

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

CPD audit shows dentists exceed requirements

An audit carried out by the General Dental Council (GDC) has found that over 20% of verifiable continuing professional development (CPD) completed by dentists is in three core subjects recommended by the Council – medical emergencies, disinfection and decontamination, and radiography and radiation protection.

The GDC audited a sample of dentists in the first completed five-year CPD cycle (2002 to 2006).

Although core subjects were not introduced until January 2007, dentists' records showed they were already incorporating these in their CPD activities.

All the dentists who sent in their records for the audit had complied with the CPD requirements and completed 75 hours of verifiable CPD. The vast majority provided evidence exceeding this amount.

Dentists had completed an average of 19 separate verifiable CPD activities, covering a range of clinical and other subjects relevant to their work. A number of good practices were highlighted, including using a personal development plan, keeping good records and staying up to date with CPD providers locally.

Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive and Registrar of the GDC, commented, 'The annual audit allows us to monitor compliance with the CPD requirements. We are pleased with the results of this first audit. Dentists in the first completed CPD cycle have gone above and beyond what was expected of them.' The next CPD cycle will finish on 31 December 2007.

Launching good oral health



The Philippines recently launched a national campaign to help reduce child dental decay, which is reaching endemic proportions. Professor Raman Bedi, King's College London Dental Institute, and Philippine Minister of Education, Secretary Lapus, launched the proceedings by blowing a whistle to start hundreds of children simultaneously brushing their teeth. As the Director of the Global Child Dental Health Taskforce, Professor Bedi was invited to attend the first national primary school daily tooth-brushing programme across the Philippines, and deliver a keynote speech to national dental leaders in Manila. He offered to provide the National Dental Association free online continuing dental education in childrens dentistry for all Filipino dentists. He also urged the government and dental profession to address the widespread levels of dental decay among children. Filipino children have one of the highest decay levels in the world, with only 10% of children having no obvious tooth decay.

New treatment for inflammatory disease

People suffering with chronic inflammation from periodontal disease, heart disease, and arthritis, will find help in recently-discovered compounds dubbed resolvins, according to research at the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston, USA.

The data suggest the key to controlling inflammation is the resolvins, rather than the elimination of infection-causing bacteria, as previously thought. Additionally, if resolvins could be developed into a treatment, they may offer a safer option than other medications because the body

produces resolvins naturally.

Researchers found resolvins triggered both a drastic reduction in inflammation and regeneration of bone and tissue destroyed by periodontitis in rabbits with the disease. The study, *Resolvin E1 regulates inflammation at the cellular and tissue level and restores tissue homeostasis in vivo*, by Hatice Hasturk, Alpdogan Kantarci, Emilie Goguet-Surmenian, Amanda Blackwood, Chris Andry, Charles N. Serhan, and Thomas E. Van Dyke, appears online in the November 15 issue of the *Journal of Immunology* (www.jimmunol.org).

Organisations join forces over diabetes and oral health

The FDI World Dental Federation and the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) have joined forces to highlight the increased risks of oral complications for those who suffer from diabetes. The issue was promoted during a symposium at the 2007 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Dubai. Special focus was given to the situation in the United Arab Emirates, where the prevalence of diabetes, according to IDF's Diabetes Atlas, is second highest in the world.

Massimo Massi-Benedetti of the IDF said, 'There is a strong relationship between oral health and diabetes.

On one hand, people with diabetes are much more susceptible to developing periodontitis and on the other, emerging research suggests those with periodontitis may have difficulties in controlling their diabetes, because severe gum disease may impact their metabolic control and nutritional status.'

He claimed that by educating both physicians and dentists about the link, work could be progressed to increase the quality of care for those who suffer from diabetes. The Call to Action can be viewed online at www.fdiworldental.org/public_health/6_7IDF.html.

Triple recognition for UK implant dentist



Dr Michael R. Norton has recently been awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh in token of his contribution to the field of implant dentistry. He currently serves on the Specialist Advisory Board for Implant Dentistry at the College. He has also been appointed Associate Editor of implant peer-review publication the *International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants*. Further from home, Dr Norton is to become the only non-American dentist on the Board of Directors of the Academy of Osseointegration, USA. Dr Norton is currently Visiting Professor at Marquette Dental School in the USA, and maintains a private practice in London.

Europe's dental students gather

The European Dental Students' Association (EDSA) recently held its Annual General Meeting at Dublin Dental Hospital and School. Delegates from 20 European countries presented reports on their national activities, including European Visiting Programme, exchanges of students between dental schools, and research projects.

The EDSA represents over 45,000 dental students throughout Europe, promoting students' activities and establishing and developing close relations with professional and academic authorities and associations.

The association is developing an online dental guide, which provides information about dental schools and courses throughout Europe and will help to establish a global dental community.

The EDSA gathers twice a year in a different European city to discuss current dental and educational affairs and plan future activities. Every two years there is a Congress, which is open to all dental students. The next EDSA Congress will be in Varna, Bulgaria, from 21-27 April 2008. For further information visit www.edsa.globaldent.com.



The EDSA Executive Committee: Diewwertje Kuin (Vice President, the Netherlands), Daire Shanahan (Treasurer, Ireland), Lena Hosseinzadeh (President, Sweden), Domagoj Vražić (Past President 2006-07, Croatia) and Emiliya Taneva (General Secretary & Web Editor, Bulgaria)

New course launch

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is to offer an accredited training programme in aesthetic dentistry. Entry onto the programme, which leads to an Advanced Certificate in Aesthetic Dentistry, will be restricted to dentists who are able to demonstrate existing advanced skills via prior qualification in a related dental discipline. Teaching will be London-based and offered on a part-time basis, with six units of study over 18 months.

