

Dental news

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.

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APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS SEEK DENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is seeking out Britain's top apprenticeship employers, including those within the dentistry sector. It is encouraging employers of all sizes and from all sectors of industry to enter its sixth annual National Apprenticeship Awards.

The LSC's National Apprenticeship Awards are designed to recognise employers who are successfully using apprenticeships to improve business performance and the key role apprentices play in today's world.

It believes that apprentices have a significant impact which spans the breadth of the economy from accountancy and engineering, to construction, creative industries and sport.

Launching the 2009 awards, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, John Denham urged the nation to get behind apprenticeships, commenting, 'Ten years ago only 65,000 people started an apprenticeship. By 2007/08 this number had increased almost three and a half times to 225,000. Apprenticeships are becoming a mainstream option for young people and adults who want to get on, and we hope that by the end of the next decade one in five young people will start an apprenticeship.'

The dentistry sector has enjoyed a successful history at the awards. In 2007, the Sheffield-based Dinnington Dental Practice achieved Highly Commended status in the Small Employer of the Year category.

However, after being unrepresented in the 2008 finals the LSC is calling on the sector to match its previous achievements this year. It says that with 944 new apprentices starting in the sector

this year alone, dentistry seems well set for even more success.

Commenting on the business benefits apprentices can deliver, Margaret Naylor, Principal Dentist at The Dinnington Dental Practice said that many of its staff has used their Advanced Apprenticeships as a springboard to further qualifications. 'We have a policy of training apprentices not only for their present job but for their future potential.'

Rachael Hoyle was winner of the Advanced Apprentice of the Year category in the 2008 awards. She commented, 'I liked the fact that I could go and begin a career, learning from people who are experts in their own right.' For further information visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk. The closing date for entries is Friday 27 February 2009.



Dinnington Dental Practice – a highly commended small business in the Apprenticeship Awards 2007



Actress Amanda Holden, who presented the awards last year, with the 2008 National Apprenticeship Award winners

NEW PRESIDENT APPOINTED



A new President has been appointed to the The British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD). Dr Elaine Halley is the principal of Cherry-bank Dental Spa, a private practice in Perth, Scotland.

Dr Halley's primary interest is cosmetic and advanced restorative dentistry. She qualified from the University of Edinburgh in 1992 and has studied extensively in the United States, Europe and the UK.

Dr Halley has authored various articles on subjects ranging from clinical case studies to practice management and frequently lectures throughout the UK. She teaches hands-on programmes across the country in association with the Californian Centre for Advanced Dental Studies.

She and her team are the first of only seven dentists worldwide to graduate from the Master's Course in cosmetic dentistry at the Rosenthal Institute at the New York University College of Dentistry.

INDEMNITY CONSULTATION UNDERWAY

The GDC's indemnity consultation, which focuses on dental professionals' requirement to make sure they have adequate and appropriate insurance cover, is now underway.

The GDC already requires all dental professionals to ensure that patients are able to claim compensation for any harm caused by dental treatment that they may be entitled to.

There are three possible ways that professionals can make certain that they have adequate cover: insurance, discretionary indemnity and NHS indemnity. As a further safeguard, the GDC is looking to use new powers to make legally binding rules about 'adequate and appropriate insurance'.

The indemnity consultation can be completed online. See www.gdc-uk.org. The consultation will close on Friday March 6 2009.

CLINICAL RADIOLOGY GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

The British Orthodontic Society has published new guidelines for the use of radiographs in clinical orthodontics. According to the Society, the latest edition of its guide has been modified and the sections on radiography reflect the significant advances in imaging which have been achieved in the last five years since the publication of the second edition of the guide.

The guidelines are designed to assist the hospital practitioner, orthodontic specialist and the general dental practitioner on the choice and timing of radiographs in clinical orthodontic practice and reflect current best practice and selection criteria to comply with the IRMER requirements.

It includes step-by-step information to help with assessment and treatment planning. For more information visit www.bos.org.uk or telephone 020 7353 8680.

FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

Kevin Lewis, the Director of Dental Protection, has been awarded a Fellowship from the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK). The presentation was made during the first diplomates' ceremony jointly hosted by the FDS(Eng) and the FDGP(UK) to celebrate those awarded the MJDF (Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties) and the Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy. The award complements the earlier fellowship given last year from the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Over 300 people gathered at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in London for the event, which marked the culmination of a joint initiative between the FDS and the FDGP(UK) to develop an assessment that would meet all of the competencies for foundation programmes in dentistry, as specified in *A curriculum for UK dental foundation*

programme training. The resulting MJDF assesses knowledge and skills after the completion of a two-year foundation training programme for all dental graduates, whether they are pursuing a career in general or specialist practice.



L to R: Professor Derrick Willmot (Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery Kevin Lewis and Richard Hayward (Dean of the Faculty of General Dental Practice)

DIARY

FEBRUARY

Institute for Advanced Laser Dentistry 6th Annual Clinicians' Meeting

Date: 11-15 February 2009
Venue: Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort,
Cancun, Mexico
www.cliniciansmeeting.com.

BioHorizons Surgical & Restorative Implant Training Course

Date: January to October, once a month
Venue: Various
infouk@biohorizons.com
www.biohorizons.com

BDA East of Scotland Branch – The Chief Dental Officer speaks

Date: 11 February 2009
Venue: RCS of Edinburgh
www.bda.org
events@bda.org

Human Factors and Safety Masterclass

Date: 12-13 February 2009
Venue: MDDUS, London
www.terema.co.uk

BDA Seminar series: Preparing for retirement

Date: 13 February 2009
Venue: Westerwood Hotel, Glasgow
www.bda.org
events@bda.org

BDA Seminar series: Achieving high standards in infection control

Date: 27 February 2009
Venue: London
www.bda.org
events@bda.org

MARCH

Australian Dental Congress and Exhibition

Date: 12-15 March 2009
Venue: Perth Convention Exhibition
Centre, Perth, Australia
www.ada2009.com

The Dentistry Show

Date: 13-14 March 2009
The NEC Birmingham
www.thedentistryshow.co.uk

Irish Endodontic Society Meeting

Date: 26 March 2009
Venue: Small Lecture Theatre,
Dublin Dental Hospital
www.dentist.ie

UK TOP FOR HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH

The UK's dental schools have been recognised for their high standard of dental research. All fourteen institutions - whose staff were subject to the assessment - were recognised for the world-leading originality, significance and rigour of their work.

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) provides an independent assessment and measure of the quality and volume of research in a range of subjects conducted in Universities and other higher education institutions in the UK against international standards of excellence.

It enables the higher education funding bodies to distribute, on the basis of research quality, significant public funds for future research.

The Exercise found that at least 90% of staff at each of the institutions assessed were undertaking research of an international standard. No research activity at any of the institutions fell below the standard required to be recognised nationally.

The assessment of the University of Manchester's School of Dentistry found that 30% of the School's researchers were deemed to carry out research that was internationally leading, attracting the top 4* grade, while a further

45% carried out research that was world class (3*). The remaining 25% published research of international significance (2*).

Head of School Dr Nick Grey said, 'Our strategy allows staff to address clear goals that relate to both excellence in research and excellence in teaching and learning.'

Kings College Dental Institute's RAE profile includes 70% activity recognised as internationally excellent (30% at 4*, 40% at 3*) with 95% of the activity overall having been rated international from a total of 74 members of staff returned. Young academics, recruited since the last RAE in 2001 make up over 20% of the return and illustrate the continued investment of the Institute in developing new talent and expertise in oral and dental research.

The British Dental Association (BDA) welcomed the recognition, and Dr Ross Hobson, Chair of the BDA's Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff, commented, 'What makes this success even more remarkable is that it has been achieved against a background of pressures on dental academic staff from a 25% increase in student numbers and the opening of a number of new institutions.'

FIRST POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS EMBARK ON COURSE

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Postgraduate Medical School (BHPMS), based at the University of Bedfordshire, has welcomed its first cohort of dentists to undertake a new Postgraduate Certificate in Dental Education.

The course was developed following a growing number of requests from dental professionals to provide an education course dedicated to their educational needs that will help build a dental education community of practice.

The group of 20 dentists from across the eastern region will cover a number of areas including chair-side teaching, utilising the dental environment for learning and approaches to the assessment of dental skills.

