« ‘We are looking into a number of regulatory issues in relation to this and we look forward to sharing our position once that work has progressed.

‘While this work is ongoing, should we receive information that could amount to an allegation of professional impairment or of illegal practice, each case will continue to

elements of care remotely which may have previously been carried out in a more traditional setting. We also know that this has raised some concerns among professionals and this is something we take seriously.

‘Along with our colleagues in the GDC, we will continue to work with the profession and people who use services to understand

Quality Commission. We have written to the GDC and the CQC questioning their role in regulating these operations.

‘The regulators also need to look at whether the premises that they are operating from are safe and secure for patients. Cross-infection control procedures are important, for example.

‘In circumstances before, where we have seen people have teeth whitening clinics in shopping centres where the practice of dentistry is ongoing, the CQC have acted in situations like that. You see very few of those now on the high street.’ ■

‘The GDC says it has received reports that providers of “direct-to-consumer orthodontics” are offering services that may not include face to face patient contact with [an authorised] registrant’

be reviewed individually and progressed as appropriate. We will issue a further statement when we have evaluated the evidence we are gathering.’

The main NHS regulator, the Care Quality Commission, is also aware that issues have been raised.

Janet Williamson, its Deputy Chief Inspector and Lead for Dentistry, says: ‘With new technology comes new ways of offering services but it remains the case that people have the right to receive high quality, safe care, regardless of how it is delivered.

‘We know that some providers are already looking to do things differently and offering

how these developments might fit in into the regulatory landscape and what we can all do together to make sure people get the care they deserve.’

Scan reliability and accuracy

The BDA’s Eddie Crouch also worries about the reliability of the scans being taken by a DCP, as he explains: ‘The scanning of someone’s mouth is the practice of dentistry – everyone would accept that. We have made representation on this at the highest level.’

Mr Crouch also has concerns about the premises being used, as he says: ‘These premises are not inspected by the Care

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CONFERENCE REPORT

The Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration Conference 2019

By Sarah Clyde, DCT2 Research and Restorative Dentistry Glasgow Dental Hospital

The Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration (SOHRC) Conference was held in Dundee on 1 October 2019. This took place at the Dental Health Education Centre.

There were three main themes of this year’s conference: Public Health and Health Services, Craniofacial and Dental Education. These three themes were demonstrated throughout the morning by the Collaboration’s research groups who gathered for the event.

Attendees were welcomed by Chief Dental Officer Tom Ferris who opened the day. Professor Angus Walls, Director of the Dental Institute in Edinburgh and

Dean of Clinical Sciences, then guided the morning session which consisted of three-minute PhD presentations demonstrating the depth of research across the three SOHRC themes. These presentations were followed by opening the floor to questions from the attendees. This was a very interactive session which allowed the PhD students to engage with their audience and showcase their hard work.

The afternoon session was opened by Professor Jeremy Bagg, Professor of Clinical Microbiology in Glasgow University. He then introduced the keynote lecturer, Professor Jan Clarkson, DHSRU Co-Director, Professor

of Clinical Effectiveness, University of Dundee. She gave a thought provoking presentation which focused on the TRiADs group, a multidisciplinary research collaboration within the Scottish Clinical Effectiveness Programme, or SDCEP. The main focus of this lecture was the idea of translating knowledge into practice.

I was an attendee at this conference and found it to be very inspiring and exciting to be in an area with such expertise in various fields of dentistry. I would recommend attendance at the next conference as I am sure it will be just as impressive!