

## CONFERENCE REVIEW

## BAOMS JUNIOR TRAINEE GROUP 2016



Thinking about career options is always daunting, and considering a career in oral and maxillofacial surgery seems especially so given the lengthy training pathway. Although complex this speciality is exciting, diverse and rewarding, so well worth exploring further.

The 2016 British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (BAOMS) Junior Trainee Group Conference, this year held in Glasgow, aimed to address these concerns, as well as highlighting interesting progressions in the speciality.

This year's conference, focused on 'Medical Humanities', played host to a number of esteemed speakers exploring topics as broad as the history of oral and maxillofacial surgery, and how art can influence both education and practice. James Partridge, the founder of Changing Faces, gave an insightful talk regarding the patient's perspective of reconstructive surgery whilst Professor Hutchison discussed exciting advances Saving Faces are making within the field.

Internationally renowned artist Paddy Hartley spoke with passion about his work on the origins of WW1 facial reconstruction. Specifically he touched upon memorialisations and remembrance pieces, which were both inspiring and thought provoking, enabling me to view the field from a new perspective.

Various talks covering oro-facial infections, skin cancer and craniofacial surgery catered to a diverse audience ranging from undergraduate students to those about to enter speciality training, and proved beneficial to all.

Additional seminars during the two day event focused on how the Junior Doctor Contract, a current and relevant topic, will specifically impact oral and maxillofacial surgery, and highlighted the endeavours to secure pay protection, as well as broader support from the BAOMS council.

The conference also revealed exciting information about the Maxillofacial Trainee Research Collaborative, aiming to increase the opportunities for junior trainees to get involved in research.

The BAOMS Junior Trainee Group is an excellent arena for aspiring surgeons to develop a strong foundation and understanding of the speciality, affording access to opportunities and information to support their development.

More information about the BAOMS Junior Trainee Group is available online via the BAOMS website, BAOMS JTG Facebook group or [www.jtgonline.org.uk](http://www.jtgonline.org.uk).

BY IOAN DAVIES, OMFS DCT,  
BRADFORD ROYAL INFIRMARY

## FLUORIDATED MILK APPROVED FOR BLACKPOOL CHILDREN

Over 8,000 children in Blackpool are set to benefit from the introduction of fluoridated milk into their breakfast routine.

A proposal to introduce fluoridated milk to help reduce the risk of dental caries was approved by Blackpool Council's Executive on 18 January. The milk, which is recommended by the World Health Organisation,<sup>1</sup> is the latest in Blackpool Council's plans to tackle poor dental hygiene amongst children in the town. Figures show that almost half of 12-year-olds in the town have at least one decayed, missing or filled tooth – much higher than the national average of 33%.

Around 400 children in Blackpool are also admitted to hospital every year to have teeth extracted under general anaesthetic, at a cost to the NHS of thousands of pounds.

Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary for Blackpool Council, said: 'Through a number of methods such as education in schools and children's centres, as well as giving away toothbrushes and toothpaste to

children, we have managed to raise awareness of the importance of oral hygiene amongst Blackpool families.

'However, where some parts of the country can benefit from fluoride naturally appearing in their daily drinking water, in Blackpool we cannot.

'What we do have is a method through the free breakfast programme that allows us to reach all primary school children as they are growing up and make the fluoride milk available to them there. The scheme will be available to all primary school children but parents will have the option to opt out if they wish.'

A group will be formed combining Blackpool Council, Public Health England, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and oral health charity the Borrow Foundation to oversee the application and implementation of the scheme.

1. Bánóczy J, Petersen P E, Rugg-Gunn A J (eds). Milk fluoridation for the prevention of dental caries. Geneva: World Health Organisation, 2009. Available at: [http://www.who.int/oral\\_health/publications/milk\\_fluoridation\\_2009\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/oral_health/publications/milk_fluoridation_2009_en.pdf) (accessed January 2016).



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Reg Dinsdale

We are sad to announce that Reg Dinsdale passed away on the morning of 9 February 2016, peacefully, at Henleigh Hall Nursing Home, Sheffield.

Reg was a significant presence in the BDA for many years and the author of the very first version of the A12 Advice Sheet on infection control in dentistry. Reg realised that he needed to step up the infection control in his department – Sheffield oral surgery – and that there was no guidance, so he went ahead and researched and wrote it. Reg was a hugely respected force within dentistry in his time.

An obituary will be included in a future issue.

## Gordon Hodge

We regret to announce that Gordon Hodge died on 4 February 2016.

Gordon Hodge was born in Lewisham on 8 October 1923 and attended Colfe's Grammar School. He then studied dentistry at the Royal Dental Hospital in Leicester Square, London, qualifying in 1946. He spent his National Service at RAF Henlow as a Dental Officer. Subsequently, he ran his own NHS practice in Penge with his wife Beryl, also a dental surgeon, who qualified at RDH. The latter part of his professional life was in Buckinghamshire as a community dental officer.

He is survived by Beryl, and their children, Alison and Nigel.