Letters

Email bdjteam@nature.com
Or join the *BDJ Team* group on Facebook!

LETTER

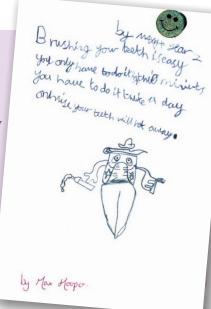
TOOTH COWBOY

Dear Editor,

At our dental practice in Chippenham we had a poetry competition and we thought that this entry, complete with 'tooth cowboy' illustration, was brilliant! Please note the alias 'MAXOHO'... Max Hooper.

Mrs Runel Tromp, Practice manager Dental Health for Life, Chippenham

Runel wins an Oral-B Triumph 5000 toothbrush with SmartGuide.



A BIG STEP BACK

Dear Editor,

I find all the letters in *Vital* regarding registration depressing but true. I am one of the lucky ones who has managed to secure a good job within a NHS community setting. I am a dental nurse with four post-qualifications and extended duties in conscious sedation, radiography, fluoride application and delivering oral health advice (all of which I use). I have been in this role for ten years and I always thought that the NHS Agenda for Change dental nurse salary would set a benchmark for all qualified dental nurses – how wrong. Due to the economy and the state of the NHS I continuously doubt my own job security.

Generally within the NHS Trust it had always been that a qualified dental nurse would start as a band 4 then the idea was AFC (Agenda for Change) band 5 description (specialist dental nurse) would include nurses with extended duties and post-qualifications. A lot of nurses here are stuck on band 4 all with two or three post-qualifications, which are all being used and needed to fulfil their duties. Everyone here sees no career progression and feels no benefit from registration.

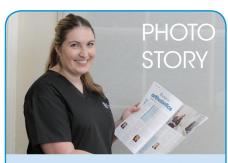
I have seen recently that the managers within this trust plan to advertise vacant NHS dental nurse roles at band 3 – I find this to be taking a big step back from what registration is meant to be about, after all we may all just go to work in a supermarket/retail shop for the same pay and less responsibility/hassle and strain on our purses.

As I say I am one of the lucky ones but for how much longer? Morale is low at work. The only thing registration has done for me is take a big chunk out of my hard-earned cash and given me the grey cloud over my head that in this blame and claim culture means I may get sued!

We have all been registered for five years yet I see no change that was meant to come in with registration – when will dental nurses' roles, responsibilities and hard work become reflected in our pay?

I'm sorry to moan and I am grateful to be in my job but good roles are very few and far between and I really feel for ALL registered dental nurses. At the end of the day I love my job; registration has not changed how I work or think; I will always work hard and do my best and I love that I contribute to team working and patient care.

Clare, Dental nurse



Becky Wall, orthodontic care nurse at One Devonshire Place in Birmingham, enjoys reading her starring feature in the winter issue of *Vital: Women in orthodontics*. Read the article here: http://www.nature.com/vital/journal/v11/n1/full/vital1771.html.

Please note that the text of this article contained an error: One Devonshire Place is in Birmingham, not London. We apologise to the team at One Devonshire Place.

CROSSWORD WINNER

Mrs Diane Eastment, a dental practice manager from Bognor Regis, won the winter 2013 *Vital* Secretword competition. The secret word was TREATMENT.

Diane won a magnum of Laurent-Perrier Champagne.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the *Vital* Secretwords!

CORRECTION – AUTUMN VITAL

In the article *No turning back: posture in dental practice*, published in the autumn 2013 issue of *Vital* (pages 23-25), reference 5 incorrectly referred to 'Ellis P'.

The reference should have read as follows:

 Paul E. Team dentistry - chairside procedures and practice management. London: Dunitz, 1991.

We apologise to Dr Ellis Paul for this error.

Do you have an opinion on something published in *BDJ Team* or on being a dental professional/working in the dental industry? Do you need advice from an expert that we might be able to help you with? Just email bdjteam@nature.com.

The best email received by the end of June 2014 will win a prize!

Letters may be edited for space. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team or the publishers.