

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 a.bajaj@nature.com

LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEES BACK BDA RED TAPE CAMPAIGN

Local Dental Committees (LDCs) from across England are supporting a British Dental Association (BDA) campaign calling for the Government to address dentists' mounting concerns about the burden of red tape on general dental practice.

Attendees at the 2010 LDC Officials' Day in London on 3 December pledged support for the campaign and urged colleagues to do the same. More than 60 officers representing LDCs threw their weight behind the campaign, which calls for action on concerns about the registration of practices with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Dr Mick Armstrong, Chair of the LDCs, said: 'Registration of practices with the CQC threatens not only to increase the administrative burden on practices, but also to rob practices of significant sums of money they could better use in improving patient services. LDCs are proud to back this campaign which calls for a commonsense approach that puts patient care first.'

The campaign is calling on dentists in England to send a copy of a postcard produced by the BDA to their MP. The postcard asks MPs to write to Secretary of State Andrew Lansley requesting that he simplifies the arrangements for the CQC's registration of dental practices so that it

does not duplicate functions carried out elsewhere, ENSURES that the registration fee is set at a reasonable level, and delays the deadline for registration to allow these issues to be addressed.

Postcards have been distributed to BDA members inside copies of *BDA News* and to delegates at LDC Officials' Day.



HAVE YOU GOT THE NEXT BIG IDEA?

The British Dental Association (BDA) and Medical Futures have launched the 2011 Awards for innovation in dental and oral health and are challenging readers of the *BDJ* to come up with an innovation to improve patient care.

Your innovative idea to improve patient care can be a service or technology and can be at any stage from pilot or prototype right the way through to a fully trading business.

To submit a 200-word summary of

your idea, go to www.medicalfutures.co.uk and download the entry brochure. Shortlisted entrants will be invited to pitch their idea in a *Dragons' Den* style to a panel of expert judges.

As well as the critical recognition and endorsement of a Medical Futures Innovation Award, winners will receive a bespoke package of support to turn ideas into viable propositions that have credibility with investors. This may include assistance in articulating your idea; secur-

ing funding; and introductions to professional and commercial contacts vital in taking your idea to the next level.

Past winners have raised over £80 million of funding and many of their ideas are now products and services changing people's lives.

A spokesperson from the BDA commented: 'I hope we can continue to demonstrate that we are up there with the rest of the medical world when it comes to the next big idea. After all, we owe it to our patients.'

www.medicalfutures.co.uk

DENTIST WINS IPAD THROUGH BDJ EDUCATION

Dr Kalina Pancheva, a dentist from Buckingham House Dental Practice in Buckingham, has been announced as



the winner of an iPad in a competition held on the *BDJ* stand at BDTA Dental Showcase in October.

Competition entrants were required to solve 'An Inspector Course Mystery' which involved logging on to the new *BDJ* Education website and locating some 'missing' information.

Dr Pancheva was thrilled to hear that she had won the iPad and commented, 'thank you for a great competition and a lovely site'.

BDJ Education is a comprehensive new online resource for the latest training courses, seminars, meetings, conferences and symposia around dental practice and management, dental education, dental research, and oral health.

www.bdjeducation.com

VOLUNTEER THIS CHRISTMAS

Charities across the UK are always looking for volunteers who can offer their time and skills to help others in need.

Crisis, the national charity for single homeless people, provides a special Christmas service at a number of sites in London from 23-30 December. Crisis at Christmas relies on skilled volunteers, including dental professionals, to provide their clients with a chance to make a positive fresh start to the New Year.

Dental professionals provide treatment in a number of London sites from 9.30am to 9pm including routine treatments such as examinations, scaling, fillings, extractions and oral health education.

If you are interested in volunteering visit the following websites: www.do-it.org.uk; www.volunteering.org.uk; www.homelessuk.org.

SPIRALLING CLAIMS COSTS MAY BE REFORMED

The Dental Defence Union (DDU) is hopeful that government proposals to control civil litigation costs will spell an end to the inflation-busting legal costs it sees in dental negligence cases.

The DDU says the costs of settling clinical negligence claims have spiralled in nearly 30 years with average claimants' legal costs increasing by nearly three times the rate of inflation since 1982.

The DDU welcomed a Ministry of Justice consultation, *Proposals for the reform of civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales* which, like Lord Justice Jackson's report in January 2010, proposes measures aimed at reducing the disproportionate costs of civil litigation for the defendant.

'We have long argued that the current situation, where claimants' legal costs can be as much as 13 times the compensation awarded to the damaged patient, impugns the system and is very unfair to dental professionals who are currently funding these legal costs,' said Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, Head of the DDU.

According to DDU figures, in 2010 the average claimants' costs paid on behalf of dental members was £8,700, 17 times higher than the figure in 1982 of £500.

EASY TO SWALLOW COOKBOOK COMMENDED DURING MOUTH CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

Brenda's easy to swallow cookbook, published by the Mouth Cancer Foundation, has won the highly commended prize in the best charitable initiative category at the Pfizer Excellence in Oncology Awards 2010.

The cookbook features tasty and nutritious recipes for patients who may be struggling to eat and taste food after treatment for head and neck cancers. Extreme, invasive surgery, intense radiotherapy and chemotherapy can result in the loss of ability to chew and swallow food and

affect or even destroy the taste buds.

The book's author, Brenda Brady, from Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, lost her battle with mouth cancer in 2008. Her last wish was to publish the cookbook she had started while fighting the disease. Brenda's family joined forces with the Mouth Cancer Foundation who published the book for sale on their website to carers, mouth cancer patients, survivors and anyone who has difficulty swallowing food.

