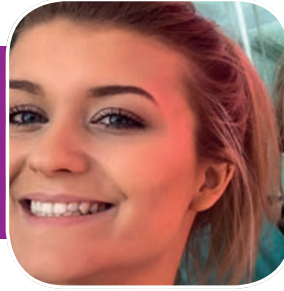


DENTAL HYGIENIST AND THERAPIST RECEIVES FIRST NATIONAL AWARD



A University of Portsmouth dental hygienist and therapist has won the first national Student of the Year award for excelling in her studies.

Madelaine Pearce, 21, graduated in 2017 and now works as a dental hygienist and therapist at the Market Place Dental Practice in Devizes, her home town. She was awarded the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT) and Henry Schein first national award.

For many years, BSDHT has sponsored a prize for all UK hygiene and therapy schools to be awarded to the student who had excelled in their studies, but this is the first time the winners from each school were eligible for the national award.

Madelaine was chosen for demonstrating exceptionally high standards throughout her studies and for going above and beyond in furthering the profile of the profession.

Madelaine said: 'I was very surprised and honoured to receive the award and cannot express my gratitude enough for the support

from the University's Dental Academy over the last three years. My research that contributed to the award was a literature review on whether humans are capable of continuous tooth regeneration.'

Dr Jo-Anne Taylor, dentist and clinical teaching fellow at the University of Portsmouth's Dental Academy, nominated Madelaine and said: 'We are enormously proud of all our graduates who are ambassadors not only for the University of Portsmouth but for the profession. Madelaine was selected as our student of the year for most outstanding undergraduate research project, greatest increase in overall assessment scores between level five and six, and for contribution to patient care during her studies.'

Madelaine was presented with her award at the BSDHT Oral Health Conference in Harrogate in November. The prize included her travel and accommodation expenses to attend the conference and a trophy.



Heard in the dental practice

We put a call out on social media for the most amusing things dental professionals had overheard in the practice.

'A little boy was sitting in our waiting room watching adverts on the TV and one came on about gingivitis. He turned to his red-head brother and said "That's what you've got gingerrrr virus". I almost fell off my chair laughing.'

'A patient's daughter who was four-years-old told her Dad to "Man up princess" when he was having a check-up.'

'In 1966 I was a resident in dentistry at the DVA veteran's hospital in Vancouver, Canada. A patient with very limited English had been receiving treatment and on the way out the receptionist said to him "Are you ok?" and then asked him "Which doctor did you see?" He replied gravely, "Oh yes witch doctor!".'

'Me to child going numb: "What did you do at school today?"

Patient: "Writing"

Me: "What did you write about?"

Patient: "I don't know, I can't read yet."

'I was treating an elderly gentleman. I had to go through the options with him of which there were three. He then asks me "How often do you do number 1s?" I of course kept a straight face, especially because his daughter was sitting next to him, but when he asked "and do you regularly do number 2s?" At that point I had to leave the room.'

Have you overheard something that tickled your funny bone at work? Email bdjteam@nature.com.

'TRULY INSPIRATIONAL' PATRICIA WINS DR LEATHERMAN AWARD



As part of the Oral Health Conference 2017, held in Harrogate on 3-4 November, the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT) was delighted to announce the winner of this year's Dr Leatherman Award as Patricia Macpherson (pictured, left, receiving her award from BSDHT President Helen Minnery).

Designed in memory of Dr Gerald Leatherman to reflect true dedication, professionalism and determination for the good of the profession, the Award is held in high regard among the profession (<http://www.bsdht.org.uk/about-us/the-gerald-leatherman-award>).

BSDHT President Helen Minnery described Patricia as 'a truly inspirational woman' who has been committed to the BSDHT for over 40 years, 'remaining steadfast in her support of colleagues'.

While humbly accepting her award, Patricia said: 'The BSDHT is the body that represents you, nationally... Without the society, I don't think I would have achieved what I have... I am truly touched and very grateful.'