

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

London Dental Showcase 2006

After extensive research throughout the industry to investigate the preferred opening days for this year's Dental Showcase, the British Dental Trade Association has announced that the Showcase will take place from Thursday 5 - Saturday 7 October. The exhibition will be held at ExCeL in London's Docklands and promises to be another great event.

The BDTA's research also highlighted a wish from a number of visitors to be able to attend the exhibition in the evening and in response to this demand, the Showcase will be open until 8pm on Thursday 5 October. Executive Director of the BDTA Tony Reed said: 'It was clear from research conducted that there are a number of visitors who would value an opportunity to attend Showcase in the evening so we'll be staying open later on Thursday evening to meet this demand. We look forward to welcoming more members of the dental team to the UK's premier dental exhibition.'



To reserve your complimentary ticket to guarantee fast track entry to the exhibition, visit www.dentalshowcase.com or call 01494 729959.

Taking to the high seas



The Jubilee Sailing Trust will hold its 10th anniversary Windsor Cup Regatta in Cowes on 1-2 September. The event is sponsored by Henry Schein and is open to any boat as long as at least one crew member is from a medical, dental, pharmaceutical or other health-related profession. All money raised at the fun regatta will be donated to the Jubilee Sailing Trust, a unique charity that aims to promote the integration of people of all physical abilities through tall ship sailing. The trust owns and operates the Lord Nelson and the Tenacious, the only tall ships in the world purpose-built to enable a crew of mixed physical abilities to sail side by side on equal terms.

Since the first Windsor Cup 10 years ago, over £90,000 has been raised for the Trust. To find out more about the regatta, contact event co-ordinator Tiffany Friend on 0870 443 5781 or email Tiffany@jst.org.uk.

AAE issues position statement on bisphosphonates

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE) has issued a position statement on the care of patients taking bisphosphonates, recommending that all patients taking these drugs be considered at some risk of developing osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ).

Bisphosphonates are used to treat certain cancers and bone diseases such as Paget's disease and osteoporosis. They support the build-up of bone in areas weakened by disease but have the potential side effect of ONJ, in which the opposite effect occurs in the jawbones.

While recognising that the magnitude of risk varies for each patient, the AAE says it is essential that patients taking

bisphosphonates receive advice before undergoing elective dental surgery. Any non-elective dental work, in particular extractions, should be completed before bisphosphonate therapy begins, and patients taking bisphosphonates are encouraged to inform their dental care providers and consult with specialists as needed.

The statement is based on the findings of a special committee assembled by the AAE to review scientific data on the relationship between bisphosphonates and ONJ. Case reports suggest that ONJ in patients taking bisphosphonates may be triggered by tooth extractions and other surgical events, although it can also occur spontaneously.

DIARY

May

8th Oxford Course in Evidence Based Dentistry

Venue: Rewley House, Department for Continuing Education, Oxford University
Date: 15–19 May 2006
Tel: 01865 286941
Email: cpdhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk
www: conted.ox.ac.uk/health

2006 British Dental Conference and Exhibition

'Making it work together'

Venue: International Conference Centre, Birmingham
Date: 18–20 May 2006
Tel: 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
Email: 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

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 10.00am 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 as a supplement to the BDJ).
- 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. Clauses 3 (B) 4, 16 (D) and 16 (E) to refer to 'Affiliate Membership' in the place of 'Associate Membership'.
 - To change Bylaws 17. (B) (4) and 18. (4) to: 'Dental Care Professionals Committee'.

Dated this day, the 22nd April 2006, by order of the Executive Board.

Peter Ward
 Chief Executive
 British Dental Association
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 London
 W1G 8YS

BDHF warns against 'dental holidays'

The UK's largest oral health charity is warning patients to think carefully before travelling abroad for dental treatment. The British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) fears that the current controversy surrounding UK dentistry is leading to drastic action among patients, with more and more travelling abroad to countries such as Hungary to undertake treatment.

