British Undergraduate Dental Research Conference 2019

Building on the success of their previous conferences, the Manchester Undergraduate Dental Research Society (MUDRSoc) organised the fourth annual British Undergraduate Dental Research Conference (BUDRC) with support from the Manchester Division of Dentistry. The event took place on 16 March 2019 at Manchester's University Place.

The 2019 conference was the largest to date, attracting more than 300 delegates, 55% of whom were from outside of Manchester Dental School, and included not just undergraduate students but also sixth formers, postgraduates and foundation-year dentists.

The day began with talks on ways to get involved in research - Designing Effective Clinical Trials and The BSP's Guide to the New Periodontal Disease Classification.

We were privileged to host renowned speakers, including Professor Jan Clarkson, Professor Helen Worthington, Dr Claire Field and Professor Anne-Marie Glenn, Dean of the Dental School.

This year also saw the introduction of the interactive panel discussion, which featured inspirational young dentists, Dr Thomas Lamont and Dr Carly Ross, who answered delegates' questions on careers in dental research and more.

Delegates found the talks and panel discussion engaging and stimulating, commenting on how clinically useful they found the periodontal classification lecture and how much 'more accessible' research now seemed to them.

The afternoon consisted of more workshops than ever before, covering an array of disciplines and led by skilled clinicians and experts in their respective fields.

Many offered hands-on learning opportunities, including anterior composite build-ups, rotary endodontics, implants, dental photography, suturing and Hall crowns.

Sustainable dentistry, the Cochrane systematic review process, dental business, careers, occlusion and smile design were just some of the other options on offer.

The workshops were the favourite part of the day for delegates and contributed to their personal and professional development, enabling them to experience high-quality teaching in some areas not covered at university.

Organising an event on this scale is an achievement, made possible only by the collaborative efforts and dedication of the organising committee – Neelam Khan, Co-President and Conference Chair; Sumaya Al-Attar, Conference Coordinator; Edward Small, Co-President; Mariyah Aseri, Social Media and Marketing Manager; Ali Al-Naher, Treasurer; Shihan Vandy-Brown, Secretary; Tara Kang, Website Manager; Megan Clarkson, Events Coordinator; and Nikita Dzyuba, Wikipedia Project Lead.

Academic events like this for undergraduate dental students are rare but this conference showed a demand for them.

The MUDRSoc will continue to pursue its goals of promoting academia to undergraduates, highlighting the latest advancements in dentistry, helping develop core practical skills and boosting networking opportunities at a local and national level. We thank everyone who attended and look forward to seeing them again at the conference next year.

By Neelam Khan,

Fourth Year BDS, University of Manchester

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