

DIARY

JULY

The 18th International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH) International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH)

Date: 1-3 July 2010

Venue: Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre (SECC), Glasgow
www.bsdt.org.uk

The European Society of Lingual Orthodontists (ESLO) biennial congress

Date: 8-11 July 2010

Venue: Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
www.eslo-congress.com

Training essentials: An IRMER course in dental radiography and radiation protection

Date: 23 July 2010

Venue: BDA, London
Email: events@bda.org
www.bda.org/events

AUGUST

8th International Dental Ethics and Law Congress

Date: 18-20 August 2010

Venue: University of Helsinki, Finland
www.ideals.ac

Training essentials: The importance of keeping good records

Date: 20 August 2010

Venue: BDA, London
Email: events@bda.org
www.bda.org/events

SEPTEMBER

2010 FDI Annual World Dental Congress

Date: 2-5 September 2010

Venue: Centro de Convenções da Bahia, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil
Email: congress@fdiworldental.org
www.fdiworldental.org

DENTAL X-RAYS MAY INCREASE THYROID CANCER RISK

Multiple exposures to dental X-rays may be associated with an increased risk of developing thyroid cancer, according to a collaborative study by scientists from Brighton, Cambridge and Kuwait.

In the study, the risk of thyroid cancer increased with increasing numbers of dental X-rays taken.

In Great Britain about 1,900 new cases of thyroid cancer are diagnosed each year and the incidence rates more than doubled, from 1.4 to 2.9 per 100,000 people between 1975 and 2006. Increasing use of sensitive diagnostic techniques is not considered to account for all of this increase and the researchers believe that other causes need investigation.

The thyroid gland, situated in the neck, is known to be highly sensitive to ionising radiation, particularly in children, and dental radiography, a source of low-dose diagnostic radiation, is often overlooked as a potential hazard to the gland.

Dr Anjum Memon of Brighton and Sussex Medical School led the research team, which studied 313 thyroid cancer patients in Kuwait, where the incidence of thyroid cancer is relatively high compared to Britain. The team said that

the results of the study provide good evidence to warrant more research in settings where historical dental X-ray records are available and where doses of radiation can be estimated.

The results of the Kuwait study should be treated with caution as the data were necessarily based on self-reporting by the participants.

'Our study highlights the concern that like chest (or other upper-body) X-rays, dental X-rays should be prescribed when the patient has a specific clinical need, and not as part of routine check-up or when registering with a dentist,' said Dr Memon.

The study was published in *Acta Oncologica* (2010; 49: 447-453).



NHS BRISTOL LAUNCHES FREE IPHONE APP

NHS Bristol has launched its own iPhone application, the UK's first free service finder app.

At the touch of a button users can access details of each and every health service in Bristol including contact information and GPS location. It can be used to find an NHS dentist, a GP or the nearest Walk-In Centre, and also has an 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) option, an appointment reminder alert and recorded messages with instructions on how to deal with specific health emergencies.

Users can input information about their condition and in the event of a serious situation, pushing the ICE button emits a loud sound and displays the health information - aiding a quick diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

'This application is one of the most exciting developments in health I've seen for years,' said Hugh Annett, Bristol's director of public health. 'The service finder means that you will never have to search the whole web for an NHS Bristol service again.'

CDO WALES AWARDED CBE

The Chief Dental Officer for Wales, Dr Paul Langmaid, has been appointed

CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2010.

Ms Sylvia Medland was appointed MBE for services to the General

Dental Council, and John William Rose, Dental Adviser, NHS Western Cheshire was also appointed MBE for his services to the NHS.