

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

CPD online

The Eastman have announced that the BDJ online CPD programme now has in excess of 5,000 registered users.

As a result of the success of this continuing education project, the Eastman can only accept free submissions from BDA members who submit online. All paper submissions (posted or faxed) will now cost £10 in order to cover administrative costs.



New visiting Professor appointed

Professor James Roelofse has been appointed visiting Professor at the Eastman Dental Institute. He will be developing conscious sedation courses for medical and dental practitioners within Eastman CPD.

He is Professor and Head of Anaesthesiology and Sedation at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and was previously Professor and Consultant Anaesthesiologist at the University of Stellenbosch. Professor Roelofse has lectured internationally on conscious sedation and has a special interest in paediatric sedation.



Gearing up for better health



Craigavon and Banbridge Health and Social Care Group (HSCG) in Northern Ireland is promoting healthy eating and lifestyle choices in the area by funding a new pilot scheme offering fresh fruit and drinking water to local primary schools. The move is in response to both increasing levels of tooth decay in young children and concerns about children becoming overweight. The project 'Get in Gear 4 Health' is a pilot scheme which focuses on schools in more deprived wards that have higher levels of free school meal entitlement and higher levels of tooth decay. Each child has a dental check-up, is weighed, measured and their Body Mass Index is taken by their school nurse before they begin the scheme. This will then be assessed again at the end in order to evaluate the project.

GDC reforms given the go ahead

The Government is set to introduce legislation which will allow the GDC to take forward its second phase of reforms, from January 2005.

The legislation will give the GDC new powers to extend statutory GDC registration to cover the whole dental team, including dental nurses and dental technicians, set up a complaints scheme for non-NHS dental patients, reform its procedures for dealing with misconduct and ill health amongst dental professionals, plus introduce new procedures to tackle problems of poor performance in dentists and remove the current restriction on the number of dental bodies corporate.

These initiatives make up the second phase of the GDC's continuing reform programme, which is being implement-

ed through a series of amendments – Section 60 orders – to the Dentists Act. The first wave of GDC reforms allowed the Council to become smaller, with greater lay membership and to introduce compulsory continuing professional development for all dentists.



General Dental Council

DIARY

April 2004

Methodological Issues in Oral Health Research

Date: 21-23.04.04

Venue: Leuven, Belgium

Contact: Secretariat

Tel: +32 (0) 16 33 68 92

Email: dental2001@med.kuleuven.ac.be

www.kuleuven.ac.be/biostat/dental2004

May 2004

British Dental Conference and Exhibition

Date: 06-08.05.04

Contact: Delegate Management Services

Venue: Bournemouth International Centre (BIC)

Tel: 0870 166 6625 or + 44 (0) 1252

771 425 (from overseas)

Fax: 0870 522 8890 or + 44 (0) 1252

771 790 (from overseas)

www.bda-events.org

Teaching Challenges for Changing Times

Date: 11.05.04

Venue: University of Liverpool

Contact: Dr Lesley Longman

Tel: +44 (0) 151 706 5110

Fax: +44 (0) 151 706 5807

Email: lplong@liverpool.ac.uk

Defence Dental Agency Clinical Day

Date: 21.05.04

Venue: JSCSC Officers' Mess, Shrivenham

Contact: Captain Paul Leighton

Tel: +44 (0) 1296 656407

Email: dda-ppcc@defence.mod.uk

VDPs win prizes

Lawrence Ferster from Bedford PCT was the winner of the 2003 Cordent Trust/Dentsply VDP Award. He received a cheque for £1,000 for his winning project – a pilot study for a new leaflet entitled Visiting the Dentist.

The leaflet focused on young patients' first visit to the dentist and encouraged patients to visit the dentist in order to prevent problems rather than just to treat them. The runner up prize of £400

was awarded to Michelle Stennett from the Wessex VT Scheme. Her project emphasised the benefits of sugar-free chewing gum. Regional VDP trainers submitted the best (prevention based) project of VDP's in their region to be reviewed by a panel of clinicians, academics and Dentsply staff who then selected the first and second prize winners. The 2003 awards were presented at a dinner hosted by Peter Rees, General Manager of Dentsply, in Covent Garden.



From left to right, Michelle Stennett, David Philips (Cordent Chairman) and Lawrence Ferster at the awards.

Family doctor given oral health award

A family doctor from Oldham has become the latest to win an oral health award for promoting oral health. Dr Mohammed Hossain's practice in Failsworth got the Oral Health Promoting Medical Practice award, by providing sugar free medicines where possible and not using sugary food, drinks or sweets as rewards. The practice also provided oral health resources and promoted dental registration. It is one of 35 practices from across Oldham who have signed up to promoting oral health. The scheme began 1996 and because of poor dental decay rates it was decided to involve GP's and nurses who are often the first health contact.



Dr Hossain giving four-year-old patient Lea Abell stickers and a certificate instead of sweets

New Director appointed

Brigadier C. M. James QHDS L/RADC, was recently appointed Director of the Army Dental Service (DADS). He graduated from King's College Hospital, London in 1972 and was first commissioned into the Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) as a dental cadet in 1970. Since graduating he has served as a general duty dental officer in several parts of the UK, Germany and also in Hong Kong and Brunei. In Brunei he served as Chief Dental Officer with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces. On his return he pursued postgraduate studies and gained his MGDSRCS and DGDP.

Brigadier James commanded an RADC Dental Group and later a Defence Dental Agency (DDA) Region on the formation of the DDA. He spent over two years as Director of Primary Dental Services to the British Forces Health Service in Germany before returning to the UK to become Deputy Director of Clinical Services to the DDA Headquarters. He currently holds the post of DDA Director of Resources in addition to DADS.



London Professors awarded at IADR



Professor David Beighton

Two Professors from King's College London Dental Institute were awarded two of 15 Distinguished Scientist Awards conferred annually by the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) at its opening ceremonies in Honolulu, Hawaii recently.

Professor of Oral Microbiology, David Beighton, received the 2004 Research in Dental Caries Award which was designed to stimulate and recognise outstanding and innovative achievements that have contributed to the basic understanding of caries aetiology and/or to the prevention of dental caries. His work focuses on the microbial ecology of dental plaque in relation to the initiation and progression of dental caries in children and the elderly.



Professor Paul T. Sharpe

Professor Paul T. Sharpe was awarded the 2004 Craniofacial Biology Research Award, which recognises individuals who have contributed to the body of knowledge in craniofacial biology over a significant period of time and whose research contributions have been accepted by the scientific community.

A Dickinson Professor of Craniofacial Biology, he conducts his research on the molecular control of tooth development and on tissue engineering/stem cell approaches in regenerative dentistry. Both awards consisted of a commemorative plaque and a cash prize.

Orthodontist group change name

The Specialist Practitioner Group has changed its name to the Orthodontic Specialists Group (OSG). The group consists of 570 orthodontic specialists who work in dedicated practices around the UK.

Darrell Romer, chairman of the OSG, which is part of the British Orthodontic Society, said that the change was made as effective communication was of paramount importance. He added that it would help everyone working in primary care, in

particular patients, if the groups' name described its members' roles more accurately.

The OSG is one of six groups which form the British Orthodontic Society (BOS), the other groups being the Community Group, the Consultant Orthodontists Group, the Practitioners Group, the Training Grades Group and the University Teachers Group. The BOS has a total membership of 1771.