

BFS launches new academic fellowship opportunities

The British Fluoridation Society (BFS) in partnership with the Borrow Foundation has launched a new career development fellowship designed to attract new academic expertise to the field of water fluoridation and its role in public health.

Overall, £30,000 has been allocated to create two fellowships which will be delivered within the next three years.

The programme is called The British Fluoridation Society Career Development Fellowship.

Barry Cockcroft, BFS chair and former chief dental officer, said: 'The British Fluoridation Society Career Development Fellowship will strengthen the UK academic knowledge base for water fluoridation by encouraging future leaders in their field to take an active interest in fluoridation as a safe and effective intervention.'

'I'd like to thank the Borrow Foundation for its support in helping us to take good oral health forward.'

Today, over 400 million people benefit from fluoridated water worldwide.

The BFS has been working to improve dental health in England through the introduction of new community water fluoridation schemes since 1969. The Borrow Foundation is a UK charity seeking to improve oral health, particularly for children.

Dr Ray Lowry, BFS secretary, said: 'Our new career fellowships are designed to provide a greater academic underpinning for fluoridation as an effective and safe dental health intervention.'

'Recently, we have seen an increase in political enthusiasm for water fluoridation and as a Society, we have identified a need to strengthen the academic foundation for fluoridation, to keep research relevant and encourage young academics to pursue the issue as a viable career interest.'

'The fellowships will help us to build a modern UK database of evidence and to engage with younger academics on this career-enhancing subject. The BFS is the obvious organisation to initiate this activity as part of its role to support the academic knowledge base for fluoridation.'

The BFS is now seeking applications from candidates. The closing date for the first fellowship is Wednesday 31 August 2022. Applications are invited and the process can be accessed via The British Fluoridation Society website at: <https://bfsweb.org/career-development/>.

The Society anticipates successful fellowship candidates will be second-year academics on a recognised training pathway in the UK. The fellowship could potentially fund an attachment within an academic department (dental public health or the equivalent) in the USA, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Singapore.

For more information, contact Sharon Walker at the BFS. Tel: 07498982937 or email: sharon@bfsweb.org.

Celebrating 150 years of the *British Dental Journal*

2022 is the *BDJ*'s 150th anniversary, and to mark the occasion we have commissioned a very special series of covers from artist and dentist Rachel Jackson.

As Stephen Hancocks explained in his editorial earlier this year,¹ we can trace the publication of the Journal back to 1872 when it was titled *The Monthly Review*, before being purchased by the newly formed British Dental Association (BDA) in 1880 and renamed the *Monthly Review of Dental Surgery*, branded the *Journal of the British Dental Association*. Its name finally changed to the *British Dental Journal (BDJ)* in 1903.

In Volume 233, starting in July 2022, we will be republishing 12 papers which we feel have been amongst the most important and influential over the history of the Journal, accompanying each with a view from a contemporary expert in the relevant field as to the significance of the piece when it was published and now.

Rachel Jackson's specially commissioned cover series will commemorate the 150-year anniversary with an illustration connected to each of the selected archive articles.

The cover illustration for Volume 233 Issue 1 links to the paper 'Compulsory attention to the teeth of school children' by W. M. Fisher, published in 1885 in Volume 6.

Rachel, who graduated BDS from Aberdeen in 2021, also illustrated the covers for Volume 229 in 2020, on that occasion celebrating 100 years of the BDA Library and the most influential texts within dentistry over that period.

As a companion feature to mark the anniversary, we will be publishing an interactive timeline on the *BDJ* website, including each of the 12 papers alongside important moments in *BDJ* history, developments in dentistry and of relevance to dentistry/oral health/society in general – such as the formation of the NHS, the introduction of fluoride toothpaste to the UK market and the fluoridation of Birmingham's water supply.

Issue 2 will republish 'Proposed amendments of the Dentists Act' which was read before the BDA's AGM in 1908 and published in the *BDJ* in Volume 29, 1908.

Reference

1. Hancocks S. Happy birthday! *Br Dent J* 2022; **232**: 1.