The charity's Chief Executive, Dr Nigel Carter, said 'With all the stories in the press focusing on a crisis in UK dentistry it seems that many people are losing faith in the system and looking abroad for cheaper prices. However, before rushing into something as drastic as that, it is important to give careful consideration to the possible risks.'

Dr Carter stressed that patients should consider what they will do if something were to go wrong. 'Even something minor, like adjusting a crown, would require an expensive and probably very inconvenient return flight,' he said. 'Then there is the question of what rights you have as a patient.'

Instead of rushing abroad for treatment, Dr Carter suggests that people shop around a little in their local area first, as they may find that private treatment is not as expensive as they first feared.

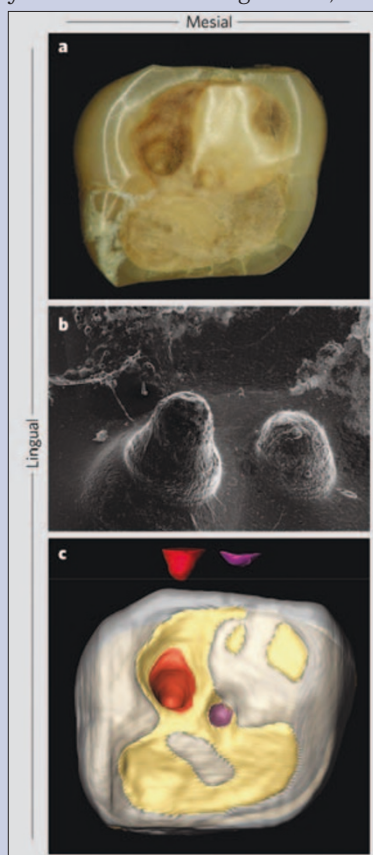


Stone age 'proto-dentistry' revealed

Dental drilling began earlier than previously thought, according to a recent report in *Nature* (Coppa A, Bondioli L, Cucina A *et al.*, *Nature* 2006; 440: 755-756). An international team of researchers have discovered eleven drilled molars in a Neolithic graveyard in Pakistan dating from 7,500-9,000 years ago, at least 1,500 years earlier than previous evidence of drilled teeth.

The teeth were found at Mehrgarh in Baluchistan province and were drilled using flint drill heads that have been found at the site. Varying in depth from 0.5 to 3.5 mm, the holes were drilled into the enamel or secondary dentine on the occlusal surfaces of the teeth, except for one that was located on the distal-buccal cervix of a lower first molar. The team found evidence of surprisingly complex procedures, with the teeth of at least one individual showing signs of subsequent carving of the cavity wall. Marginal smoothing of the drilled areas confirms that the drilling was performed on live people who continued to chew on the tooth surfaces after they had been drilled.

The eleven crowns were exclusively either first or second permanent molars, a fact that the team says rules out drilling for aesthetic purposes, as the teeth were too far back in the mouth. Although the exact motive for the drilling remains unclear, four teeth show signs of caries associated with the hole, which could indicate that the drilling was for therapeutic or palliative reasons in some cases. The flint drill heads at Mehrgarh were found associated with beads, suggesting that skills developed for bead making were successfully transferred to drilling teeth.



a) Maxillary left second molar from an adult male from Mehrgarh, with two drilled holes on the occlusal surface; b) scanning electron micrograph of the negative replicas of the holes; c) microtomographic 3D reconstruction of the tooth with positive virtual casts (top) of the two holes. L. Bondioli (Museum L. Pigorini, Rome) and R. Macchiarelli (Univ. Poitiers)

British Society of Oral Implantology launched

A new society has been launched to try to bring some cohesion and direction to the increasingly popular field of dental implantology. The British Society of Oral Implantology (BSOI) aims to provide a structure that experienced and aspiring implantologists alike can use to develop their education in the field and to indicate to the profession and their patients their level of achievement.

