

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

Oral cancer screening investigated

Opportunistic screening for oral cancer in general dental practice in the UK is unlikely to be an effective preventive strategy, according to a recent paper in the *Journal of Medical Screening* (Netuveli G, Sheiham A, Watt R G. *J Medical Screening* 2005; **13**: 47-50).

The researchers, from Imperial College and University College, London studied data from individuals collected in two large national surveys to identify the relationship between dental attendance and recognised oral cancer risk factors. The factors included were males of age over 40 years, alcohol intake greater than 28 units per week, cigarette consumption above 20 per day, and fruit and vegetable consumption of less than five times per day; which were combined to create a risk score.

Overall, the probability of regular dental attendance was low in all groups who demonstrated a higher risk of oral cancer, indicating that the yield from opportunistic screening for the condition during dental check-ups is likely to be low. Noting that risk factors tend to cluster, the authors suggest that a probable explanation of their findings is that drinking, smoking and a poor diet generally go together and that such individuals are the least likely to take preventive action of any sort.

FGDP(UK) and FDS move to establish joint college



The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) (FGDP(UK)) and the Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) have announced their intention to move towards the establishment of a joint college. Formation of the college is supported by the Faculties' parent body, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, under whose auspices the new organisation will be created.

Dean of the FGDP(UK), Mike Mulcahy, said that a single, recognised academic home for the whole profession was overdue. 'Our combined membership of primary care practitioners, specialists and dental care professionals is in excess of 6,000, which would represent a very strong voice among the institutions of dentistry,' he said. 'The concept is that each Faculty will retain its own identity under an umbrella organisation, but prior to that, proposals for the joint college will be subject to consultation with the membership of each Faculty.'

The Faculties have been collaborating for some time to merge their two membership examinations – the MFGDP(UK) and the MFDS – into a single, more flexible exam for launch in late 2007. They have also been increasing the number of joint educational programmes and activities they offer. Professor Farida Fortune, Chair of the FDS Examinations Committee, said: 'The aim of the new examination will be to assess competencies and it can be taken by any dentist at the end of two years of General Professional Training or at any point in their career thereafter. In this way, mobility between the primary and secondary sectors of dentistry will be enhanced.'

A formal announcement will be made in the FGDP(UK)'s forthcoming April newsletter to members.



The silver screen

Smile-on were the winners of a Silver Award in the Interactive Multimedia Publishing category at the recent, prestigious International Visual Communications Association (IVCA) Awards ceremony. The award was for the programme Key Skills in Primary Dental Care, the self-study package developed for the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK). In adjudicating, the judging panel noted that it is 'a very functional and informative e-learning package that raised the bar for effective CPD communications'.

Pictured receiving the award at the IVCA's dinner, the highlight of the visual communication industry's year, the team from Smile-on were joined by Dean of FGDP (UK) Mike Mulcahy (left).

DIARY

May

Dental Sedation Teachers' Group
Annual Symposium 2006
Undergraduate Sedation Teaching: Where
are we?

Venue: New Hunts House, Guy's Campus,
London SE1 1UL
Date: Tuesday 9 May 2006
Email: carole.boyle@kcl.ac.uk
www.dstg.co.uk

2006 British Dental Conference and
Exhibition

'Making it work together'
Venue: International Conference Centre,
Birmingham
Date: 18-20 May 2006
telephone 0870 166 6625
www.bda-events.org

June

10th European Congress Dentomaxillofacial
Radiology

Venue: Provinciehuis, Leuven, Belgium
Date: 31 May - 2 June 2006
www.10ecdmfr.be

112th Meeting of the American Dental
Society of Europe

Venue: Dubrovnik, Croatia
Date: 27-30 June 2006
Tel: 0141 331 0088
www.adse.co.uk

July

82nd Congress of the European Orthodontic
Society

Venue: Hofburg Congress Center, Vienna,
Austria
Date: 4-8 July 2006
Tel. (+43/1) 531 16 - 38
Fax: (+43/1) 531 16 - 61
e-mail: azmedinfo@media.co.at

September

The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry
Annual Scientific Conference

'The Art & The Science'
Venue: The Hilton, Leeds City
Date: 12-15 September 2006
www.bspd.co.uk/conf-2006.html

FDI Annual World Dental Congress
Venue: Shenzhen, China

Date: 22-25 September 2006
Email: congress@fdiworldental.org
www.fdiworldental.org

First toothpaste available on DPF

Colgate Duraphat 2800 ppm fluoride toothpaste has become the first toothpaste to be listed in the Dental Practitioners' Formulary (DPF). This means that Duraphat, which is listed as 'Sodium Fluoride Toothpaste 0.619% DPF', can now be prescribed free of charge to all NHS patients who are exempt from prescription charges.

