



## LEAP YEAR STUDY DAY PLANNED FOR AMBITIOUS DCPs

A study day designed for dental hygienists and therapists with an eye on their future will be held on 29 February 2020.

Taking place in Hertfordshire, *Hot Topics – A Study Day for Hygienists and Therapists* promises a wealth of topics that together make a perfect match for those dental hygienists and therapists looking to develop their career in 2020.

Dental hygienist and therapist Melonie Prebble (pictured) has brought together some leading lights in the field of dental hygiene and therapy.

Keynote speaker for the day is Dhru Shah, founder of Dental Tubules, the education portal that boasts a community of more than 35,000 dental professionals worldwide.

Dhru will be sharing his insight into how best to develop a personal development plan (PDP) that not only ticks the regulatory boxes but also helps delegates develop personally and professionally. He will also feature in a live and recorded interview later on in the day.

Other speakers include:

- TePe's Clinical Education Manager, Elaine Tilling, who will discuss the issues of sustainability in dental practice and offer some simple first steps towards 'green'

dentistry

- Melonie Prebble will look at direct access and identify the ideal workflow when delivering care in this way
- Dental hygienist and neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) practitioner, Flora Couper, will enlighten delegates on enhancing communication using NLP
- Dental therapist Victoria Wilson will discuss Smile Revolution and the lessons she learned setting up her own oral health promotional project.

Plus, there are a series of breakout sessions in the afternoon, with a PDP session hosted by Dental Tubules and a problem-solving workshop.

*Hot Topics – A Study Day for Hygienists and Therapists* takes place on Saturday 29 February from 8.30 am until 4.30 pm at Beales Hotel, Comet Way in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Tickets cost £100 and include lunch and access to the exhibition, plus a Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Team members booked on with a delegate can attend for £60 using code TEAM on the booking page. To book your place, visit <http://bit.ly/36Ec1SW>.



## BREAST CANCER PATIENT STARTS PETITION FOR FREE DENTAL CARE

Michele Solak has started a petition campaigning to get free dental care for cancer patients.

Michele was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer in 2016. Whilst undergoing treatment, she had no idea that dental treatment didn't fall under the prescription exemption for cancer patients. She started a Facebook group for other people who had been diagnosed specifically with triple negative breast cancer and noticed a link between dental problems and cancer.

Many people, who had no dental problems prior to undergoing cancer treatment, found they were suffering multiple problems with their teeth, such as crumbling, teeth falling out and other painful symptoms. Michele has spoken to women who were having to

undergo multiple root canal treatments, denture fixtures, crown fittings and more. The cost of this meant people were having to pay up to £4,000 in some cases at a time when they were already undergoing a lot of financial and emotional stress. The strain on the NHS also meant a lot of patients were forced to go private, increasing costs further for young women and mothers who were struggling to make ends meet on statutory sick pay.

Michele, a mother herself, was spurred to start the petition after the general election, as she noticed the government putting so much focus on the NHS. She thought that now might be the time for a reform to finally give free dental treatment for all cancer patients who so desperately need it.

Visit <https://www.change.org/p/rt-hon-matt-hancock-free-dental-treatment-for-cancer-patients-change-the-law>.

## Do you know a DCP involved in research?

*BDJ Team*, the *BDJ* Portfolio's online magazine for the whole dental team, accepts original submissions from dental care professionals (DCPs) involved in research. Like the *BDJ*, *BDJ Team* operates its own manuscript submission site

which can be found at <https://mts-bdjteam.nature.com/cgi-bin/main.plex>.

*BDJ Team's* profile has expanded rapidly in recent years, with a 280% increase in monthly page views between 2017 and 2019. It also boasts over 1,700 unique CPD users (through the BDA's CPD Hub). Original papers by DCPs that have been published in *BDJ Team* include:

- *Sports drinks and their impact on dental health* (<https://go.nature.com/2Yejwfk>)
- *Dental nurse to dentist - a battle against all odds?* (<https://go.nature.com/2sLma19>)
- *Facilitating timely diagnosis of Sjögren's syndrome* (<https://go.nature.com/381ufPk>).

If you know a dental professional interested in submitting an article relevant to the DCP audience to *BDJ Team*, visit <http://mts-bdjteam.nature.com/cgi-bin/main.plex>, or visit [www.bdjteam.co.uk](http://www.bdjteam.co.uk) and select 'submit'.

All article types are welcome on the site. For more information and guidance please email the *BDJ Team* Editor Kate Quinlan on [bdjteam@nature.com](mailto:bdjteam@nature.com).

