

of care homes in their target region. The team, led by Professor Stephen Lambert-Humble, estimates there are as many as 1,300 care homes in the region, with oral healthcare a challenging experience for many. They offer free training to care home staff and aim to engage with existing oral health promotion units and community dental services in the area.

Yasmin Allen, Dental Programme Director, explained: 'We know that CDS and existing oral health promotion teams are stretched, so it is very difficult for them on their own to implement initiatives in care homes. Likewise it is difficult for HEKSS to deliver the right advice and training without the support of care homes and those teams, so a joined up approach will pay dividends for everyone concerned. Working together is a different proposition. In many areas we can work with more care homes alongside other partners, which is really positive for us.'

'Unlike Gerodent who can take equipment into care homes, we have to look at other alternatives. It does become a little bit more challenging, but the underlying point is the necessity for this group of people to receive regular dental care.'

'If a resident can go out to the GP or the hairdresser they can go to the dentist too. We can't stress enough how important regular maintenance is – dental practice safer too. Gerodent take equipment into the homes, which is a great idea, but due to funding restrictions we have to look at other alternatives.'

So what can the UK learn from projects like Gerodent?

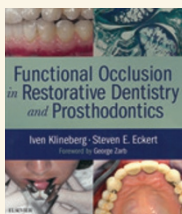
'In Europe there's so much going on; methods of sharing data and best practice isn't perhaps as sharp as it is here,' said Yasmin. 'We will continue to map out other programmes in the UK with the same aims as us and join forces and add value where possible.'

Like Gerodent the future challenges remain the same. People in the UK will be keeping their natural teeth for longer, as well as living longer, healthier lives. Add to that dental specific issues such as complex dentitions and these projects begin to look invaluable and ahead of their time. Yasmin believes it is inevitable that the training needs of the workforce will alter, and so will the skills needed to deliver to cope with the extra demand. Gerodent may be further along in the development process, but the IOHOPI team believe the same issues they face now will continue to arise.

'It's not as black and white as going into a care home and asking them to stop tea and cakes,' said Yasmin. 'It's a lovely social aspect of care homes, so we have to be very mindful of the impact such advice can have.'

'Our goal is to improve their quality of life. We know there are a number of general health problems specific to the elderly that have been associated with poor oral health. If we can improve one, hopefully it will improve the other.'

## BOOK REVIEW



### FUNCTIONAL OCCLUSION IN RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY AND PROSTHODONTICS

Iven Klineberg and Steven E. Eckert  
Mosby Ltd.

price £69.99 pp 288

ISBN 9780723438090

This book fills a gap in the literature available, by bringing together well-known biological theory, recent research and clinically relevant considerations for a 'functional occlusion' all-in-one text.

The scientific basis of the book is well evidenced throughout. There are four main sections: 1. Biological considerations, which covers background theory on the neural framework, occlusion & health, neuroplasticity and its implications for cognition, anatomy and pathophysiology; 2. Assessment of occlusal form, diagnostics for treatment planning and articulators; 3. Oral implant occlusion; and 4. Clinical practice and occlusion management.

The four main sections are further divided into 21 chapters, all easy to read and informative, with colour illustrations. The text is equally relevant for GDPs, undergraduates and postgraduates in all specialties of dentistry. I have no doubt it will be listed as a standard text in many universities and dental schools.

In particular, I enjoyed the sections on TMJ, as well as occlusion and oral implant restoration. I would certainly recommend this book as a very worthy addition to any practitioner's reference library.

J. CATO

## SUCCESS FOR DENTAL ALCOHOL REDUCTION TRIAL

On 28 January 2016, the UCL Dental Public Health Group led by Professor Richard Watt celebrated the successful completion of a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded study - the Dental Alcohol Reduction Trial (DART).

The successful study involved working with 12 dental practices across North London to assess the feasibility of GDPs providing brief alcohol advice to their patients. The Chief Dental Officer for England, Sara Hurley, gave a presentation about the importance of research to NHS dentistry and two of the practitioners that took part in the DART study, Shahab Mirjafari and Clare Grant, also shared their experiences of being involved in research. The evening closed with the presentation of research awards to each practice that took part in the DART study.

### ADDENDUM

We would like to apologise for inaccurately reporting the details of the MBE awarded to Paul Liddiard in the June 2015 Birthday Honours (*BDJ* 2016; 220: 95). Dr Liddiard was awarded the MBE for services to forensic and conventional dentistry in less-developed countries.

### YOUR ROLE WITHIN PRIMARY DENTAL CARE

Zoe Allen, a dentist and PhD student at Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, is researching dentists' perceptions of their professional roles within primary dental care. Zoe would like to invite dentists who work in general dental practice or community dental services to take part in this study.

To find out more, please visit <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/dentists-perceptions-of-their-clinical-roles>.