

CONFERENCE REPORT

Positively passionate perceptions!

Amardeep Singh Dhadwal, Academic DCT2 in Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry, Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust, reviews the 'So you want to be an orthodontist?' event in Manchester.

In addition to the annual event held in London, 'So you want to be an orthodontist' was also held in Manchester this year on 29 November 2019.

The day was organised by the BOS Training Grades Group and included a varied, relevant and useful programme which appealed to all: from those interested in obtaining further information about the career pathway, to those wanting specifics on the national recruitment process. The knowledgeable speakers, from a variety of career backgrounds and stages within orthodontics, helped to ensure that all avenues were well-explored and considered throughout the day.

The day provided a strong overview of the process of applying to specialise in orthodontics. Dr Jayne Harrison's passionate and insightful presentation on the national recruitment process for specialist training, which was well-supplemented by Dr Maria Dillon's engaging talk on CV building and maximising opportunities within junior training posts, provided a good overview of the nature of the application and interview process. No question went unanswered and delegates were provided with a wealth of helpful information to aid them with this process.

Further information about the structure of the specialist training programme for orthodontics was evident within Dr Nicky Mandall's exciting talk about the orthodontic programme's structure from a supervisor's perspective. This involved a useful peek into the typical working week of a trainee, as well as the nature of the research component present within specialist training. In addition to this, she also provided tips on how to maximise success within this area of the training programme. This also emphasised the potential impact of utilising research opportunities to influence future clinical practice.

Similarly, Dr Sara Hosni provided an excellent overview of the nature of specialist training and academic opportunities available within orthodontics – during training and beyond. This helped

to demonstrate the available options for further academic study within the speciality and the array of future opportunities that this can provide. Career pathways within orthodontics were well-explored with Dr Simon Watkinson's talk on the role of the consultant orthodontist and Dr Ayeh Mahdmina's perceptions of specialist practice – past, present and future. Both of these were undoubtedly useful for all delegates in reinforcing the importance of a typical working day and week for both pathways as well as the working patterns involved. I found that these talks provided an insight into possible future careers within orthodontics but also highlighted the flexibility and variety that orthodontics as a speciality offers.

The day finished with small-group table top discussions which provided delegates with a greater insight into the specific journeys of previous candidates who were at different stages within their orthodontic careers. This also enabled delegates to ask more personalised and specific questions about their own applications. Discussions ranged from career options to the national recruitment process to tips for MOrth and maximising clinical exposure during training. Every delegate benefitted from the opportunity to listen to questions asked by one another and it highlighted that delegates had similar thoughts and questions about the process and the career.

On a final note, this day provided a broad yet thorough insight into the career pathways available within orthodontics as well as what a career in orthodontics entails. The passion for the profession that was exerted by all speakers was captivating to observe; it made the prospect of working in orthodontics and applying for training very exciting. I would urge anyone with an interest in orthodontics to attend this event and would like to thank the organisers and speakers for their collaborative efforts in ensuring that this event is one to remember for all the right reasons!

Unidentified dental tie at BDA Museum

Help is required to identify the dental tie illustrated in this photograph.

The crown surmounting Tower Bridge is assumed to indicate crown and bridgework in London. It is understood that the tie would have been worn sometime back in the 1960s or 1970s.

Do you know which organisation or group it belongs to?

If you can identify the tie, please contact Nairn Wilson (nairn.wilson@btinternet.com/07815997086) who is compiling the Dental Tie Archive on behalf of the BDA Museum.

The Dental Tie Archive, which now comprises more than 75 ties of organisations and dental schools home and abroad, continues to seek new donations of ties. To date, the Archive includes a few ties

dating back to possibly as early as the 1920s when 'club ties', as were fashionable last century, were first introduced. The target for the Archive remains the world's largest collection of dental ties.

