

**The BDJ news page**

The BDJ accepts all general news items that might interest our readers. Press releases or articles should not exceed 500 words and may be edited. Please include a colour photograph if possible. As space for photographs is limited, priority will be given to good quality and/or interesting pictures. Please send BDJ news items to Alex Poole.

**Chair for Liz Kay**

Liz Kay has been promoted to the Chair of Dental Health Services Research at Manchester University.

Professor Kay (*below*) is currently senior lecturer in health services research and honorary consultant in dental public health at Manchester — a post she has



held since 1994. She first became a lecturer in dental public health at Glasgow in 1986, moving to a senior lectureship in dental public health at Dundee in 1990 and then the post of Senior (NHS) registrar in dental public health for South Glamorgan, Clwyd and Gwynedd and Dyfed health authorities in 1992.

**Poggo withdraws GA service**

The Poggo Group has decided to withdraw general anaesthetic services from its clinics. The move is one of the most high-profile reactions to the GDC's guidelines on anaesthesia, issued in November 1998. Poggo will still provide sedation services and relative analgesia to patients.

Colin Poggo said: 'It has been apparent for some time that, sooner or later, all general anaesthesia would take place in purpose built day-stay centres.'

**Colgate research awards 1998**



Above: recipients of the Colgate Research Awards, at the BDA in London. The awardees, who are set to gain work experience in specialist institutions around the world, are: Supriya Kapas, Aylin Baysan, Rachell Hall, Ivan Darby, Julian Yates, Claire Elcock and Michael Harrison.

**BADN pair shows the way to colleagues**

Two staff from the British Association of Dental Nurses have passed the BDTA's Introduction to Dentistry examination.

Pamela Swain and Dot Hawkins (*pictured below*) picked up their certificates from BDTA president Brian Whitby at the Royal Society of Medicine in London.

The pair will be the first of many from the BADN to pass the examination — the



organisation has decided follow the example of BDTA members and make the course compulsory for its staff.

**Association gives DBCs a new voice**

A new association has been formed for Dental Bodies Corporate. Chaired by Jonathan Wood, the Association of Corporate Dental Practices says it will focus on 'the shared vision' of its members and

will recognise that the country's growing band of DBCs do not always have the same aims and interests.

At its inaugural meeting in November 1998 the new body agreed its founding principles, including a commitment to raise the level of investment in dentistry, develop in-house quality-control procedures and formulate a code of practice.

**Insurance for dentists will be compulsory**

All dentists and doctors will need to have full insurance under new Government proposals to make professional indemnity cover a statutory requirement.

The change follows cases in which

**Sick Dentist Scheme**  
0171 487 3119

**Do you have a problem with alcohol or drug dependence? Do you know someone who does?**

**In either case help is available: phone the number above in total confidence.**

**BDA Dental Support Line**  
0870 6020413

**The BDA has set up a confidential support line offering counselling and advice from an independent counsellor and former dentist to dental students, dental staff, dentists and their families.**

**Lines are open from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Tuesdays and from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursdays. An answer service is available at other times and the line is monitored daily.**

## Oral and dental research trust awards



Above: recipients of the 1998 Procter and Gamble research awards, presented by the Oral and Dental Research Trust, at the Royal Society of Medicine. The awardees were invited to give short reviews of their research.

patients were unable to claim against uninsured clinicians who mistreated them, even though damages were awarded.

Once backed by legislation the proposals will require professional indemnity cover for all 'independent contractor' professions and their clinical staff.

The MDU, which estimates that only 3% of the medical and dental professions will be affected, welcomed the proposals.

## Blinkhorn is new Manchester dean



Anthony (Andy) Blinkhorn is the new dean at Manchester University's dental school.

Professor Blinkhorn qualified from Guy's in 1970. He got his PhD at Manchester and returned there in 1992 as professor of oral health.

## Hunt steps up



Nigel Hunt has been appointed to the clinical professorship in orthodontics at the Eastman.

In his speciality Professor Hunt is a postgraduate teacher, research worker and clinician. He is currently head of the orthodontic department, programme director and director of orthodontic research at the Eastman and honorary civilian consultant adviser to the Defence Dental Agency.

## Access all areas

Health minister John Denham has announced funding for a second wave of Personal Dental Services pilots designed to improve access to NHS dental care.

Due to start in October this year, a total of £340,000 will be available for new PDS

pilots and the Government expects half the country's health authorities to take part.

