

CHARITY LECTURES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Dr Farah Aga, a general dental practitioner and trainee implantologist, is organising a 'Charity Lectureathon' to raise money for Children in Need.

Lectures on dental implants, oral surgery and periodontology will be given on Friday 20 July in Seminar Room 4, the Medical Education Centre, Whipps Cross University Hospital, London, and specialist speakers have been confirmed.

The event, which begins at 9.15am and closes at 4.30pm, costs £50 per delegate and includes six hours

of verifiable continuing professional development (CPD).

'I am still looking for sponsors and a few more guest speakers willing to give a presentation, talk or demonstration on the day,' said Dr Aga. 'Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested.'

Tickets can be booked or donations made via a Facebook group



at www.facebook.com/CharityLectureAthon.

Dr Aga can also be contacted by email, farahaga@gmail.com, or by telephoning 0794 840 1510.

HONOURS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Dental School Case Contest

Daniel van Gijn from King's College London was the UK winner of the Ceram X Case Contest in Dental Schools 2011/12, tackling a very challenging case with advanced and numerous carious lesions. David Hotchen from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) came second and Gunneelam Randhawa from Dundee Dental School, third. Daniel's case will be presented at the World Final of the Ceram X Case Contest in Finland in September 2012.

Scottish Dental Lifetime Achievement

Dr Jim Rennie CBE, Dr Hew Mathewson CBE, Dr Graham McKirdy and **Professor William Saunders** were all in the final for the Scottish Dental Lifetime Achievement Award 2012. Nominated and voted for by fellow industry professionals, the first every Scottish Dental Lifetime Achievement Award pays tribute to a committed individual who has made a real difference to the dental industry in Scotland. The winner was due to be announced at the Scottish Dental Show on 24-25 May.

BDHF President elect

Tony Newton has been nominated President elect of the British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF). Dr Newton will succeed current president John Siebert in 2013. Now into his third term as a Foundation trustee, Dr Newton puts his combined dental, journalistic, corporate communications and management expertise at the Foundation's service.

New Endodontic Award

The **Harley Street Centre for Endodontics** is launching the Young Dentist Endodontic Award 2012. The award is open to any young dentist who graduated in the last three years. Applicants are invited to submit a case report of their best endodontic treatment so far. Five outstanding prizes will help the top applicants develop their endodontic skills further. www.roottreatmentuk.com

New Chair of CCDAS

Deborah White, associated professor and director of education at the School of Dentistry at Birmingham, has been elected as the new Chair of the British Dental Association's (BDA's) Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff (CCDAS) for the 2012/2014 triennium. Professor White was Vice Chair of CCDAS in the last triennium.

RESEARCH TRIAL TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN NORTHERN IRELAND

A Northern Ireland caries prevention in practice trial (NIC-PIP)¹ has completed its first phase in trying to prevent dental disease in young children. A visit from Health Minister Edwin Poots marked the conclusion of the initial stage, supporting its aims to pre-emptively tackle the issue of dental decay in Northern Ireland rather than provide reparative solutions once the damage has been done.

One thousand, two hundred children initially aged between two and three years, who regularly attend primary dental care services, have been randomly selected for the trial. Children receiving the protection package will be given fluoride varnish treatment applied bi-annually for three years, in addition to fluoride toothpaste and a toothbrush (supplied twice a year). The extra coat of fluoride varnish should act as a protective barrier from tooth decay and though tested in clinically controlled environments, is an innovative approach in dental practice.

As quoted in the *Northern Ireland Executive*, Poots has stressed the importance of the research stating: 'if this trial is able to prove effectiveness and cost effectiveness of topical fluorides in dental practice, it will revolutionise how we care for young dental patients and will dramatically reduce dental caries in our population. It will

also shift the focus of the dental service towards preventive care.'² Researchers are hoping the trial will greatly impact on dental policy and the approach to improving oral health in children, by measuring the number of incidences of toothache, decay and extraction in the control group over a three-year period.

Children in Northern Ireland have the worst oral health in the UK, with 61% of 5-year-olds having experienced dental decay compared to 43% of children in the rest of Britain.³ Whilst the trial will cost around £1.7 million, it is hoped that a successful outcome in caries prevention will result in a more cost-effective use of the dental budget.

1. Tickle M, Milsom K M, Donaldson M *et al*. Protocol for Northern Ireland caries prevention in practice trial (NIC-PIP) trial: a randomised controlled trial to measure the effects and costs of a dental caries prevention regime for young children attending primary care dental services. *BMC Oral Health* 2011; 11: 27.
2. Northern Ireland Executive. *Health Minister visits pioneering Northern Ireland dental research trial*. Northern Ireland Executive, 2012. Online press release at http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/mediacentre/news-departments/news-dhssps/news-dhssps-250412-health-minister-visits.htm?WT.mc_id=rss-news (last accessed April 2012).
3. Donaldson M. *An evaluation of investing for health funded caries prevention schemes*. London: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2008. Online article available at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/anevaluationofinvestingforhealthfundedcariespreventionschemes.pdf> (last accessed April 2012).

By Laura Pacey