

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

Fund-raising running

Brian Lux is to raise funds for two charities in the Great North Run which takes place on Sunday September 30th. The 75-year-old will be raising money for Dentaid and the Brain and Spine Foundation.

Those who would like to sponsor Brian can send cheques payable to the Brain and Spine Foundation or to Dentaid to 49, Abbey Rd, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 2EH, or sponsor him online at www.justgiving.com/toothgrind.



Cycling challenge raises cash



Dental professionals and members of the dental trade have raised almost £3,000 for The Benevolent Fund, a charity that helps dentists and their families in times of need. They took part in a cycling challenge from Birmingham to Oxford held in honour of the charity's 125th birthday. The 125 km journey began in Solihull, Birmingham, where cyclists set off on the journey to picturesque Oxpens Meadows in Oxford.

Calls on the Benevolent Fund are made by dentists who are in financial difficulty as a result of illness, stress, alcoholism, drug addiction, old age, bereavement, or any of the other accidents of life.

Targeted radiation therapy treatment

A new radiation therapy treatment has been developed for head and neck cancer patients in Finland. The treatment used large doses of radiation which can be targeted at cancers using a well-tolerated boron compound.

Researchers at the Helsinki University Hospital, Finland, treated 12 patients diagnosed with cancer of the head and neck in a prospective clinical trial. All patients had cancer that had recurred locally after surgery and conventional radiation therapy. They found that most

of the cancers responded to boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT), a form of targeted radiation treatment for cancer which is still considered experimental.

In this method, a boron-containing compound (boronophenylalanine) is first infused into a peripheral vein, following which the compound accumulates in cancer tissue. Cancer is subsequently irradiated with neutrons obtained from a nuclear reactor, which causes boron atoms to split within the cancerous tissue as a result of the boron

neutron capture reaction. The resulting smaller particles cause a large radiation effect within the tumour tissue, which destroys cancer cells.

The technique allows targeting of a high dosage of radiation to the tumour while sparing the adjacent normal tissues from the highest doses of radiation.

The study is currently in-press with the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology * Biology * Physics* and is available online at <http://www.redjournal.org/article/PIIS036030160700555X/abstract>.

Better oral health

This year's Colgate Oral Health Month takes place throughout September and has the theme of 'Fighting together for better oral health' with a focus on raising awareness of periodontal health in general dental practice by reminding patients that 'Healthy teeth require healthy gums'.

Now in its sixth year, Oral Health Month sees Colgate, in partnership with the British Dental Association, work with dental professionals to deliver specific key oral health messages to patients.

Colgate recently surveyed 480 dental professionals about their patients' gingival and periodontal health and over 34% reported that they had seen an increase in levels of gingivitis and periodontitis, while 49% stated that their patients were not at all aware, or not very aware, of the overall state of their gum health.

Over 80% of UK dental practices have registered to take part in Colgate Oral

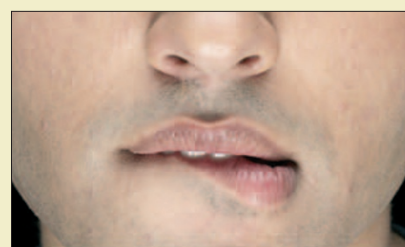
Health Month and will each receive a practice pack that contains educational materials and samples for patients.

The event provides the entire dental team with the opportunity to get involved in a nationwide campaign that includes television advertising and other media such as press, interactive TV and text competitions. A road show will travel around major UK cities throughout September and hygienists will be at the mobile toothbrushing units to give tips on oral health and demonstrate appropriate brushing techniques to improve gum health.

In addition, each registered practice will receive the 2007 Colgate Oral Health Month CPD programme. If you would like to receive a personal copy of this year's Colgate Oral Health Month CPD programme please call 0845 257 3468 by 14 September 2007.



Get checked out



Mouth Cancer

One death every 5 hours in the UK*

Early detection saves lives.

