

## BADN LAUNCHES MENOPAUSE POLICY

The British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) launched its own Menopause Policy on 18 March 2022.

Women over 50 are the fastest growing segment of the workforce – and dental nursing is 98% female. According to a leading HR company, one in four menopausal women consider leaving their job because of lack of support and understanding from employers or managers. Employers who do support their employees through the menopause will benefit from lower sickness absence and employee turnover, as well as increased engagement and loyalty.

BADN President Jacqui Elsdon said: 'Given the current recruitment/retention crisis in dental nursing, it is in the best interests of general dental practices to



support their employees during this time – not to mention the fact that menopause related tribunals have doubled in recent years.

'However, BADN recognises that this is still a difficult subject for many people and many employers may not know how to broach this subject in their practice. We have therefore produced this advice sheet with lists of relevant legislation, useful articles/websites and a specimen policy to break this taboo.'

The advice sheet/policy is available on the BADN website [www.badn.org.uk](http://www.badn.org.uk).

## Join the fight against sugar

The impact of sugar on the population's health is widely known within dentistry. As well as patients, dental professionals can also be guilty of consuming too much sugar.

So, why is cutting down on sugar so difficult, even for the experts?

Timothy Ives will explore this topic in greater detail in his lecture, 'Pure, White and Deadly' at the British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show (BDCDS) 2022. Showcasing his own research, Timothy will highlight the impact of sugar and why so many patients struggle to cut down.

The British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show 2022 will be held on 13–14 May at the NEC Birmingham.

For more information visit <https://birmingham.dentistryshow.co.uk>.

## CARING FOR CANCER PATIENTS AT A VULNERABLE TIME

The British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show (BDCDS) 2022 will once again provide a plethora of education for all members of the dental team. There will be lectures and interactive seminars, panel discussions and debates, plus the chance to get hands-on in workshops and really get involved. An array of leading lights in their respective fields will be delivering sessions, offering valuable market insights and clinical guidance to help colleagues elevate standards in their own practices.

Mrs Jocelyn Harding (pictured) will be presenting in the Hygienist & Therapist Symposium, exploring 'Cancer, Collaboration and Care'. As the name suggests, she will be talking about the journey of patients living with cancer and going through treatment, as well as discussing how the dental team can support them effectively.

Jocelyn said: 'In my lecture, I will be looking at the journey of a cancer patient and highlighting some of the complications they may suffer during treatment and beyond. I will be discussing the oral, psychological and physiological effects and how we may be able to offer them ongoing support.

'As the proportion of cancer diagnoses is moving from 1:3 to 1:2, we are more likely to

be caring for patients before, possibly during and definitely after their treatment. They may not have much time to complete dental care before starting, therefore it is important to train the team in how to respond to a phone call from a cancer patient who is concerned about their dental health. Cancer treatments may affect the mouth directly by making eating and drinking difficult, or reducing a patient's ability to keep their mouth clean. When can we treat patients? What if treatment is long-term? How do we tailor our care for them?'

Of course, this is a very difficult time in a patient's life. Being able to support their dental health and offer even minor relief from physical discomfort or worry can have a significant impact on their quality of life.

Jocelyn will share some of the challenges that the dental team may face when looking to support these patients.

She said: 'I hope my presentation will help delegates be more aware of the complications of the journey a cancer patient undertakes. This could also be an opportunity for supporting those diagnosed closest to us.'

This year's Hygienist & Therapist Symposium will once again be programmed by the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT) and the British



Association of Dental Therapists (BADT). Other than Jocelyn's session, topics will include alcoholism, topical lip care, encouraging behaviour change in patients, fluoride application and much more. In fact, there will be hours of content tailored specifically to those in the field, all in addition to the extensive trade exhibition and other networking opportunities available across the event.

Registration is quick and easy – and completely free for all delegates.

The British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show 2022 will be held on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May, NEC Birmingham, co-located with DTS.

For more information, visit <https://birmingham.dentistryshow.co.uk>, or email [dentistry@closerstillmedia.com](mailto:dentistry@closerstillmedia.com).