

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, The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW or by email to bdj@bda.org

Name change

On the 1 April 2005 the Defence Dental Agency was renamed the Defence Dental Services, under leadership of its new Director, Brigadier Chris James. The disestablishment of the Defence Dental Agency as a Defence Agency was announced at the beginning of this year by the Under Secretary of State for Defence.

There will be no staff cutbacks as a result of the removal of Agency status. The Defence Dental Services will continue as a tri-Service military organisation, providing dental services to all members of the UK Armed Forces and those entitled civilians working for the military residing overseas, and will become more fully integrated within a coherent military healthcare delivery system.

Brigadier James and his staff will continue to operate from the Defence Dental Services headquarters at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire.

Pictured below, (on the left) the outgoing Chief Executive of the Defence Dental Agency, Major General John Gamon CBE QHDS, handing over to Brigadier Chris James QHDS the new Director of the Defence Dental Services.



PCD training

The training and education of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry (PCDs) should be based on a skills escalator approach incorporating flexibility in roles and entry should be inclusive facilitating recruitment of individuals with few formal qualifications. This is one of the findings in a new study looking at options of the training and education of PCDs.

Ski champions



The RADC team had their best year ever at the Army Medical Ski Championships in Claviere, Italy which took place recently. They won a multitude of trophies including – for the first time – the Weir Cup, which is awarded to the overall winning team. Competing teams consisted of members from the all over the services, including the regular and territorial army, medical, regimental and field hospitals. The Director RADC – Brigadier CM James was also present. Pictured above, the RADC Nordic Ski Team, front row left to right: Col Kasasian, Capt Cerajewska, Maj Strickland, LCpl Brown. Back row left to right: Maj Gamble, Capt Greaves, Capt Usmani, Lt Col Richardson, LCpl Willcox, Capt Lindsay, Capt Woodward, Capt Gibbs.

New first

Dr Michael R. Norton recently became the first Fellow from within the United Kingdom to be inducted as the 75th Fellow of the Academy of Osseointegration in Orlando, Florida USA at its annual congress.

The Academy has over 5,000 members and fellowship is conferred on those who can demonstrate a significant contribution to the field of osseointegration and to the Academy itself. Dr Norton represents only the tenth such Fellow from outside the North American continent.



In the study, 'An appraisal of options of the training and education of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry' by J. T. Newton, K. Jones, P. D. Newton and D. E. Gibbons to be published in the next issue of the *BDJ*, a review of training and education programmes for PCDs throughout the world was undertaken and the programmes of training were said to vary along four dimensions: the role which the learner trains for; the nature of the qualifications required for entry to the training

pathway, the method of training and the location of training.

An educational model of the training and education of PCDs is proposed based upon these four dimensions, which seeks to maximise the benefits of the elements whilst minimising the disadvantages.

Read about the GDC Chief Executive and Registrar Anthony Townsend's views on career pathways and education for PCDs in the latest issue (Spring 2005) of the *BDJ* supplement, *Vital*.

DIARY

April 2005

Dental Sedation Teachers' Group Annual Symposium 2005

Date: 26.04.05

Venue: The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, London

Tel: +44 (0) 141 221 6072

Fax: +44 (0) 141 221 1804

Email: n.d.robb@dental.gla.ac.uk

www.dstg.co.uk

Irish Dental Association Annual Scientific Conference

Date: 14-16.04.05

Venue: Killarney, Ireland

Tel: 00 353 1 283 0499

Email: info@irishdentalass.ie

IDS International Dental Show

Date: 12-16.04.05

Venue: Cologne

Tel: +44 01604 - 621014

Fax: +44 0870 990 9523

Email: tradefairs@yorks-travel.co.uk

www.idfdentalconference.com

FGDP UK & FDS Dentists with a Special Interest

Date: 21.04.05

Venue: The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7869 6758 / 6768

Email: fgdp@rcseng.ac.uk

www.rcseng.ac.uk/fgdp

May 2005

The Association of Dental Implantology (ADI) 2005 International Congress

Date: 12-14.05.05

Venue: Edinburgh International Congress Centre

Tel: +44 (0) 208 487 5555

Fax: +44 (0) 208 487 5566

Email: adi.uk@btinternet.com

www.adi.org.uk

The BDA 2005 British Dental Conference and Exhibition

Date: 19-21.05.05

Venue: Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), Glasgow

Tel: 0870 166 6625

Email: events@bda.org

www.bda-events.org

June 2005

AvMA Legal, Ethical & Clinical Issues in Dentistry

Date: 07.06.05

Venue: General Dental Council Chamber, London

Tel: +44 (0) 208 688 9555

www.avma.org.uk/conferences

Increase in exam fees

The General Dental Council has agreed to seek an increase in the fees charged to candidates sitting the International Qualifying Examination (IQE), to help meet the growing demand for places from overseas dentists wanting to work in the UK.

The IQE is funded by the fees candidates pay to sit the exam. To be able to run a new, larger programme of sittings, the GDC has agreed to increase the fees for Parts A and C of the IQE from £550 and £750 to £600 and £950 respectively, and to leave the Part B fee (£650) unaffected. The fee increases are expected to be implemented for all IQE examinations taking place after June 2005, subject to approval by the Privy Council.