- Mouth ulcers that don't heal
- White or red patches
- Any unusual changes in your mouth
- Smokers and drinkers are most at risk

'If in doubt - get checked out'

Visit your dentist, doctor or pharmacist.



www.mouthcancer.org

This year's Mouth Cancer Awareness Week campaign, which runs from 11–17 November, focuses on the early warning signs associated with the disease. It advises people to be aware of changes in their mouth and look out for signs which include mouth ulcers that don't heal and red or white patches in the mouth. In association with the British Dental Health Foundation who manage the campaign with the support of the Mouth Cancer committee, supporter Denplan has produced this year's official poster. If you would like a copy of the poster call Denplan on 01962 827 997 or email pressoffice@denplan.co.uk, stating your name, full address and postcode and the number of posters you require. For more information about mouth cancer awareness week visit www.mouthcancer.org.

GDC seeks higher education professionals

The General Dental Council (GDC) is seeking higher education professionals to oversee its new examination for overseas dentists. Following the launch of the new Overseas Registration Examination (ORE), the GDC is recruiting a Chair to help establish and lead its new Overseas Registration Examination Board (OREB) which will ensure the successful delivery of the ORE, and a panel of external examiners to monitor how the exam is run by the GDC's external suppliers.

The GDC is inviting applications from higher education professionals for the position of Chair of the new OREB.

The Chair will head up the OREB and deliver its work programme, contributing expert knowledge of examination governance and quality assurance.

The successful applicant, who must have knowledge of UK higher education but not necessarily dentistry, will be selected following an interview process. Once in post, the Chair will take an active role in recruiting the other OREB members.

Applications are also sought from registered dental professionals with recent undergraduate dental examining experience to join the panel of external examiners.

Applications are invited from dental professionals who are in current employment or have been retired for less than two years and have a working knowledge of the GDC's document *The first five years: a framework for undergraduate dental education* and modern assessment methods. The examiners will be selected following an interview process.

For more information, visit www.gdc-uk.org. Applications for the Chair of the Board must be returned by 5pm, Monday 17 September and for the external examiners by 5pm, Monday 1 October.

X-ray radiation doses fall

The amount of radiation to which patients are exposed when they have medical X-rays is continuing to fall, according to the Health Protection Agency's latest five-yearly review of the National Patient Dose Database.

For the first time, the review includes analysis of doses from dental X-ray examinations. These were gathered from more than 3,000 dental practices throughout the UK. National reference doses are presented in the review for X-ray examinations of the full set of teeth and for X-rays of single teeth.

There has been an average reduction in dose over the last five years in routine X-ray examinations of between 10 and 20%. This is mainly due to the ever-increasing sensitivity of X-ray equipment and far greater awareness of exposure levels in patient doses since the introduction of national reference doses in the early 1990s.

About 288,000 dose measurements have been analysed for medical X-ray

examinations and therapeutic procedures, such as insertion of a pacemaker, in which X-rays are used. The information in the latest review has been contributed by radiology departments in 316 hospitals across the UK.

The review provides national reference doses for 38 different X-ray procedures carried out on adults and four types of X-ray examinations on children. The aim is to enable hospitals to check where their X-ray dose levels sit on the national scale. The reference doses presented in the review are on average about 16% lower than those in the 2000 review, and have more than halved over the last 20 years.

The National Patient Dose Database was established in 1992 to collate the doses received by patients during routine X-ray examinations in hospitals throughout the UK. Previous reviews were published in 1995 and 2000 and the latest report looks at data collected between January 2001 and February 2006.