Colgate Duraphat 2800 ppm fluoride toothpaste is the only high-fluoride toothpaste to contain 0.619% sodium fluoride, equivalent to twice the level of fluoride in regular toothpaste. It has been recommended for management of high-risk adult caries patients since its launch in 2002 and last year, the indicated use was amended to include all high caries risk patients from 10 years of age. This amendment has made the toothpaste a useful tool in preventing caries developing on the new surfaces of emerging permanent teeth. The new DPF listing should mean that more children can now benefit from its use.



Because it does not require any special routine by the patient, simply being used in place of their normal toothpaste, Duraphat can prove a simple and effective method of delivering everyday high fluoride protection. More information is available from Colgate on 01483 401901.

Annual General Meeting of the British Dental Association Birmingham, 18 May 2006

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of members of the British Dental Association will be held in Birmingham at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Cohen Room (Hall 4), at 10.00 am on Thursday 18 May 2006 to transact the following business:

Ordinary business

- To receive and consider the audited accounts for the financial year ended 30 September 2005 and the report of the directors and of the auditors (to be published in the *BDJ* 22 April 2006).
- To reappoint, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, chartered accountants, as auditors and to authorise the Executive Board to fix their remuneration.
- To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions recommended to the meeting by the Representative Body:
 - That Dr Josef (Joe) L. Rich, OBE be elected President for 2007-08.
 - That the 2007 Annual General Meeting be held in Harrogate.
- To consider, on recommendations of the Representative Body, a change in the Articles and By-Laws of the Association:
 - To change Article 53. (A) (1) to: 'the Chair of the Representative Body who shall be a voting member of the Board.'
 - To change Article 11. to refer to 'Affiliate Membership' in the place of 'Associate Membership'.
 - To change Bylaw 18. (4) to: 'Dental Care Professionals Committee'.

Dated this day, the 8th April 2006, by order of the Executive Board.

Peter Ward
Chief Executive
British Dental Association
64 Wimpole Street
London
W1G 8YS

Local anaesthetic shortage

Dentists are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain supplies of dental local anaesthetics (LAs) due to the shortage that has arisen since Dentsply ceased production of some of their product range. The BDA and the Department of Health are aware of the situation and are trying to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

Members of the BDA's Dental Advisory Group to the British National Formulary discussed the current shortage of LAs with the Department of Health (DH) during a meeting on March 1st. The DH is in regular contact with Septodont, an alternative LA supplier, who has issued a statement saying it is confident it will be able to supply the anaesthetic needed by the market as and when required. Together they are attempting to resolve the problems as quickly as possible and are looking into the possibility of obtaining supplies from the continent. In addition, the DH is considering conducting a census to establish an accurate UK-wide picture of the situation and identify whether particular regions are having more difficulty than others in obtaining LA supplies. It was noted in the meeting that bulk buying by dentists would not help attempts to resolve current supply problems.

The DH has agreed to keep the BDA updated about any action to rectify the shortage and the BDA is also in regular contact with both Dentsply and Septodont. The BDA will keep members updated of any changes to the current situation through the BDA website (www.bda.org) and will also inform members of the outcome of any action that has been taken. The full statement issued by Septodont on 8 March is also available to read on the site.

The BDA and Septodont would like to encourage dentists to order stocks at a 'normal' rate wherever possible and not to be tempted to bulk buy, as this could put more pressure on supplies.



Drive for Dentaïd!

Dentaïd's annual Charity Golf Day will this year be held on Friday 30 June at Hamptworth Golf and Country Club, Landford, Wiltshire. Teams of four, mixed teams and single players are invited to take part in this enjoyable and convivial event to compete for the coveted 'Golden Molar' trophy over 18 holes of golf on a superb course in the New Forest. Maximum handicaps of 24 for men and 28 for women apply and the day costs £49 per person including coffee and a bacon sandwich on arrival, 18 holes of golf and lunch.



Last year ten teams took to the fairways, helping to raise over £1,800 for Dentaïd's drive to provide dental equipment, oral health education and staff training in over 50 countries worldwide. On this occasion, the trophy was won by the Dentists' Provident Society.

To book your place, please call Lucy on 01794 324249 or email lucy@dentaïd.org.

NI dentists call for more preventative approach

Dentists in Northern Ireland want more time to help their patients have healthier teeth and avoid dental disease, according to the BDA's submission to the Primary Dental Care Strategy Consultation. More than two-thirds of high street dentists in Northern Ireland believe that they need more time with individual patients so they can take a more preventative approach to care.