In 2004, the GDC increased the capacity of the IQE by over 120% compared to the capacity for 2003, thanks to a special subsidy from the Department of Health (England) and the support of UK dental schools, which hold the exam. As a result, candidates' waiting times were reduced significantly and 199 dentists became eligible to apply for GDC registration over the year.

The GDC is keen to ensure that IQE candidates continue to have an early opportunity to sit the exam and has negotiated a flexible programme of IQE sittings with dental schools, with enough capacity to meet the expected demand for places over the next two years. It claims this should enable dentists to go through the examination process more swiftly than in the past.

GDC President, Hew Mathewson said: "The IQE is self-funding. The GDC covers the costs of running the examination through candidates' fees, rather than subsidising it through the annual fees paid by GDC registrants. The Department of Health has offered a fixed sum to help fund the new, extended, flexible programme of IQE sittings, but an immediate increase to candidates' fees is needed to ensure the GDC covers its costs and those incurred by the dental schools holding the exam."

The IQE is the GDC's examination for dentists from overseas who wish to practise in the UK but whose primary dental qualifications are not recognised for full registration with the GDC. The examination tests the dentist's skills and knowledge and, after passing all three parts, successful candidates can apply for registration with the GDC.



GDC spotlight on implant dentistry

The GDC's Implant Dentistry Group was set up last January to review standards and training in implant dentistry and to make recommendations to the GDC's Education Committee on how best to protect the public.

In October the Group reported to the Education Committee on its findings and identified that implant dentistry is a new and fast growing aspect of dentistry, an invasive procedure which, in circumstances where a dentist has not been adequately trained, poses a risk to patients and an area in which there is a lack of guidance for dentists.

The Education Committee endorsed the concerns identified in the Group's report. According to the GDC, though it requires dentists to practise only within their competence, the report suggests that some dentists are practising implantology without adequate training. It adds that whilst it is not responsible for the setting of detailed clinical standards in particular areas of dentistry, it is clear that action is needed to protect patients. The GDC will be setting up a meeting with the various professional groups to facilitate the setting and publication of core dental implantology guidelines, and to establish a longer-term mechanism for updating this guidance.

Winning presentation

Two dental students from Dundee Dental School won first prize for their presentation entitled "Quantitative ^1H Magnetic Resonance Micro-imaging of Teeth" at the 2005 BDA / Dentsply Student Clinician Programme.

Eilidh Morgan and Nadia McMinn were among students from fourteen dental schools in the UK and Ireland who participated in the event. Their prize is an all expenses paid trip as guests of Dentsply International, to the American Dental Association's Annual Conference to be held in Philadelphia in October.

Each of the participants was honoured at the annual dinner, this year held at London's Savoy Hotel.



The winners at the 2005 BDA / Dentsply Student Clinician Programme awards

From Glasgow to Boston



Dr Jason Leitch, a clinical lecturer in Oral Surgery and Sedation, at the University of Glasgow Dental School has been successful in obtaining the Quality Improvement Fellowship from the Health Foundation

(www.health.org.uk). It provides funding for him to spend a year in Boston at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (www.ihl.org), commencing July 2005.

Dr Leitch is the first dentally qualified individual to be successful in obtaining this prestigious fellowship.

Quality Improvement Fellowships aim to develop a group of senior leaders with the enthusiasm, experience and skills to promote quality improvement nationally and build institutional capability and performance in quality improvement.

Search for winner

For the third year running, the QUIT Awards run by QUIT, the charity dedicated to helping people stop smoking and sponsored by Nicotinell, are searching for the Smoking Cessation Supporter of the Year 2005. Aimed at dentists and other health professionals from across the UK, the Award seeks to recognise innovation, excellence and dedication, in individuals or teams who have made a real and significant impact on smoking cessation services in their area. The Award will run in tandem with the Quitter of the Year Award launched to celebrate and reward ex-smokers whose stories will inspire the eight million people in the UK who want to stop smoking.

If you run your own smoking cessation programme or know someone who deserves to be crowned Smoking Cessation Supporter of the Year or Quitter of the Year 2005, call the Quitline free on 0800 00 22 00 (open every day from 9am to 9pm) for an application form or enter on-line at www.quit.org.uk. The closing date for nominations is Thursday 28 July. Smoking Cessation Supporter finalists will be chosen by an expert selection panel with a special award ceremony taking place in London in December. The winning individual or team will win a tailor-made QUIT training package to help expand and enhance their service.

Practice achieves first

Rottingdean Dental Care has recently become the first practice in Brighton to hold both the BDA's Good Practice Scheme standard and the Investors in People standard. It achieved the Investors in People standard in 2002.

Rottingdean is a five dentist practice in West Street, Rottingdean. The practice provides a preventative approach to dental care, and a full range of cosmetic and general dental services.

Pictured left to right, Graham Keeling, Principal, Lisa Costigan, Principal, and team members Sonya Trott, Sarah Montgomery, Joanna Ribeiro, Karyn Foss, and Donna-Marie Hollingdale.



The team outside the practice