

NEW SECRETARY OF THE OTA

James Green has returned to the executive committee of the Orthodontic Technicians Association (OTA) as Secretary. James joined the OTA council in 2006 and was a member of the executive committee from 2007-2016, where he served as treasurer. He is also a council member and immediate past president of the Dental Technologists Association (DTA).

James is as a maxillofacial and dental laboratory manager at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and Broomfield Hospital near Chelmsford in Essex. Much of his work is with the North Thames Cleft Centre, a supra-regional network for patients with clefts of the lip and palate from North London, Essex and South and West Hertfordshire, a service run jointly by the two hospitals. His other areas of special interest have included the development of appliances for patients with epidermolysis bullosa and splints for patients who have undergone second stage auricular reconstruction surgery.

James has written papers for both the British Dental Journal and BDJ Team, co-authored papers for journals including *The Angle Orthodontist*, *Annals of Plastic Surgery* and *The Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal* and has co-authored conference papers presented at several international meetings.



BADN LONG SERVICE MEMBERSHIP BADGES

The British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN), the UK's professional association for dental nurses, is to present long standing members with special badges at the National Dental Nursing Conference in Blackpool on 16-17 November.

Around 100 dental nurses who have been BADN members for 25 years or more will receive a special badge, with 25 years in the centre. Those who have been members for 20, 15, 10 and 5 years will receive a

metallic scroll shaped to fit under the current membership badge. The badges are to celebrate their support of the Association and the dental nursing profession.

Hazel Coey, BADN President, invited those who are eligible and who have not yet been contacted to email val@badn.org.uk with their name and BADN membership number. Those who can't attend the conference will have their badges mailed out to them.

Study highlights important direction for DCby1

A study undertaken at the University of Liverpool, and presented at September's BSPD conference in Dundee, provided valuable insight into the Society's Dental Check by One campaign.

Emma Morgan, an undergraduate dental student at the time of the study and supervised by Senior Lecturer Laura Gartshore, carried out a survey of final year dental students' awareness and preparedness for DCby1. She found that only 8% of responders were aware of DCby1.

The majority of dental students were willing to examine a child aged under 1 year, even if they haven't done so before, reinforcing the importance of transferable skills and student self-efficacy. However, they felt less prepared to provide breastfeeding and weaning advice which

is imperative for the oral health of children who are at the heart of this campaign.

Emma, now working as a foundation dentist, won the BSPD's National Elective Certificate for her research, and Laura has introduced DCby1 into the Paediatric Dentistry curriculum at Liverpool. Work on this has already started with Emma Morgan being invited to be an undergraduate ambassador for DCby1 and there are plans for the research to continue at the University of Liverpool, School of Dentistry in the coming year.



RESEARCH SHOWS THAT POOREST COUNCILS HAVE SEEN DEEPEST BUDGET CUTS

Austerity cuts hit councils in England twice as hard as those in Scotland or Wales, a study has found. The average reduction in spending on services was almost 24 per cent in England compared to just 12 per cent in Wales and 11.5 per cent in Scotland. The findings come from the first detailed analysis of local authority budgets across Britain since 2010 by Cambridge University researchers.

The study found all 46 councils that had cut spending by 30 per cent or more were located in England. The hardest hit local authorities tended to be in areas of 'multiple deprivation', where councils are reliant on central

government funding, property values are lower, and there are fewer additional sources of revenue or funding. Richer areas such as the South East and Home Counties, which have stronger local economies, suffered less.