Oral implantology has grown enormously in popularity over the past few years, with more and more practitioners aiming to introduce implant treatments to their practice routine. With a huge range of different courses on offer from companies, individuals and Universities, it can be difficult for GDCs to decide on the appropriate pathway into the field, and there have been calls for greater transparency within the profession. The BSOI has been set up in response to the need for an organisation that would pull the profession together and help practitioners identify suitable implant training pathways.

Membership levels are rigorously controlled, with GDC registrable qualifications set as criteria for certain levels. In this way the Society aims to further emphasise its ethos of education, communication and integrity. For more information contact the BSOI on 028 9261 3687 or visit www.bsOI.org.

The Art of Dentistry

The Art of Dentistry has been adopted as the theme for marketing London Dental Showcase 2006, the UK's premier dental exhibition, taking place at ExCeL London, 5-7 October 2006. The organiser of the show, the British Dental Trade Association explained the decision to use an artistic theme by pointing out the many similarities between art and dentistry. Good dentistry involves a mix of dental professionals, dental skills, knowledge, techniques and dental equipment and materials to achieve the best results in much the same way as an artist requires skill, technique and various tools and accessories to create a painting. The paint palette provides a striking and distinctive image which highlights the important role played by the tools and materials in the end product.

Tony Reed, Executive Director at the BDTA commented, 'The artistic theme for this year's show presents us with a number of opportunities to promote the event in a colourful and effective manner. The many elements that combine to make a successful artwork closely mirror the process of dentistry. There is no better place to view the tools of the dental trade than London Dental Showcase 2006.'

Art is generally about the creation of aesthetically pleasing pictures and the increased trend towards aesthetics in the dental world provides yet another sound reason for adopting the theme.

Keep your eyes peeled for art related Showcase prize draws and activities taking place at the exhibition.

London Dental Showcase 2006
Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 October 2006
ExCeL, London

Reserve your complimentary entry ticket now by calling the registration hotline on 01494 729959 or visiting www.dentalshowcase.com.



Manchester dental students teach 'grossology'

Dental students from the University of Manchester were among those wowing children at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester on 20 February. The students were involved in 'Grossology', an exhibition about the impolite side of the science of the human body that marked the start of a new initiative linking school children with the University.

A new website called the Children's University of Manchester (www.manchester.ac.uk/childrensuniversity) has been launched to provide interactive learning for seven to eleven-year-olds. The site includes pages devoted to teeth and eating, featuring contents such as 'top 10 tips for healthy teeth', 'take the toothbrush challenge' and 'teeth photo gallery'. The aim is to attract children's attention to oral health care while having fun. Resources provided by the website are relevant to the Key Stage 2 curriculum and help bring the people and research of the University of Manchester into the classroom. Pictured are dental students Maysoon Abdelmajeed (left) and Marwa Al-Awqati (right) with Clinical Lecturer in Dental Public Health Albert Yeung (centre) at the Grossology exhibition.



New implant training standards announced

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) has published essential new guidance that sets out the training standards necessary to practice implant dentistry. *Training Standards in Implant Dentistry for General Dental Practitioners* was produced by the Standards Working Group, convened by the GDC and comprising representatives nominated by leading UK dental bodies.

The Working Group was established in response to concerns about the quality of implant dentistry practised by some dentists and the provision of training in this area. Its aim in setting training standards was to ensure that GDPs who practice implant dentistry are competent to carry out this work. Patient protection was also central to the rationale behind the guidelines, as the Working Group found that training in this area was often provided on an *ad hoc* basis. Hew Mathewson, President of the GDC, said 'When the Council considered the standards and training in implant dentistry in 2004, it became clear that the provision of training in this area was very varied and that the setting of common guidelines was important in the interest of patients – particularly as it is such a new, fast-growing and invasive aspect of dentistry.'

The GDC expects that the document will be used as a benchmark by those who practise implant dentistry. The document is available to download from the FGDP(UK) website at www.fgdp.org.uk and will also be published in the respective journals and websites of the bodies represented on the Working Group.

