

## CONFERENCE REPORT

## British Undergraduate Dental Research Conference

By Sumaya Al-Attar, Third Year BDS, University of Manchester



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Building on the success of their previous conferences, the Manchester Undergraduate Dental Research Society (MUDRSoc) organised the fifth annual British Undergraduate Dental Research Conference (BUDRC) with support from the Manchester Division of Dentistry. The event took place on 29 February 2020 at Manchester's iconic University Place building.

The conference is a forum for presenting the latest developments in dental research and innovation to undergraduate dental students. It also provides a unique networking opportunity for the UK's future dentists. The 2020 conference saw over 300 undergraduate delegates from 15 dental schools from across the UK.

The day began with a series of three innovative TedTalk-style talks, named ▶

◀◀ ‘DentTalks’ – short, inspirational talks by world-renowned speakers on the latest research in dentistry. The first talk was by Professor David Ricketts, Clinical Professor at Dundee University, titled ‘Caries Diagnosis and management: don’t believe everything you are told - look at the evidence!’

Dr Evgeny Kushnerev, NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer at Manchester University, then shared some of the findings of his research in his DentTalk titled ‘Stem cells in Dentistry: How close are we?’. Dr Niall McGoldrick, Specialty Registrar in Dental Public Health at NHS Fife, closed the morning by posing some interesting questions in his DentTalk ‘Oral Cancer: Establishing a Global Network of Innovators’.

Delegates appreciated this new format of DentTalks, commenting in particular on how this style was engaging and stimulating, allowing them to retain key new facts and broaden their horizons.

This year’s conference also included

a new poster competition with 16 posters presented by dental students. Finalists were judged by three academics from the Cochrane Oral Health Group who were highly impressed by the calibre of the posters, so much so that they could not decide on one winner and awarded the first prize jointly to: Raj Aslam, 5th Year BDS at Manchester (Does platelet-rich fibrin prevent alveolar osteitis following third molar extractions?) and Roshni Ruparelia, 5th Year BDS at Birmingham (A service evaluation of patients’ perceptions regarding the potential risks of charcoal-based dentifrices).

The afternoon consisted of 12 parallel workshops led by skilled clinicians and experts in their respective fields covering an array of disciplines. Delegates rotated around their chosen workshops.

Many offered hands-on learning opportunities including anterior composite build-ups, digital impressioning, implants, dental photography, suturing and splinting.

Management of tooth surface loss,

occlusion, whitening, and the power of social media in dentistry were just some of the other options on offer.

The workshops were, as always, the highlight of the day for delegates and contributed to their personal and professional development, enabling them to experience high-quality teaching and gain hands-on experience in some areas not covered at university.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from delegates, with 91% saying they found the morning talks interesting and enjoyable. One hundred percent found the workshops varied and interesting with particular comments such as ‘Amazing composites instructor and equipment!’ and ‘Best occlusion lecture I have attended: detailed, organised and interactive’.

Organising an event on this scale is a great achievement, made possible only by the collaborative efforts and dedication of the MUDRSoc organising committee.