DIARY

September

FGDP (NW Region) Annual Study Day

Date: 19 September 2007

Venue: Alder Hey Educational Centre,
Liverpool

Email: louisecrees@mac.com

4th Annual Meeting of the European Society of Esthetic Dentistry

Date: 21-23 September 2007

Venue: Vienna, Austria

Email: iris.bobal@media.co.at

www.escdonline.eu

American Dental Association

Date: 27-30 September 2007

Venue: The Moscone Center,
San Francisco, USA

www.ada.org

October

British Society of Oral Implantology

Date: 6 October 2007

Venue: The University of Glamorgan

Email: support@BSOI.org

www.BSOI.org

Oral Cancer: Challenges and Solutions

Date: 6 October 2007

Venue: UCL Eastman Dental Institute,
London

www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk

BDTA Dental Showcase

Date: 18-20 October 2007

Venue: NEC Birmingham

Tel: 01494 789959

www.dentalshowcase.com

North of Scotland BDA Conference and Ceilidh

Date: 20 October 2007

Venue: Apex Hotel and Spa, Dundee

Email: bdascotland@hotmail.com

Tel: +44 (0)1382 635 964

Annual meeting of the Society of Craniofacial Genetics & American Society of Human Genetics

Date: 23 October 2007

Venue: Convention Center, San Diego,
California, USA

www.craniofacialgenetics.org

FDI Annual World Dental Congress

Date: 24-27 October 2007

Venue: Dubai, UAE

Email: congress@fdiworldental.org

www.fdiworldental.org

New electronic library for dentistry launched

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has launched a new electronic library for dentistry information (www.elib.scot.nhs.uk/dentistry). This is one of the latest specialist eLibraries developed by NHS Scotland following the success of similar knowledge portals designed to retrieve information in other specialist fields such as cancer, stroke and diabetes.

The dentistry eLibrary provides knowledge services for all dental staff and students delivering dental health and healthcare throughout NHS Scotland. It acts as a single point of access to best evidence, information and learning resources, tools for sharing knowledge and experience (in a facility known as a shared space) and services for keeping up-to-date.

A Google-style search facility allows the user to conduct one of three types of information search: a general search for documents held by the dental eLibrary; a 'clinical practice support' search for information directly relating to front-line diagnosis; and an 'expanded' search which will include non-dental results from the main NHS Scotland eLibrary.

In addition to the search facility, several browse options are

available through the homepage interface. One such key feature is a selection of high-quality external links to popular online resources such as the *British Dental Journal* and ScottishDental.org. This enables the user to access familiar websites with a single click.

Another key feature is access to evidence, patient information, guidelines, courses and other resources through an interface organised according to staff group: dentists, hygienists, nurses, practice managers, receptionists, technicians and dental therapists all have specialist ready-reference sections tailored to their needs. There is also a list of links to popular oral health topics, functioning as a quick-access encyclopaedia to common ailments and treatments including oral hygiene, dental anxiety, fluoride and oral radiology (among many others).

For more information on the new dental portal or to arrange training for your organisation, contact Rob Westwood (Information Officer) at NHS Education for Scotland on Rob.Westwood@nes.scot.nhs.uk. To visit and try the resource for yourself, direct your browser to www.elib.scot.nhs.uk/dentistry.

Study looks at car-crash victims and jaw pain

One in three people exposed to whiplash trauma is at risk of developing delayed temporomandibular joint (TMJ) symptoms that may require treatment, according to Swedish researchers.

Scientists at Umeå University, Sweden, studied short- and long-term TMJ pain and dysfunction in 60 patients in hospital emergency rooms directly after they were involved in a rear-end car collision and evaluated them again one year later.

According to the study, the incidence of new symptoms of TMJ pain, dysfunction or both between the initial examination and follow-up was five times higher in collision subjects than in uninjured control subjects. In the year between the two examinations, 7% of control subjects developed symptoms in the TMJ versus 34% of study subjects.

When the patients reported having symptoms in the TMJ either before or after their accidents or both, the authors evaluated symptoms, including clicking, locking and TMJ pain. They also asked patients to rate their pain intensity and report the degree to which symptoms interfered with their daily lives, including sleep disturbances, use of pain relievers and the need to take sick leave.

'One in three people who are exposed to whiplash trauma, which induces neck symptoms, is at risk of developing delayed TMJ pain and dysfunction during the year after the accident,' the researchers concluded. The study was published in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* 2007; 138: 1084-1091.