

ALL CLINICAL TRIALS SHOULD BE REGISTERED PROSPECTIVELY

Dentist Mr James R. Allison has written to the *BDJ* to raise awareness of the AllTrials campaign.

AllTrials' aim is that all clinical trials are registered prospectively and that their methods and a summary of their results are made publicly available. This is important because the results of many clinical trials, particularly those funded by industry, are hidden, with negative results much more likely to remain unpublished.¹

Mr Allison said: 'The published literature becomes distorted and it is impossible for researchers and clinicians to fully appraise the evidence; this causes the benefits to be overstated and the risks downplayed leading to avoidable

suffering. The medicines and devices we prescribe as dental practitioners, be they antibiotics or implants, are subject to the same regulatory control as those in medicine and are sensitive to the same distortions.'

AllTrials was initiated in 2013 by the Cochrane Collaboration, *BMJ*, Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, Public Library of Science, James Lind Initiative, Bad Science and Sense about Science. It is supported by almost 80,000 individuals and 501 organisations.

BDJ readers are encouraged to sign the petition at www.alltrials.net.

1. Dwan K, Gamble C, Williamson P R, Kirkham J J. Systematic review of the empirical evidence of study publication bias and outcome reporting bias – an updated review. *PLoS One* 2013; **8**: e66844.

THE FACE OF DENTISTRY IN WALES RETIRES



Stuart Geddes celebrating his retirement from the BDA with from left to right, Sue Jones, Jacinta McKiernan and Andrea Greatex, all from the Wales office

Stuart Geddes has retired from the British Dental Association (BDA) after 20 years as National Director for Wales.

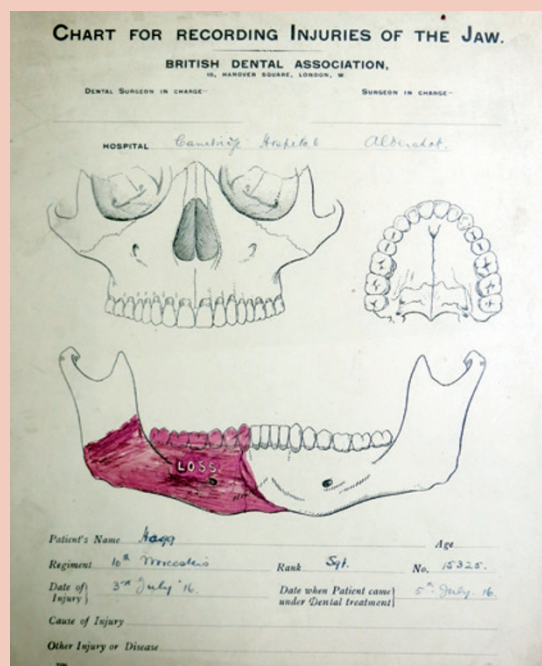
Stuart originally became a student member of the BDA between 1966 and 1970, before joining the South East Scotland Branch in 1970 then the South Wales Branch in 1973. He was a council member for the South Wales Branch for many years, became Branch Secretary and Member of the BDA Representative Board in 1994 and was also a member of the BDA Welsh Council and numerous committees.

As National Director for Wales, Stuart has supported and advanced dentistry in the whole of Wales. Before taking on the role, Stuart was a dental academic at the University of Wales in Cardiff where he oversaw the undergraduate education of thousands

of dental students. At the same time he ran his own dental practice in Usk.

When Stuart became BDA National Director for Wales, it was a new role, part time and without an office. Over time, Stuart's influence demonstrated to the BDA that there was a need to have local presence in Wales that was properly established and supported. As a consequence of Stuart's continuing patience and tenacity, the role grew in significance and the constructive contribution of the BDA within Wales grew to the size it is now, with a national office in Wales. Working alongside a wider team of policy and advisory staff providing support for practitioners and information and advice to NHS bodies within Wales, Stuart has become the recognisable face of the dental profession in Wales.

RECORDING JAW INJURIES IN WARTIME



A WWI dental surgeon's chart and notes. From the Antony Wallace Archive of BAPRAS. With thanks to the Hunterian Museum

The cover of this issue illustrates an actual dental surgeon's chart and notes from the plastic and jaw unit at the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot, 1916.

Kristin Hussey, Assistant Curator at the Hunterian Museum, provides some background to this cover.

In February 1916, the *BDJ* printed a two-page feature proposing a standardised chart to be used for recording jaw injuries. The suggestion was quickly adapted and by July of that year the 'Chart for Recording Injuries of the Jaw' was already in use at the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot. While standardisation was undoubtedly helpful for planning treatment, the large area in red labelled 'loss' serves to emphasise how the traumatic wounds inflicted during WWI challenged the dental surgeons of the day.

The plastic and jaw unit at Aldershot was founded by Harold Gillies in January 1916 with 200 beds. However, as the Battle of the Somme raged in July 1916, the unit was suddenly overwhelmed with 2,000 patients. The patient referred to in this dental chart was injured at the Somme on 3 July and was evacuated to Aldershot two days later. Early on, Gillies recognised the importance of collaboration between plastic and dental surgeon. He had received his introduction to facial injuries working alongside French-American dentist Charles August Valadier. At the Cambridge Hospital, Gillies was originally assisted by a dental department led by Leonard King and Alexander Fraser, although it is not to whom this chart belonged. William Kelsey Fry would join Gillies at Aldershot from autumn 1916 and transferred with the unit to new premises at the Queen's Hospital, Sidcup in 1917.

Chart and notes from the Antony Wallace Archive of the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS).