Four BSPD role models celebrated with life membership

Four exceptional dentists, who have all left an indelible legacy on the specialty of paediatric dentistry, have been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD). Richard Welbury, Barbara Chadwick, Stephen Fayle and Linda Arch have all played important leadership roles, both clinically and personally, serving in different capacities on the BSPD's national executive.

Professor Richard Welbury CBE is a former President of the BSPD as well as of the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry. In 2015, he chaired the organising committee of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry congress in Glasgow. He is internationally known for his textbook on paediatric dentistry.

Professor Barbara Chadwick MBE was for most of her career based at Cardiff University School of Dentistry, most recently as Director of Education and Students, where she inspired many young dentists to choose paediatric dentistry as a career pathway.

A national spokesperson for the BSPD, Stephen Fayle has been a Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Leeds Dental Institute (LDI) for most of his career. His influence has been felt throughout the UK due to his unstinting 25-year commitment to the wider NHS and national professional societies. At the invitation of the Chief Dental Officer for England, Sara Hurley, he has led on the NHS Commissioning Standard for Specialist Paediatric Dentistry and he has been Chair of the Managed Clinical Network for Paediatric Dentistry in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Linda Arch combined roles as a clinician, a researcher, a lecturer and a mentor. The contribution she made to the Merseyside branch was enormous, serving in most branch roles; at national level she served as a Secretary for the BSPD. As a postgraduate tutor for Health Education England, she ran courses in paediatric dentistry.

All four life memberships were announced at the 2021 annual conference hosted by the Merseyside branch and are due to be presented at a study day in Liverpool in 2022.

Professor Claire Stevens CBE, BSPD's spokesperson, said: 'All four members have played an exceptional role in BSPD's story over the last three decades and we are very happy that they will all remain part of the Society to which they have given so much.'

CONFERENCE REPORT

'So you want to be an orthodontist' 2021

By Nikesh Patel, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Morriston Hospital, Swansea, UK

On Thursday 21 October 2021, the annual 'So you want to be an orthodontist' meeting was held at the British Orthodontic Society's (BOS's) Headquarters in Central London. This was the first face-to-face meeting of the year organised by the BOS Training Grades Group (TGG), having held last year's meeting online. The event attracted a variety of delegates from different backgrounds and at varying stages of their training but all with the common interest in pursuing a career in orthodontics.

The busy day began with a discussion on the StR Orthodontic training programme and research in orthodontics by Mr Owaise Sharif. This provided an insight into the various different training programmes available and the accompanying research component as part of a Master's programme.

In addition, Ms Anjali Sharma discussed the national recruitment and interview process from the perspective of a consultant orthodontist. This was an invaluable talk which provided up-to-date information

on the current national recruitment process and clearly outlined what to expect when applying. We were also lucky enough to be given an insight into the national recruitment process by Ms Asma Keshtgar and Ms Niecoo Tajmehr, having recently experienced the selection process first hand. They were able to provide us with their tips and tricks for what they felt had helped them prepare as best they could during their application process.

As expected, applications to specialist training are particularly competitive and Ms Nausheen Siddiqui provided us with advice for building a CV. This was useful guidance to help bolster an application and plan in advance to maximise chances of success when applying for specialist training.

In the afternoon, the focus of the session was to explore career prospects after completion of specialist training. Firstly, Mr Anthony Lam provided his perspective of life in specialist practice, as a practice principal and also as a clinical tutor in the hospital setting. Ms Constance Wong and Mr Stuart Yeaton added to this discussion by highlighting their own

experiences of specialist training and notably post-CCST training on the path to becoming a consultant. This was a helpful session which provided information regarding career options and also the possible flexibility that the profession can provide.

The day concluded with a number of round table discussions. This involved open discussions with existing or past specialist trainees and also other delegates. The informal format allowed us to ask questions about any aspect of orthodontic training and also provided the opportunity for us to review examples of previous candidates' portfolios and case presentations.

Overall, the day was excellently organised and provided a comprehensive overview of what to expect of the orthodontic specialist training pathway and the subsequent career thereafter. I would highly recommend this day for anyone currently considering a potential career in orthodontics and I would like to thank the BOS Training Grades Group for organising and facilitating this meeting.