

BADN PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN

By Honorary President **Joan Hatchard** RDN LCGI FAETC Cert Ed



As BADN's Honorary President 2024, I am delighted to write this column and highlight BADN's activities for the coming year. I was

a dental nurse for nearly 40 years, practice manager at a multi-surgery practice, and a dental tutor and examiner – see <https://www.badn.org.uk/Biography/Joan-Hatchard.aspx>.

We will of course be at all the major Shows this year – the North of England Dentistry Show in Manchester on 9 March, Dental Showcase at ExCeL London on 22–23 March; the British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show at the NEC on 17–18 May, the Scottish Dental Show at Braehead on 31 May–1 June and the Dentistry Show London at ExCel on 4–5 October. I shall be there with Chief Exec Pam Swain and Jacek Drozdek from the BADN office, with the BADN stand. Come along and chat with us – if you are not a member, we will be having our usual Show offer of £5 off BADN membership at all the Shows.

Of course, if you want to join your

professional association before then, you could talk to any of your colleagues who are already members, and join through our Refer A Colleague scheme – both you and the referring colleague will get a £5 credit on your BADN account. And, since the end of 2023, non-clinical colleagues (practice managers and receptionists) can join BADN as Associate Members and take advantage of the benefits of membership! And are eligible to join through the Refer A Colleague scheme. See <https://www.badn.org.uk/Member/Refer-a-Colleague.aspx> for more details.

Have you downloaded the BADN app yet? It can be downloaded for free from the App Store and Google Apps. Don't forget to sign up for our e-newsletters too – <https://www.badn.org.uk/NewPublic/Newsletter-Preferences.aspx>.

Something which is a big issue at the moment is the striking off by the GDC of registrants for minor CPD infractions – just failing to log an hour or two of the required ten hours every two subsequent years is leading to erasure from the Register... If you aren't registered, you can't work! BADN

has had several meetings with the GDC on this issue and another is scheduled; we are also backing the 'Saving Grace' campaign, which is a petition calling on the GDC to be more sympathetic and understanding of real life problems which can lead to registrants missing an hour or two of CPD – and also calling for those who do to be allowed to make up the missing hours instead of being struck off. See <https://www.badn.org.uk/News/All-I-Want-for-Christmas-is-Fairer-Legislation.aspx> for more info on the campaign and how you can sign the petition.

One of the facets of this issue is the fact that many registrants are not fully aware of their CPD requirements, or of the so-called '10/2 Rule'; BADN members can access an explanatory article on CPD in the *British Dental Nurses' Journal* library. They can also download a CPD Activity Log and Personal Development Planner to help keep track of CPD; and the Journal includes up to two hours of CPD per issue.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during my Presidential term of office!

Annual Robin Davies DCP Research Awards take place in London

The annual Robin Davies DCP Research Awards luncheon was held in November to celebrate the 2023 award winners. The celebration was held at Linden House, London and was attended by leaders of dentistry from across the UK. The Oral and Dental Research Trust (ODRT) partner with Colgate annually to offer a £5,000 research grant to award winners, exclusively dental care professionals (DCPs).

The keynote speaker for this event was interim Chief Dental Officer for England, Jason Wong, who said 'The Robin Davies DCP Research Awards, I believe, are still unique in providing DCPs the opportunity to carry out research. In many cases, this is the first introduction to research methodology for those who have never previously been involved in research.'

Sir Nairn Wilson, ODRT Trustee, invited the 2023 awardees to share their proposals with the audience.

Dental nurse Helen Bullingham is investigating if oral healthcare training can enhance parent confidence in their ability to influence their child's oral health, increasing toothbrushing episodes and reducing challenging toothbrushing behaviour of autistic children.

Mark Thurston, dental nurse and student dental hygienist and therapist, aims to evaluate the effectiveness of an integrated care plan with accessible elements using a nursing model in enhancing communication and referrals between healthcare and dental teams for people who live in residential services.

Dental nurse Nikki Legg is working towards gaining an understanding of the difficulties faced by children and staff in Special Educational Needs (SEN) Schools in relation to oral hygiene and diet.

Dental hygienist Tracey Kinsella will be focused on determining the level of



(Left to right): Lone Lenos from Colgate, Emma Van Eysen from Colgate, Mark Thurston, Helen Bullingham, Tracey Kinsella, Laura McClune (on behalf of Nikki Legg), Rob Marcys from Colgate and Jessica Hulme from Colgate, at the Robin Davies DCP Research Awards luncheon

confidence in Critical Care Nurses and Health Care Support Workers providing oral care to individuals who are intubated/mechanically ventilated.

Colgate and the ODRT are pleased to be hosting this event once again, with the next celebration planned for Wednesday 8 May 2024. For more details visit www.odrt.org.uk/award/colgate-robin-davies-dcp-awards.