

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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HELSINKI HOSTS FIRST *BDJ* POSTER PRIZE

The very first *BDJ* poster prize for practice-based research and evidence-based dentistry was awarded to Russell Crisp at this year's PER/IADR Congress, held in Helsinki's Finlandia Hall on 12-15 September.

Dr Crisp's poster summarised the five-year results of a UK practice-based research project looking at the performance of zirconia-based bridges in general dental practices. He was awarded a *BDJ* certificate, a personal online subscription to the journal and a cheque for £250, which he plans to plough back into his practice-based research group.

Runners-up included Olivier de Khac from the L'Université Paris Descartes with a poster on the standard of reporting of dental clinical research in France, and Thomas Klinke based at the University Medicine Greifswald who reported an RCT in field-recruitment.

Dr Ruth Doherty, Managing Editor of the *BDJ*, who attended the Congress along with Editor-in-Chief Stephen Hancocks (pictured, left of photo, with Russell Crisp), commented: 'We are delighted to hear that this new award will help to support the growth of practice-based research. Watch this space for future *BDJ* poster prizes!'



TWENTY-FIVE MORE PRACTICES TO JOIN PILOTS

The Department of Health (DH) announced on 5 October 2012 that around 25 more dental practices will be joining the piloting of new contractual arrangements in April 2013. Seventy practices are already participating in the pilots.

The British Dental Association (BDA) commented that the expansion of the pilots for a new dental contract in England is a positive step forward. 'The pilots require time, engagement with the profession and proper evaluation if they are to create a new contract that works for patients and practitioners,' said Dr John Milne, Chair of the BDA's General Practice Committee.

PIONEERING DENTAL FORUM TURNS 15

GDPUK, the online dentistry communication hub, is celebrating its 15th birthday. Thousands of registered users visit the site at all hours to share their views on a whole host of subjects.

GDPUK began in 1997 after Tony Jacobs wrote a letter to the *BDJ*¹ inviting dentists interested in creating a forum to get in touch. The worldwide web was only six years old and sharing information online was still in its infancy. Nevertheless, said Tony, he could see that it was possible for dentists to form an electronic community. 'It doesn't matter whether you are in a practice in Aberdeen or

Cornwall, you share the same concerns and interests.'

Initially, information was shared via email, with Tony sending out one bulk email to all registered users. GDPUK later became a Yahoo Group.

The move to becoming an independent gdruk.com involved a long gestation period. Tony employed several different developers, none of whom were able to supply exactly what he wanted. Eventually, Steve Van Russelt, a practising dentist, found a way to amalgamate several different bits of software to make one website. Steve is now the webmaster and Tony remains the administrator and moderator.

GDPUK has 4,500 registered users who, in any one month, make 17,000 unique visits to the site. For some years, it has also run a news page.

1. Jacobs A V. Electronic services for dentistry: mailing lists and forums. *Br Dent J* 1997; **183**: 121.

HANS KURER

It is with regret that we report the death of Hans Kurer on 17 August 2012, an enthusiastic and passionate dentist well known to the dental community.