A positive impact on students

Some of the UK's best dental teachers gathered in London recently to compete for the Dental Defence Union's (DDU) fifth annual Educational Awards. Two finalists each in the categories DCP Teacher of the Year, Dentist Teacher of the Year and Vocational Teacher of the Year battled it out to demonstrate how they had made a positive educational impact on their students or vocational dental practitioners (VDPs).

The Dentist Teacher of the Year award was won by Giles Perryer (pictured) of the University of Birmingham Dental School, with Callum Youngson from the University of Liverpool Dental School awarded runner up.

The winners received £1,000 towards the cost of educational materials for their schools or vocational training (VT) schemes, while all six finalists received a trophy, certificate and a cheque for £250. The finalists were challenged to show the innovative techniques they had used in teaching and mentoring students. These included a six step decision-making pathway to help DCPs when confronted with an ethical dilemma, shadowing sessions to enable VDPs to find out about a specialist area of dentistry, and an e-course that included podcasts, blogs and discussion forums, allowing students to participate in developing material for the course under guidance from staff.



Dental imaging investigated

University of Manchester researchers are investigating the use of a new X-ray technology for dental imaging. Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Imaging Keith Horner and his team will investigate the use of cone beam computed tomography (CBCT), having been awarded a €2.45 million grant under the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities.

CBCT provides images in three dimensions with a high level of detail, making it a very attractive method for many dental applications. It is, however, associated with a greater radiation dose and risk than is the case with traditional dental radiographic methods.

Despite this, in most EU states, dentists can purchase and use CBCT without any additional training.

Professor Horner explained, 'Unlike most 'medical' radiology, the bulk of dental X-ray imaging is performed in primary care by dentists with no post-graduate qualification or special expertise in radiology. Approximately one third of medical X-ray exposures in European countries are performed by dentists.'

The research team aims to gather key information necessary for sound and scientifically-based clinical use of CBCT and then use the information to develop evidence-based guidelines dealing with justification, optimisation and referral criteria and to provide a means of dissemination and training for users of CBCT.

DIARY

December

International Master Course on Implantology

Date: 14-15 December 2007
Venue: Paris, France
www.euromedicom.com

January

Achieving high standards in infection control

Date: 25 January 2008
Venue: BDA, London
www.bda.org/events

February

Preparing for retirement

Date: 1 February 2008
Venue: Aldwark Manor Hotel, York
www.bda.org/events

143rd Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting

Date: 21-24 February 2008
Venue: McCormick Place Lakeside Center, Chicago, USA
www.cds.org/mwm

Link between oral cancer and ethnicity

Clinicians from the University of Southern California (USC) School of Dentistry, USA, have discovered a connection between the incidence of oral cancer and race and ethnicity as part of an epidemiological study of oral cancer in California.

Dr Satish Kumar and Dr Parish Sedghizadeh, clinical professors in the school's Division of Diagnostic Sciences, searched through 20 years of records from the California Cancer Registry (CCR) – the state's cancer surveillance database – for the incidence rates of invasive squamous cell carcinoma, the most common form of oral cancer.

The research team theorised that cultural habits and lifestyle choices including tobacco chewing, smoking and alcohol consumption were to blame and that groups who engaged in these high-risk behaviours would also experience higher rates of oral cancer.

The researchers discovered that different ethnic groups living in California manifest the disease very differently. African Americans and Caucasians, who have the highest oral cancer rates, are most likely to develop cancer of the tongue. Among Asian populations, Koreans had the highest incidence of

tongue cancer, while South East Asians were more likely to develop the disease in the buccal mucosa, or inner cheek. Filipino women have the highest incidence of cancer of the palate.

African American and Caucasian men, with the highest rates of cancer of the tongue, also have the highest rates of cigarette smoking in the state. In Asian groups, Koreans have the highest cigarette smoking rates. The practice of chewing tobacco, or areca nut, most common in South Asian cultures, may account for that group's likelihood of developing the disease in the inner cheek.

The high rate of palatal cancer among Filipino women could be attributed to the practice of reverse smoking, when the lit part of the cigarette is concealed inside the mouth.

The research team hopes their findings can help tailor oral cancer prevention messages aimed at particular ethnic groups.

Their findings will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology and Endodontology* and are currently available online at www.ooooe.net.

International prize for crime research awarded to *BDJ* Advisory Board member

BDJ Advisory Board member Professor Jonathan Shepherd has been recognised with an international prize for crime research for his work on late-night city centre violence.

Professor Shepherd, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Cardiff University Dental School, has been working on the effects of drink and violence ever since he was a PhD student. Now his pioneering research has won him the 2008 Stockholm Prize in Criminology.

Professor Shepherd's work has helped develop strategies for preventing serious injury in nightclub and bar violence, which result predominantly in facial injuries. He conducted the first field research comparing the effects of toughened glasses used in fights with glass that becomes sharp-edged. His work led many UK pubs to switch to toughened glass in the late 1990s, leading to a fall in injuries.

His research has also helped develop the measurement of violence trends by using hospital accident and emergency data. As a result of this research, he convened the Cardiff Violence Prevention Group – a prototype for the crime reduction partnerships now established throughout the UK. He is also director of Cardiff University's Violence and Society Research Group.

The prize was shared with Professor David Olds, of the University of Colorado, who has developed methods to prevent crime by improving family support and pre-school child education. The prize jury cited both the scientific excellence of their work and their influence on policy in the field of crime injury prevention. The two Professors will receive the award, worth around £75,000, at a ceremony next summer at Stockholm City Hall.

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology was instituted to recognise outstanding



achievement in the field of criminological research and its application by researchers. The independent jury was comprised of criminologists from Asia, the Americas, Australia, Africa and Europe.