Trevor Austin, Senior Lecturer in Medical Education at the University and course lead for Dental Education, said: 'We hope that this structure, the collaboration with the Deanery, the involvement of dental academics and the recognition that the teaching of dentistry has some unique features, will provide a very worthwhile learning experience for all those involved.'

The PG Cert in Dental Education incorporates two modules, the first of which has a focus on workplace teaching, learning and assessment. The second module explores theories of learning relevant to clinical teachers and will have an audience composed of doctors, vets, nurses, midwives, osteopaths and dentists.

NEW PRESIDENT TAKES REINS

The British Society of Dental Hygiene & Therapy (BSDHT) has appointed a new President, Marina Harris at its Oral Health Conference & Exhibition in Edinburgh.

Outgoing President Mike Wheeler handed over the reins to Marina, who trained in the RAF and qualified as a dental hygienist in 1984. Employed as a dental hygiene tutor at the School for Professionals Complementary to Dentistry at Portsmouth University, Marina has been working closely with Mike Wheeler for the last two years in her capacity as President-elect, to ensure a smooth and successful handover.

She highlighted her inclusive lead-

ership style by focussing on her team player philosophy during her acceptance speech at the AGM, in which she said 'I believe that the success of your society should never be down to ... a particular presidency, rather that it evolves and develops in response to the changing political climate within the profession itself, and most importantly, in response to the needs of its members.'

Marina will work closely with new President-elect Sally Simpson over the next two years to deliver services, support and value to BSDHT members and to represent their interests in the wider dental community.



STUDY LOOKS AT LAUGHING GAS AND DENTAL PATIENTS

Laughing gas combined with hypnosis may help patients with dental anxiety better deal with visits to the dentist according to a new study from University College London (UCL).

The study has found that the pain-relieving effects of nitrous oxide - laughing gas - may be enhanced by suggestion or hypnosis. It found that people are more suggestible under the gas - meaning that dental patients may benefit from being coached to relax while undergoing sedation.

The study set out to establish whether laughing gas boosts imaginative suggestibility - a trait closely related to hypnotic suggestibility - and imagery vividness. Thirty participants took part in two sessions where they were given a mask from which they breathed in air or 25% nitrous oxide.

The volunteers were not told which type of gas they were being given, and the mask was scented to disguise the sweet smell of the laughing gas. Participants were asked to close their eyes and imagine tasting oranges or smelling roast beef, feeling linen or hearing the honk of a car horn.

Volunteers were also put through a series of 'imaginative suggestibility' tests based on suggestions given to them while under the gas. The suggestions were worded to invite the participant

to experience hallucinated sensations. For example, they were told to imagine a sour taste in their mouth, and were told that after a while they would actually begin to experience a sour taste in their mouth, and that this would become stronger and stronger. Or they were told that a voice would come out of a (non-existent) speaker in the corner of the room, and that the voice would ask them a number of simple questions about themselves.

If the participant responded well to the suggestion, he/she would answer some of the questions that the hallucinated voice had asked. The study found that nitrous oxide boosted imaginative suggestibility by approximately 10%. According to the study's authors, nitrous oxide is commonly used by dentists to sedate their patients before treatment, but some dentists believe their patients also become more suggestible while under the influence of the gas.

A number of dentists have been trained in hypnosis and find that their patients respond well to being spoken to in a quiet, hypnotic manner - the new findings suggest that these effects could be further enhanced with laughing gas. The author's hope to do a larger scale study to confirm their results. The study was published online in the journal *Psychopharmacology*.

PILOT SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

The National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS) is looking for dentists who would like to benefit from feedback from their colleagues for a pilot study. NCAS promotes patient safety by providing confidential advice and support to the NHS in situations where the performance of doctors and dentists is giving cause for concern.

The process is conducted online and provides a personalised feedback report for each participant. You will be asked to complete a self assessment form and nominate up to ten assessors who are contacted by email. Their responses will be collated anonymously and produced as a report for you to reflect on with a chosen facilitator.

The report is confidential and only anonymised data will be shared with NCAS for a normative pilot study. Individuals will not be identified unless direct concerns about patient safety are raised. The group data will be used to inform the internal quality assurance processes of NCAS and may be used to inform peer review publications. If you wish to take part please submit your name, email address and GDC Number to Steve.Boyle@ncas.npsa.nhs.uk or Janine.Brookes@ncas.npsa.nhs.uk.