The BDA's response to the consultation was informed by a survey of dentists in Northern Ireland. Almost 90% of practitioners agreed that dental care provided by the NHS in Northern Ireland needed to be modernised to improve patient care. Claudette Christie, the BDA's Director for Northern Ireland, said: 'Dentists need to be able to take a more preventative approach to care and this would be a real step forward in addressing Northern Ireland's disappointing oral health record.'

The BDA's response stresses that reform must be properly managed and that the Health Service must use the considerable skills of dentists and their staff if the dental health of the people of Northern Ireland is to be improved. 'This is a time of opportunity for dentistry in Northern Ireland,' said Claudette Christie, 'but it's crucial that any reforms are properly funded and meet the needs of both patients and dentists.'

Eastman launches CPD courses for dental technicians

Eastman CPD has announced that it is now offering courses for dental technicians.

The aim of the courses is to enable technicians to improve their skills and understanding in ceramics, implants and developing the clinician/technician dialogue as well as supporting new skills. Four courses are initially on offer, each taking place over two days with the following dates:

- Friday 7 and Saturday 8 April:
Integrating implants into the laboratory. Course tutor: Anthony Laurie
- Friday 26 and Saturday 27 May:
Ceramics for implants. Course tutors: Richard Gidden and Eric van der Winden
- Friday 2 and Saturday 3 June: The ceramic experience. Course tutors: Anthony Laurie and Richard O'Brien
- Friday 6 and Saturday 7 October: How to develop clinician/technician dialogue. Course tutor: Anthony Laurie

Eastman are encouraging all dentists to share this information with their dental technicians, and hope to welcome dentists and technicians to the clinician/technician dialogue day as a team. For more information, please call Karen Rhatigan on 020 7905 1244 or email k.rhatigan@eastman.ucl.ac.uk.



Death notice

We regret to announce that Professor Guy Marrant, Emeritus Professor of Conservative Dentistry at the Eastman Dental Institute, died in London on 27 February 2006. He was 84 years old.

During his 33 years as head of department from 1948-1981, he taught many home and overseas students, particularly on the MSc course.

BDHF launches National Smile Month website

The British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) has launched an all-new website for National Smile Month. The website, which is sponsored by Cheestrings and can be found at www.nationalsmilemonth.org, has been set up to provide event organisers with everything needed to get involved in National Smile Month.

The website features a downloadable event organiser guide and resources catalogue, as well as a link to the official National Smile Month shop, a template press release to help publicise events and information on this year's key campaign messages. There is also an interactive quiz that allows patients to test their dental knowledge. Additionally, for the first time event organisers can gain publicity for their event by registering it on the website using a simple on-line form. Event organisers who do this will be automatically entered into a competition to win an iPod Nano or an innovative website from Dental Design.

This year's National Smile Month is a special extension of the annual National Smile Week to celebrate the event's 30th anniversary. It is the biggest annual oral health campaign in the UK, taking key oral health information to millions of people every year. This year's theme is 'Feed your smile' and the BDHF hope that the extended event, together with the new website, will mean more people than ever will get involved. Please visit the website for further details.



BDA defers implementation group decision

The BDA has deferred a decision on whether or not to join the Government's implementation group set up to monitor the impact of the changes to NHS dentistry. Lester Ellman, Chair of the BDA's General Dental Practice Committee, has written to Health Minister Rosie Winterton saying he needs more information about the group's remit and what membership will involve.

In a letter to the Minister, Dr Ellman pointed out that the BDA had already called for a review of the new contract and underlined that it was vital for both patients and dentists that the impact of the changes is properly monitored and understood. He continued 'We need to be convinced that the implementation group will provide genuine opportunities to tackle the problems that we believe the new arrangements will cause for patients and dentists.'

Rosie Winterton announced the setting up of the implementation group on 7 March, in response to concerns about the new dental contracts. Dr Ellman also stated in the letter, 'We need to be assured that our membership of this group will not be presented as an endorsement of the Government's reform programme. The BDA has grave concerns about the new contract itself and the way it is being introduced.'

Raman Bedi joins Howden Dental advisory board

Former Chief Dental Officer Professor Raman Bedi has been appointed to the advisory board of Howden Dental, a division of Howden Medical Insurance Services.

Professor Bedi's appointment is the latest in a series of high profile appointments at Howden Dental, most recently that of dentist and MP Sir Paul Beresford, who joined the board on 1 January. The appointments are part of Howden's drive to recruit distinguished members of the dental profession to ensure it continues to tailor its professional liability insurance to meet the current and increasing liabilities facing dentists.

As a board member, Professor Bedi will take a lead in Howden's international initiatives.

