

lapsed once I moved away from the NHS. I had taken out medical insurance with Dentists' Provident but was persuaded to change to an HSBC policy and, not reading the small print carefully enough, found out after I had the accident that I wasn't covered for accidental damage caused due to cycling. There was no pay-out. My savings quickly got used up. Some amazing friends organised a sponsored walk in my honour, but this money went very quickly as well as there was no household income, and two of my five children were dependent on me. My parents had passed away and my wife's parents were not able to assist.

Thankfully, a colleague mentioned the BDA Benevolent Fund, and the fact that I didn't have to be a member of the BDA helped me overcome my recalcitrance against asking for assistance. The empathy with which I was treated was exemplary. The process was extremely easy and the staff very honest about how they could help, and I felt cared for and supported throughout.

I was receiving extensive physiotherapy and gradually the feeling came back into my dominant left-hand, which has enabled me to go back to work part-time.

Trauma does make you rethink things and what is important in life, and I think the addition of the BDA Benevolent Fund's Wellness arm is a valuable asset to help deal with the mental health issues that do occur within the dentist profession, which can be very lonely.

I am incredibly grateful for the assistance I was given by the charity; it absolutely helped me get through this very difficult time. I haven't been back on a bicycle, and trail run for fitness now.

The BDA Benevolent Fund can help dentists with debt advice, mental health support, bereavement support, legal advice, counselling, have a telephone helpline and a wellbeing portal and app. For more information or to donate to the Fund, visit <https://www.bdabenevolentfund.org.uk/>.

## Notice of passing

It is with much sadness we announce the death of Professor John R. Radford, Professor of Restorative Dentistry at Cardiff Dental School. John was a much loved educator, both in the UK and internationally. Our condolences are with his wife Frances, daughter Daisy and son Tom.

John was a long time contributor to the *BDJ* in his role as a summariser on the 'Other Journals in Brief' for eight years. A full obituary will follow in due course.

## BASCD presents annual awards at virtual meeting

The British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) is keen to encourage researchers in the field of population oral health. To support this, BASCD offer four awards including the Keith Woods Essay Competition and the BASCD-Borrow Foundation Early Career Poster Award.

### Keith Woods Essay Competition

The essay competition is designed to foster the interest of the next generation of dental professionals in public health dentistry and is open to any undergraduate from dentistry, dental therapy, dental hygiene or dental nursing registered at a dental school in the UK. A prize of £200 and certificate is awarded to the winner.

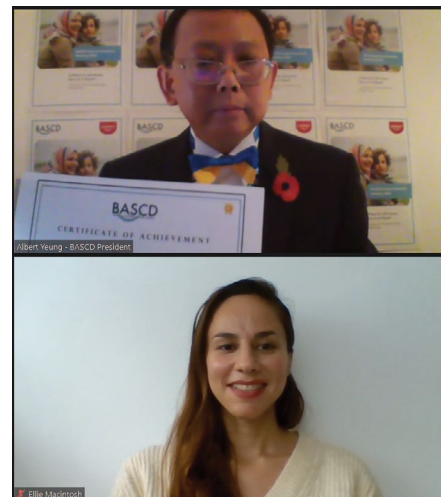
The title for the essay in 2022 was: *The oral health of refugees and the mobilisation of oral health care services to meet their needs.*

The essay winner was Ellie Macintosh (pictured, with Albert Yeung), a recent graduate of dental therapy and dental hygiene from the Peninsula Dental School. Commendation went to Yasmin Aziz, a recent dental graduate from Cardiff Dental School.

### BASCD-Borrow Foundation Early Career Poster Award

The BASCD-Borrow Foundation Early Career Poster Award is sponsored by The Borrow Foundation which is actively engaged in promoting oral health and disease prevention. The poster prize is open to BASCD members from academic and non-academic institutions in their early careers; eg undergraduates, clinical fellows, trainees and those undertaking Masters and PhD degrees. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize award winner receives a certificate, £200 and is offered financial support to participate at the congress of the European Association of Dental Public Health being held in the following year. A certificate and prize of £50 is awarded to both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners.

1<sup>st</sup> prize went to K. Julia Hurry, Queen Mary University of London, for writing on *Barriers*



and dental care pathways for children looked after in the UK.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize was awarded to Sarah Kaddour, NHS England who wrote on 'Stay Smiling': *Co-producing an oral health training programme for care homes.*

3<sup>rd</sup> prize was awarded to Mairead Hennigan, NHS Lothian for writing on *Service evaluation of a new unscheduled paediatric dental service in NHS Lothian.*

All of the prizes were presented during the BASCD Autumn Scientific Meeting held on 10 November 2022. Due to the London tube strike, the event was moved to a virtual platform at short notice. The theme of the conference was 'A Place to Call Home: Rescue or Repair'. It explored the provision of dental care for asylum seekers, refugees and looked-after children.

During the conference, BASCD President Albert Yeung wore a Ukraine flag bowtie to express solidarity with those people affected by the conflict in Ukraine. He also wore a poppy as a show of support for the Armed Forces community. He said: 'The standard of the entries this year was so high that the judging panel had difficulty deciding on the winners. It was a shame not to be able to present the awards in person.'