

« departments, care agencies and social services. An example of this included Gold Standard Framework End of Life MDT meetings regarding the palliative patients that the team helped to support. Additionally, having the opportunity to work alongside other redeployed staff from different specialities, within the community, provided an excellent opportunity for shared learning.

Having patient continuity resembled my experience of general practice, while short term care plans resembled my experience of treating patients referred to the dental hospital and oral surgery departments. I thoroughly enjoyed assessing and treating regular patients that required support with their diabetic management or medication prompting. This allowed continual rapport with the patients, their families and their carers.

District nursing is very different from dentistry. However, my redeployment provided me with an invaluable opportunity to continue to carry out a holistic

Box 1 Average day (average times) working with the district nursing team

1. 08.30–10.00 Early patients (medication prompts, management of diabetic patients, eardrops or eye drops)
2. 10.00–13.00 Treatment including wound care, catheter care, observations, double-up visits
3. 13.00–14.15 Lunch & handover
4. 14.15–15.30 Jobs & responding to messages
5. 15.30–16.30 Late patients (medication prompts, management of diabetic patients, eardrops or eye drops)
6. 16.30 Home.

person-centred approach while being mindful of the need to work collaboratively with patients, families, carers and the wider medical team during this challenging time.

This experience highlights the versatility, resilience and adaptability of the dental profession to modify and support the wider healthcare system in the face of a national crisis.¹

I am thoroughly grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside the

district nursing team and care for vulnerable patients.

Many thanks to the Woodgate Valley District Nursing Team and the Paediatric Dental Department at Birmingham Dental Hospital. ■

Reference

1. Sacoor S, Chana S, Fortune F. The dental team as part of the medical workforce during national and global crises. *Br Dent J* 2020; **229**: 89–92.

Looking for writing opportunities?

Would you like to write for the *BDJ*'s sister publication, *BDJ Team*? *BDJ Team* is aimed at UK dental care professionals (DCPs) and published online ten times a year. Editor Kate Quinlan [also the *BDJ*'s News Editor] publishes a wide

range of features, news, advice and informative content and is open to submissions or content ideas.

If you think you could write with a 'whole dental team' outlook

and focus, there are opportunities for publication in 2021. To discuss your content idea please email k.quinlan@nature.com. *BDJ Team* also has a manuscript submission portal which can be found at <https://go.nature.com/3hWIKc1>.

To get a feel for the type of content published in *BDJ Team*, which was launched in 2014, please visit www.bdjteam.co.uk.

Russ Ladwa inaugurated as BDA's 134th President

Russ Ladwa took office as the 134th President of the British Dental Association (BDA) on 16 September 2020.

A former Dean of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, Russ has chaired both the Federation of London Local Dental Committees and the Dental Vocational Training Authority, and was a board member of the odontology section of the Royal Society of Medicine before being made its President. In 2012, having been a life-long member of the BDA, Russ was elected to its board, serving until 2019.

Russ qualified as a dentist from the London Hospital Medical College in 1975. He returned from a short spell as a civilian dentist in the US Army to work as an associate in an NHS practice in West London in 1977, buying the practice shortly thereafter.

In the 1980s, Russ was involved in establishing the Asian Odontology Group and was a founding member of the Association of Dental Implantology. In 1990, he was one of the first London GDPs appointed as a Postgraduate Dental Tutor, a position he held for 23 years.

Russ' full Presidential address was published in the 25 September issue of the *BDJ* (Volume 229 issue 6).