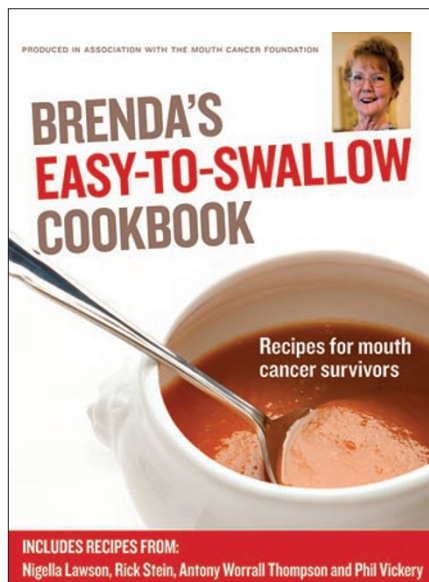
The book includes recipes donated by Nigella Lawson, Rick Stein, Anthony Worrall Thompson and Phil Vickery.

The Pfizer Excellence in Oncology Awards were created five years ago to recognise and reward UK best practice in oncology management, education and patient care.

'This was a really innovative and personal idea that addressed an immediate and increasing problem,' commented the judges.

'Working with the Brady family to carry on Brenda's legacy has been a real privilege,' said Dr Vinod Joshi, founder of the Mouth Cancer Foundation.

More information about the cookbook can be found at www.easytoswallow-cookbook.wordpress.com.



BRISTOL'S TEACHERS COME OUT ON TOP

On Wednesday 17 November the DDU Educational Awards 2010 took place at The Royal Society in London.

Following presentations from the finalists, Stephen H. W. Lisney from the School of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Bristol was named Dentist Teacher of the Year, and Nikki Rogers of Bristol Dental Hospital was named Dental Care Professional Teacher of the Year.

The theme of this year's awards was 'More regulation = better performance?' The keynote address was delivered by Lord Howe, the Health Minister with responsibility for dentistry. Dr Alasdair Miller, Dental Postgraduate Dean, NHS Education South West, explored the relationship of regulation to performance and its possible effects. Dr Janine Brookes MBE of the National Clinic Assessment Service (NCAS) looked at the factors underpinning practice concerns, identifying those concerns, the outcomes and what regulation contributes.

The DDU Awards, which are in their

eight year, are designed to recognise and reward dental teachers whose exemplary teaching has had a positive educational impact on the dental professionals of the future.

Winner Stephen Lisney remarked: 'I am honoured to have been nominated by my colleagues and students for this award and delighted to have won. This year it has been doubly good news for Bristol and I think it's a fitting reward for the dedication and commitment of all the staff who contribute to dental teaching.'



Left to right: Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, Head of the DDU; Stephen Lisney, DDU Dentist Teacher of the Year; Gary Marvin, Marketing Director at DENTSPLY

LIVERPOOL GOES BEYOND DIDACTIC LEARNING

Liverpool School of Dentistry has swapped traditional didactic learning for a revolutionary and interactive problem-based approach, combining simulated practical study and web-based theoretical learning in the same classroom.

Liverpool has equipped its practical labs with individual dental simulators or 'phantom heads'. It has also embedded library and web access into the simulator stations so that students can improve their dentistry skills while also acquiring the right knowledge.

Liverpool has also chosen to install small, safe and noiseless Thinspace thin clients within each simulator, providing high performance and reliable access to the University's learning resources as well as those on the web. The thin clients' small size allows them to be securely housed within the simulator units, fully isolated from water used in practical sessions.

Sixty-six thin clients are used within the simulator stations at Liverpool.

Each provides around 32 hours of access per week for 46 weeks each year, collectively supporting nearly 100,000 hours of learning a year with a near perfect performance record.

'We wanted a learning environment that had the closest physical resemblance and operational similarity to a dentist's chair but also linked to our library and the web,' said Callum Youngson, Head of School. 'No desks, benches or computers in sight, just one station that did everything.'



DIARY

JANUARY 2011

You and the General Dental Council

Date: 12 January 2011
Venue: Hilton Templepatrick Hotel and Country Club, Belfast
www.gdc-uk.org

CEREC CAD/CAM courses

Date: 21/22 January 2011
Venue: Sirona Dental Systems, Chiswick
Email: mark.buckland@sironadental.co.uk
Telephone: 0845 071 5040
www.sironacadcamsolutions.co.uk

Law, Ethics and Record Keeping

Date: 28 January 2011, 9am-5pm
Venue: British Dental Association, London
Email: susie.brooke@bda.org
Telephone: 020 7563 4163

FEBRUARY 2011

Tooth wear and acid erosion: modern strategies of management

By Alex Milosevic
Date: 1 February 2011
Venue: The Centre for Health Science, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness
www.bda.org/events

How can we encourage health behaviour change?

An event for dental therapists and hygienists
Date: 5 February 2011
Venue: Eastman Dental Institute
Telephone: 020 7905 1298
Email: m.kelly@eastman.ucl.ac.uk

Young Dentist Conference

Date: 5 February 2011
Venue: Novotel London St Pancras, London
Email: events@dentalprotection.org
Telephone: 020 7399 1339
www.dentalprotection.org/ydc

You and the General Dental Council

Date: 17 February 2011
Venue: Maple House, Birmingham
www.gdc-uk.org

AOG/FGDP(UK)/Indian Dental Association conference

Date: 20 February 2011
Venue: Delhi, India
Telephone: 020 7788 6452 and state AOG/FGDP Tour)
<http://aoguk.org/indian-tour.html>