforce conference held at King's College London earlier this month.

The taskforce for the first global initiative aimed at improving child oral health was supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and led by Professor Raman Bedi of King's College London's Dental Institute.

At the conference, world dental leaders debated how they could most effectively influence major system change for the way dental services are provided. The initiative is already underway in nine countries including China, India, Mexico, South Africa and the United States, reaching out to over one billion children and their parents. It expects to encompass 30 countries within the next few years and is responding to the fragmented global burden of oral disease.

For example, 50% of UK children leave school never having had a filling, whereas in Saudi Arabia, more than 90% of school leavers have a dental cavity. The taskforce will influence and harmo-

nise national oral health programmes via the sharing and development of cutting edge preventive strategies.

Delivering his opening address at the conference, Professor Bedi, who is a former Chief Dental Officer for England (2002-5) said, 'Every child in the world deserves good oral health. Yet dental decay remains the most common childhood disease, with every other child across the world suffering a cavity. Child oral health is often treated as low priority or even overlooked within healthcare planning. The irony is that effective preventive measures are well proven and we believe that via a collaborative international approach we can considerably reduce and even eliminate dental cavities in children.'

The Global Child Dental Health Taskforce was established in January 2006 after 40 senior dental advisors and chief dental officers called for its formation at a 2005 European Union Presidency meeting. A key part of its strategy is to build a global network of national taskforces headed up by local, leading senior dental and public health specialists.



Professor Raman Bedi (right) seen here at the launch of the Global Child Dental Health Taskforce last year with Professor Poul Eric Petersen, WHO Oral Health Programme (left) and Dr Brian Mouatt, World Dental Federation (right)

Death notice

Geoffrey Alan Whittall sadly passed away at his home on 3 February 2007, aged 90. He qualified from Guy's Hospital Dental School in 1939 and, following active service in the Armed

Services in World War II (serving in a combatant rather than a dental role), was in general practice at 43 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex for many years. He regularly attended local dental meetings and postgraduate courses.