

## HONOURS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

### Clinician Scientist fellowship

**Dr Justin Durham** from Newcastle University's School of Dental Sciences has been successful in round 11 of the National Institute of Health Research's Clinician Scientist fellowship programme. This prestigious five-year post-doctoral award will allow Dr Durham to conduct a programme of research into the effectiveness and efficiency of care pathways in chronic orofacial pain.

### First foundation degree for dental nurse

**Avril Ware** is the first student in the Yorkshire region to attain the Foundation Degree in Post-qualifying Dental Nursing Practice. Avril graduated from the University of Hull, which is only the second institution in the country to offer the qualification. Eighteen students are currently enrolled on the course at Hull, which could lead to further undergraduate study.

### New BDHF President

**John Siebert**, Chairman of George Warman Publications, is the new President of the British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF). He replaces President Daniel Davis and will serve as President for the next two years.

### Awards triumph for Tralee

**Flynns Dental Care** of Tralee, Ireland won both Best Dental Practice Republic of Ireland South and Best Employer at the prestigious Irish Dentistry Awards in February. Flynns, who provide a popular late evening dental and hygienist service four days a week, were also the only dental practice in the Republic to be Highly Commended for Best Patient Care and for the highly coveted Overall Dental Practice of the Year.

### Student Clinician Awards

**Ross Leader** of Liverpool University won the top prize at the 35<sup>th</sup> BDA/Dentsply Student Clinician Awards held at the Royal Horseguards Hotel in February. Ross's presentation, *Expression of Wilms tumour protein (WT1) in human epithelial salivary gland tumours: an immunohistochemical investigation* earned him a trip to present his research in the USA and a large grant for his school. Jonathan Lewney from Barts and the London took second place and Simon Crutchlow from Bristol was runner up.

### Outstanding Achievement in Jerusalem

**Professor Adam Stabholz**, Dean of the Hadassah School of Dental Medicine at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been awarded the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award by the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity, the world's oldest international dental organisation.

### Honorary Faculty Lectureships

The Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England recently awarded Honorary Lectureships to: **Mazen Att, Anne Harwood, Adeel Khan, Golfam Khoshkhounejad, Javid Mustafa, Pawandeeep Sarai and Neil Scott**. The Honorary Lectureships mark the enormous contribution to the Faculty of Dental Surgery's educational activities by these key individuals.

## BISPHOSPHONATES IMPROVE IMPLANT STABILITY

A randomised clinical trial conducted at Linköping University Hospital in Sweden has shown that dental implants with a bisphosphonate nanolayer have improved stability.

After dental implant surgery, a dental implant is often not stable enough to enable chewing straight away. It may take several months for the bone around the implant to heal and become strong enough for the patient to regain chewing function.

'The study shows that local bisphosphonate improves implant stability, meaning that the time until normal chewing function could be shortened,' said Professor Per Aspenberg from Linköping University Hospital.

Professor Aspenberg is co-founder of AddBIO AB, a subsidiary of Accelerator Nordic AB, that has developed Zolidd, a proprietary bioactive nanolayer for orthopaedic and dental implants that releases bisphosphonate.

A nanometer-thin protein layer is attached to the metal surface and a bisphosphonate is attached to the protein. When the bisphosphonate is released, a local effect is obtained, which improves implant stability. In the study, a Zolidd prototype was used to release bisphosphonate in this way.

Sixteen patients each received two implants, one with bisphosphonate and one without. After six months, the bisphosphonate treated implant showed improved stability in 15 out of 16 patients. On radiographs, the treated implants showed positive effects already after two months. No complications occurred.

Zolidd is the first application from a platform technology designed for local release of drugs from medical implants.

1. Abtahi J, Tengvall P, Aspenberg P. A bisphosphonate-coating improves the fixation of metal implants in human bone. A randomized trial of dental implants. *Bone* 2012; doi: 10.1016/j.bone.2012.02.001,

## REFINE YOUR CHAKRAS VIA THE ORAL CAVITY

A book written by a dentist in Austin, Texas reveals how the teeth, tongue and jaws are powerful tools that can unlock 'vital energy that may improve overall health, fitness and longevity'.

According to Dr Lester Sawicki, author of *Yin ain't yang, the ancient way to better health*, modern science is beginning to understand ancient wisdom about the link between healthy teeth, gums and jaw function and boosting general fitness, health, and longevity. New evidence proves that teeth are joined to vital organs by way of energy channels and when the teeth, tongue and jaws are included in a regular meditative exercise routine you can access and refine the body's 'chakras' to promote a

long, healthy, strong existence.

Dr Sawicki believes that meditative exercise using your teeth, body, and mind can relieve stress, improve cardiovascular function and flexibility, increase bone density, balance hormones, circulate lymph, detoxify organs, increase brain function and induce happiness.

The book offers a series of energy-building visualisations and physical exercises aimed at strengthening and aligning the 'chi centre' of the oral cavity with the 'power centres' of the body.

