

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible. Please direct your correspondence to the News Editor, Arveen Bajaj at the BDJ, 64 Wimpole Street WIG 8YS or by email to bdj@bda.org

Dental technician registration

The GDC agreed some points regarding entry to the register for dental technicians during the two year 'transitional' registration period. During this time, dental technicians may be registered if they are members of the existing voluntary register of dental technicians or hold a dental technician registrable qualification or meet a new, seven in ten years criterion.

After the two year transitional registration period, dental technicians may only be registered if they hold a dental technician registrable qualification.

The requirements of registration are that only registered dental technicians (RDTs) may sign off work produced in dental laboratories, RDTs will be responsible for supervising unregistered laboratory manufacturing workers, and being responsible for ensuring that they work within the limits of their competence. Also RDTs are under the standard obligation to self-limit the scope of the tasks that they undertake.

With regards to experience, under the transitional arrangements, applicants for registration as a dental technician will need to be competent at managing the manufacture of a range of custom-made dental devices within one of the following treatment modalities; fixed prosthodontics, removable prosthodontics and orthodontics.



Recognition for Bury team



The Bury Dental Access Centre was officially opened recently by Chief Dental Officer for England Raman Bedi where he also presented staff there with an Investor In People award. The Centre offers dental treatment for non-registered patients.

NHS develop fraud test for gold inlays

A new test to check the standard of gold inlays used by dentists in England and Wales has been developed by the NHS Counter Fraud Service (CFS) and the AMTAC group.

The non-invasive test takes a sample of the patients' gold inlay which is then sent to AMTAC's laboratories.

A series of checks are made to determine whether the content of gold in the inlays meets the NHS standards. The findings are then sent to the NHS CFS Dental Fraud Team (DFT) and if necessary investigated.

The test was designed after recent investigations by the DFT uncovered the suspected use of cheap materials for gold inlays by dentists who then claimed back the full amount from the Dental Practice Board.

The NHS Counter Fraud Service claimed that the AMTAC test was an important development in countering the fraudulent use of inferior materials by a minority of dentists.

The NHS Statement of Dental Remuneration stipulates that dentists must use 60 per cent gold when giving patients inlays. In recent investigations by the DFT, some patients' inlays contained only two per cent gold.



DIARY

January 2004

Career opportunities in UK dentistry

Date: 23.01.04

Venue: Institute of Education, London

Contact: Tatyana Stratford, Eastman Dental Institute

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7905 1244

E-mail: t.stratford@eastman.ucl.ac.uk

February 2004

Quality management in practice

Date: 20.02.04

Venue: British Dental Association

Lecture Theatre, London

Contact: Kath Blackler, Events Office

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7905 1244

E-mail: events@bda.org

March 2004

Craniofacial Society of Great Britain & Ireland Annual Meeting

Date: 31.03.04 - 02.04.04

Venue: Bath, Avon, UK

Contact: Jackie Nash

Fax: +44(0) 117 3444543

E-mail: jackie.nash@uwe.ac.uk

May 2004

British Dental Conference and Exhibition

Date: 06.05.04 - 08-05.04

Contact: Events Office,

British Dental Association

Venue: Bournemouth International

Centre

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7563 4590

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7563 4591

E-mail: events@bda.org

BDA pleased with fluoridation outcome

The British Dental Association has welcomed the decision by MPs to give communities the right to choose fluoridated water.

In a vote on Clause 58 of the Water Bill, MPs rejected an outright ban of fluoride schemes by a large margin and similarly voted against a move which would have put the power in the hands of local authorities rather than strategic health authorities.

The Bill then moved to a third reading, giving communities across England and Wales the chance to choose to have fluoride added to their water supplies.

Chief Executive of the British Den-

tal Association, Ian Wylie said that the outcome was good news for the dental health of communities across England and Wales as having fluoride added to their water could make a real difference to the levels of tooth decay and disease.

Under existing legislation, although health authorities can request that local supplies be fluoridated, they cannot compel the water company to do so.

