

## ENZYME PREVENTS PERIODONTAL BONE LOSS

Researchers have discovered a way to prevent bacterial-induced periodontal bone loss by inhibiting the natural immune response to infection and reducing inflammation.

Periodontitis occurs as a response to bacterial pathogens, most notably *Porphyromonas gingivalis*. The enzyme GSK3 $\beta$  has been found to play a key role in directing the natural immune response to the infected area and stimulating the progressive inflammation that can cause gum to lose its attachment to teeth and results in bone loss.

Adamowicz *et al.*<sup>1</sup> hypothesised that the cell permeable GSK3-specific inhibitor, SB216763, could block this signalling pathway and thus protect against the inflammation process and subsequent bone loss. Mice were infected with *P. gingivalis* and then administered

with the GSK3-inhibitor after showing signs of systemic inflammation, which significantly reduced the pathogen-induced bone destruction.

Further testing is needed to rule out any side effects before this mechanism can be trialled in human studies, but the scientists hope to establish their method as an effective preventive therapy against periodontal disease progression.

The results are not only important for the prevention of gum disease but potentially other chronic inflammatory diseases where GSK3 $\beta$  plays a key role in the inflammatory signalling pathways.

1. Adamowicz K, Wang H, Jotwani R, Zeller I, Potempa J, Scott D. Inhibition of GSK3 abolishes bacterial-induced periodontal bone loss in mice. *Mol Med* 2012; doi: 10.2119/molmed.2012.00180.

By Laura Pacey

## HONOURS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

### Anniversary Medal

Professor St John Crean of the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) has been awarded the Anniversary Medal from the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Professor Crean is the Dean of the School of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education.

### Excellence award

Dr Michael Escudier, Senior Lecturer in Oral Medicine at King's College London Dental Institute, has been awarded the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) 'Excellence in Dental Education Award' in recognition of his outstanding contribution to excellence in dental education as a Mature Educator.

### BSP President

Philip Greene of the Malt House Specialist Dental Centre in Manchester has been appointed President for the British Society of Periodontology (BSP). Dr Greene has been in general and specialist practice for over 40 years and is highly experienced in all forms of periodontal surgical and non-surgical treatment and implantology.

## HAVE YOU TREATED LYNDON NOWELL?

The Merseyside Constabulary is asking dental professionals to check their patient records for any contact they may have had since 24 January 2002 with Lyndon Dean Nowell, born 23 March 1973.

Mr Nowell was last seen alive on 24 January 2002 and has not contacted anyone since that date. It is believed that he has been murdered. As part of the criminal case, the police will need to show that Mr

Nowell is in fact dead. Part of the evidence will be to prove that he has neither been seen or registered/had any contact with any organisation, agency or public body.

Anyone who has had contact with Mr Nowell in the past ten years is requested to email Claire. Scarisbrick@Merseyside.pnn.police.uk or call 0151 777 8622.

## BRING ON THE SPROUTS

Eating cruciferous vegetables at least once a week could cut the risk of developing mouth cancer, according to an article published in the *Annals of Oncology*.<sup>1</sup> Cruciferous vegetables are from the vegetable family *Brassicaceae* and include broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, sprouts, watercress and radish.

Mouth cancer campaigners the British Dental Health Foundation believe the

study is further evidence of the link between poor diet and mouth cancer, one of the risk factors for developing the disease.

The research revealed that compared to men and women who ate no cruciferous vegetables, those who ate them at least once a week cut their risk of mouth cancer by almost a fifth (17%). The results also showed that the vegetables cut the risk of a number of other cancers by up to almost 32%.

1. Bosetti C, Filomeno M, Riso P *et al.* Cruciferous vegetables and cancer risk in a network of case-control studies. *Ann Oncol* 2012; 2198-2203.

## HELP OFFERED TO STRANDED DENTAL GRADUATES

Following the announcement that some 35 UK dental graduates have been unable to access Foundation Year 1 training places this summer, Denplan has offered to assist any graduates who are seeking to develop their clinical skills over the coming year.

While recognising that some dental schools and postgraduate deaneries have been able to make interim arrangements for dental graduates unable to access Foundation Training, Denplan works with over 6,500 dental practitioners across the UK and will use this network of members to help graduates find clinical placements in private practices with dentists willing to nurture and develop them.

If you are, or are aware of any graduate who may wish to consider this offer, or a Denplan member dentist willing to assist, please contact Roger Matthews on rogerm@denplan.co.uk.