Services to be provided by the second PDS wave include: a mobile dental surgery for housebound patients; the introduction of dental therapists for simple treatments to free-up dentists for more complex cases, enabling them to register more patients; and an improvement of orthodontic treatment facilities for children.

## Well-travelled Fellow

The first travel Fellowship has been awarded to Stephen Smith (below, right), consul-



tant in restorative dentistry at the Eastman.

The award, from the Consultants in Restorative Dentistry Group, allowed Mr Smith to extend his stay at Sydney University's Faculty of Dentistry, where he was made a visiting specialist in periodontics.

## Board vacancy in BDA Central Counties Branch

There is a vacancy on the BDA Representative Board for a member of the Central Counties Branch to serve for the remainder of the 1997-2000 triennium, following the resignation of Professor R J Anderson.

The Representative Board is the principal executive committee and the board of directors of the Association.

Nominations for the vacancies, open to all members of the Central Counties Branch, must be in writing and supported by three branch members.

Nominees may also submit an election address of no more than 200 words.

Nomination forms are available from: Veronica Branton, BDA, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AL (tel: 0171 935 0875, ext. 225) or e-mail: v.branton@bda-dentistry.org.uk and should be returned no later than Monday March 15, 1999.

(In the event of a contested election a postal ballot will be held).

## A penny for your thoughts on EMU

The BDTA rounded-off 1998 with a debate on Europe at its Midwinter Meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine.

The debate centred on the issue of European monetary union: Malcolm Bruce MP and Simon Lane of Skillbond Direct made the case for joining EMU and Francis Maude MP and John Stroud of Astra Pharmaceuticals argued against participation. Dr Ulrich Wanner, secretary general of the Association of Dental Dealers in Europe, chaired the debate.

Before the debate began the audience was asked to put a penny into one of three boxes (*below*) to show its view on the subject — the result was in favour of joining EMU, though the number of those voting 'don't know' and against increased in a second vote that followed the debate.



## 36-hour lab service

Attenborough Dental's 36-hour laboratory Express service was launched at the 1998 Dental Showcase.

With the new service, work arriving at the laboratory before 8.30am is turned-round by the next day and the job dispatched by 5pm on an overnight courier.

The normal 3-day and 7-day laboratory services are still available. Full details of Attenborough's Express service can be found on the company's website at: [www.attenborough.com](http://www.attenborough.com)

**Reader response number: 051**

## Get some colour with Colgate

Colgate has launched the colouring competition for 1998/1999. Open to children of six-years-old and under, the competition will run until July 30, 1999.

This year the competition will feature the Rugrats cartoon characters. Special



*Above:* Chris Hunt, managing director of Stratec UK (*right*) with Professor Bradley at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery at the Royal London Hospital. Mr Hunt handed over a plating kit for the Department's visit to Nepal.

competition colouring pads of 100 sheets are available for waiting rooms, or for children to take home. They come with crayons supplied for younger entrants.

**Reader response number: 052**



## Restorative offers

Ivoclar-Vivadent has a range of new year offers on restorative products.

Every purchase of Ariston pHc Cavifil intro kit comes with a free Tetric Ceram refill pack in shade 210/A3, worth more than £45. A promotion pack of Ceram is available for £79.95, the same price as an assortment pack but with composite packing instrument, 55ml of Proxyt prophy paste, Vivapad light-protecting mixing palette and 40 Cavifils in 4 shades.

Dentists who buy Compoglass F cavifil refill packs get another pack free; there is a 'three for two' offer on Apexit root canal sealer.

**Reader response number: 053**

## Growing pains

Almost half the companies in the dental industry did not grow in 1997, according to Plimsoll Publishing's report *Dentistry — first edition 1999*. As only 3% of companies did not grow in 1993 the statistic appears to confirm pessimistic industry growth forecasts, though there is a small band of companies that still achieved 20% or higher annual sales growth in 1997.

The news on pre-tax profit margins is also gloomy — they hit an all-time low of 2.5% in 1996, rising to 4.5% in 1997. The report costs £305, with a 5% discount for *BDJ* readers (call Jennifer Ovington on 01642 257800).

## Barney joins the club



Trycare has added the Barney character (*above*) to its range of Motivator stickers. Prices start at £19.95 for rolls of 500 stickers.

**Reader response number: 054**