

DIARY

BDA UCL Eastman Careers Day

Date: 8 February 2013
Venue: Hotel Russell, London
www.bda.org/events/1359-careers-day-2013friday-8-february-2013london.aspx

8th Young Dentist Conference

Date: 9 February 2013
Venue: Royal College of Physicians, London
Telephone: 020 7399 1339
www.dentalprotection.org/ydc

On the Road to Better Aesthetics

Date (Venue): 9 February 2013 (Coventry Transport Museum); 15 February 2013 (The Sage, Gateshead); 16 February 2013 (London Zoo)
Telephone: 0845 873 6299
Email: sales@conferenceshop.com

BDA Seminar – Modern whitening

Date: 1 March 2013
Venue: BDA, London
Email events@bda.org
Telephone: 020 7563 4590
www.bda.org/seminars

Alpha Omega dental fraternity Jerusalem Conference

Date: 7-11 March 2013
Email: l.greenwall@btconnect.com

BDA Seminar – To save or to extract – how to solve the treatment decision dilemma

Date: 8 March 2013
Venue: BDA, London
Email events@bda.org
Telephone: 020 7563 4590
www.bda.org/seminars

British Dental Conference & Exhibition 2013

Date: 25-27 April 2013
Venue: ExCel London
www.bda.org/conference

BDA Seminar – Contemporary management of restored teeth

Date: 24 May 2013
Venue: BDA, London
Email events@bda.org
Telephone: 020 7563 4590
www.bda.org/seminars

BACD 10th annual conference

Date: 6-8 November 2013
Venue: The Hilton London Metropole
Email: suzy@bacd.com
www.bacd.com

DON'T TAKE A PINCH OF SNUS

A PhD student in Sweden has 'disproved the myth' that Swedish *snus* (a moist powder tobacco consumed by placing it under the lip) users have fewer dental caries. Some types of nicotine-free *snus* contain both carbohydrates and starch that increase the risk of cavities.

Lena Hellqvist studied oral health among *snus* users and said: 'Normal Swedish *snus* containing nicotine is alkaline and therefore raises oral pH levels, which could have a beneficial effect against acid attacks. However, there was no clinical confirmation during our studies that *snus* users have fewer caries.'

The number of *snus* users has increased in Sweden over the past 20 years.

WHO OMITTS ORAL HEALTH FROM FIVE-YEAR PLAN

African dental leaders meeting in Cape Town in the autumn 'deplored' the omission of references to oral health and oral diseases in the recently issued draft of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Work Programme 2014-2019.

In a strongly-worded statement at the end of a two-day African Summit on Oral Health, the dental leaders stressed the contradiction between the current draft and the WHO's previous assertions of the crucial role oral health plays in general health as well as the common risk factor approach provided for in the United Nations Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases.

The statement ultimately recommends that the WHO and its member states 'ensure that oral health maintains its rightful place in global health policy and reinforce actions in the field of oral health within the WHO Work Programme 2014 to 2019, in recognition of the vital role of oral health in general health, in particular in Africa.'

DEATH NOTICE

Dan Mehigan Senior died in Sydney on 16 December 2012 after an illness, with family members at his bedside.

A memorial service will be organised in the UK.

PAIN: CAN YOU FEEL IT?

An exhibition called 'Pain Less' that opened in November at London's Science Museum in the Antenna – Science News gallery, in collaboration with The Royal College of Anaesthetists, investigates the future of pain relief.

Last year, nearly 6 billion painkillers were sold in the UK and one in five people suffer from relentless chronic pain (www.sciencemuseum.org.uk). The exhibition explores the stories of four people who have different relationships with pain, from the patient who suffers with chronic pain in his missing limb, to a man with congenital insensitivity who feels no pain at all. It was discovered that this man had that genetic mutation when he chewed off half of his tongue as a young child.

Pain Less introduces the latest research into pain and consciousness. Researchers ask whether we really feel no pain during surgery under anaesthetic or if we simply do not remember it, and how this might affect us. Some research suggests that it might be possible to block the gene responsible for pain after a broken bone or operation without any side effects.

The exhibition will run until 30 June 2013.

It's a pain

Durham University and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust recently

organised a series of events on how to deal with chronic pain. 'It's A Pain' addresses how we attempt to live with pain of different kinds and how we can seek to overcome its potentially devastating effect on our quality of life. The series, which began with a lecture on 'how the brain is wired for pain', looks at the anatomy of pain, the discomfort caused by anxiety and depression, analgesic drugs and their limitations, the effectiveness of complementary medicine, the role of exercise, and the politics of pain management.

Dr Paul Chazot, who designed 'It's A Pain', said: 'Chronic pain has never been a more relevant topic. In Europe, chronic pain accounts for nearly 500 million lost working days every year and costs the European economy more than £28 billion during the same time period. A [global] debate is definitely required on the state of pain management.'

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