

portion of the population still having a large amount of dental decay. Shockingly, we're still seeing children have a full dental clearance and in these cases the dentists do make us aware of these families.

There was a period when dentists were very difficult to access, but now there is no reason why a child shouldn't have a dentist. Dental health is often taken less seriously, with parents passing on phobias and dental scare stories to their children. We've got better facilities in schools now for children who do either have phobias or special needs, so dentists can access these children when they normally wouldn't even get through the practice door.

#### **Do you assess dental neglect in children?**

**Ann** It's part of the general assessment and has been stressed particularly in the last couple of years. We don't actually open the mouth and have a look but in the general assessment you can gauge a child's oral health. If you can see there's a build-up of plaque or the gums are inflamed then you would be concerned. Often the parents have the same symptoms and it's quite a hard situation to handle if the mum has poor dental care; you have to be quite tactful.

Often parents think it doesn't matter if [the decayed teeth are] just baby teeth, so you have to explain the importance of baby teeth in relation to general health and in relation to the second set of teeth that come through, as well as stress how decayed teeth may be causing pain at the time. We're lucky to have a community dentist at the local health centre who will see any children that we're worried about.

#### **Who do you think is responsible for child dental health?**

**Jacqueline** I think foremost the parents but everyone nationally has a responsibility to try and improve children's dental health. If everyone took part of the responsibility it would reduce costs to the NHS for dental treatment and reduce the number of children being put through unnecessary treatment.

#### **What are your top tips to new parents for their child's dental health?**

**Ann** Stick to breast or formula milk for the first six months; prepare your own food then you've got control over the amount of sugars and salt in the meal; and avoid giving sugary snacks: this is a fast track to tooth decay.

1. Pacey L. 'One of the main problems is that parents put juice in feeding bottles.' *Vital*/summer 2013; 46–47.
2. Pacey L. 'We're still seeing children have a full clearance.' *Vital*/winter 2013; 22–24.

BY LAURA PACEY WITH KATE QUINLAN

If you or members of your dental team would like to sign up for BDJ Team, which will be published online and offer ten free hours of CPD this year, just email [k.quinlan@nature.com](mailto:k.quinlan@nature.com) with your details.

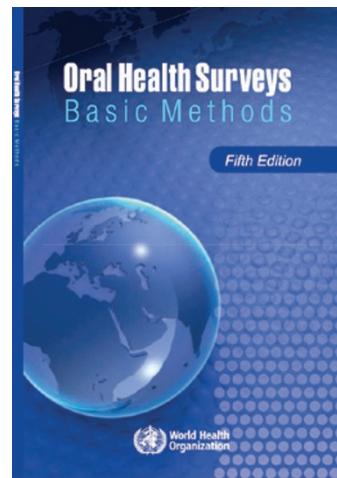
## TWO HEALTH GIANTS UNITE TO PUBLISH MANUAL

The International College of Dentists' (ICD) European Section, through the Philip Dear Fund, has sponsored the 5th edition of the World Health Organisation (WHO) manual *Oral health surveys, basic methods*. The liaison with the WHO is an historic milestone allowing ICD Fellows anywhere in the world to access essential information when planning and monitoring the hundreds of humanitarian projects carried out by sections of the College.

The manual outlines the principles of clinical oral health surveys as recommended by the WHO and includes guidance for conducting surveys, diagnostic criteria, the reliability of data and the selection of participants.

The public health problems associated with oral disease are a serious burden on countries around the globe, and the WHO has a long tradition of epidemiological survey methodology and surveillance in oral health, while the ICD has been focused on increasing educational and humanitarian aid projects worldwide. This collaboration marks a true symbiosis between two of the world's most respected health organisations.

[www.icd.org/content/publications/WHO-Oral-Health-Surveys-Basic-Methods-5th-Edition-2013.pdf](http://www.icd.org/content/publications/WHO-Oral-Health-Surveys-Basic-Methods-5th-Edition-2013.pdf)



## HONOURS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

### **Practice of the year commendation**

Cedar Dental Care was awarded a commendation by the BDA in their Good Practice Scheme Practice of the Year Award. Cedar Dental Care was the only practice in the UK to be awarded a commendation.

### **Visiting Professor**

Dr Paul Tipton has been awarded the honorary title Visiting Professor following his appointment as programme leader for the City of London Dental School's new MClinDent modules in restorative and cosmetic dentistry. Professor Tipton is the founder of Tipton Training.

### **Elective prizes**

Saul Konviser, a fifth year undergraduate student at King's College London Dental Institute who spent his elective placement in Cape Town, has won both the 2013 Dental Protection Student of the Year Award and the Dental Students Elective Prize, awarded by the Global Child Dental Fund (GCDFund) at the Dental Institute.

## IN THIS ISSUE



**BDJ** Production Editor Esther McKeown is the mastermind behind the crisp design of the pages of the *BDJ*, and most recently has redesigned the 'Upfront' section of the journal, incorporating News.

Esther joined what is affectionately known internally as 'Team *BDJ*' in 2005, at the same time relocating from Shakespeare country to a chic apartment in Wapping, by the Thames.

Recent years have seen Esther follow her heart to Manchester and she currently has Team *BDJ*'s longest commute!

**Did you know?** Esther bakes and decorates professional-standard cakes for friends and family. In another life she was Assistant Editor of *Rotary*, the official magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.