With Clause 58 now in place, the final decision on whether or not to fluoridate water supplies will shift from PLCs to local people.

Athenian honours for Leeds professor



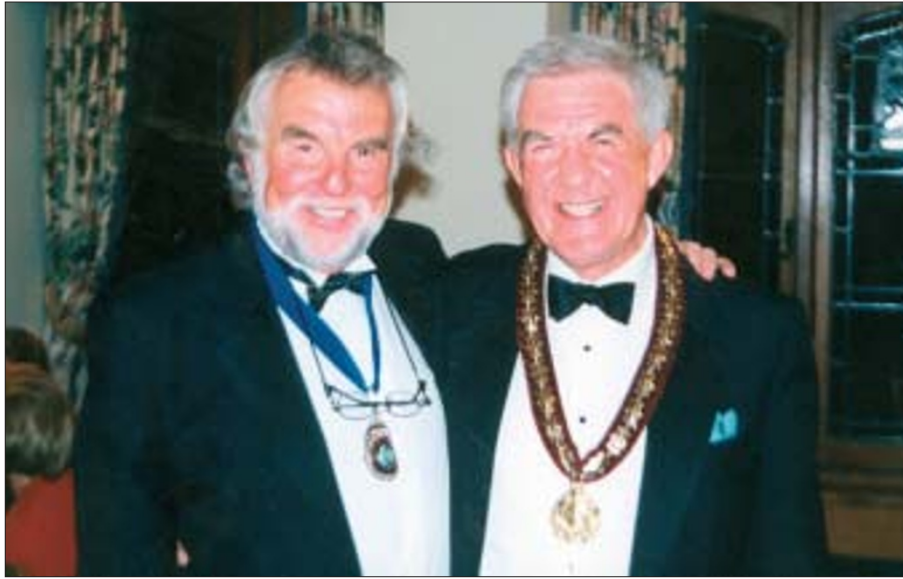
Professor Martin E J Curzon was recently honoured with a DSc honoris causa by the University of Athens, one of the oldest universities and one of only four in dentistry in its history.

The Emeritus Professor in Child Dental Health at Leeds Dental Institute was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his research and teaching in paediatric dentistry in Europe and the UK.

It was also awarded in recognition of his founding of the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry.

Professor Curzon delivered part of his speech at the ceremony in Greek, which he did entirely phonetically.

President's event



The Central Counties President's Dinner was held at Alveston Manor in Stratford-Upon-Avon this year and attended by over 90 people. (Above: Guest speaker BDA president Air-Vice Marshall Ian McKintyre (right) with Professor David Thomas, President BDA Central Counties 2003/4)

Unusual item donated



Dentist Fredrik Dean, who is emigrating to New Zealand in December, has donated an unusual item to the Dorset based Fiona Appleyard Appeal. Dr Dean donated the personalised car number plate 'M30UTH' so that it could be sold to raise money for the appeal and another charity, Daystar.

The appeal is looking for offers in excess of £350 for the number plate. For more information contact www.appleyard-appeal.org.uk.

New Dean at Leeds



Dr Margaret Kellett was recently appointed Dean/Director at the Leeds Dental Institute. Dr. Kellett, who graduated at the University of Manchester in 1978, came to Leeds in 1991 and has already served the Institute in the capacity of Clinical Director and, more recently, as Head of the Division of Restorative Dentistry.

Professional Conduct Committee update

The Professional Conduct Committee sat for eight days in September. In addition to the case of Mr Abayomi Abiola Ojetunde it heard three cases.

Mr Hamid Mozneb's case opened in November 2002 but judgement was postponed until September 2003. The Committee decided to postpone judgement for a further period of 12 months.

Mrs Esme Helen Halliday was convicted of 20 charges of dishonestly obtaining a money transfer and the Committee decided to suspend Mrs Halliday's registration for three months.

Finally in the case of Mr Majid Mira the Committee found him not guilty of serious professional misconduct but expressed its disapproval.