College of General Dentistry forms '1992 Circle'

Elizabeth Gaskell's House: the setting for the inaugural gathering of the CGDent 1992 Circle

The College of General Dentistry is establishing the '1992 Circle' as a social forum for retired Fellows.

The new group is named in honour of the year the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners was founded, a key moment which brought together the members of the College of General Dental Practitioners (UK) and of the former RCS Advisory Board in General Dental Practice, with the shared ambition to create an independent College over time.

Thirty years on, the 1992 Circle aims to bring together and recognise those whose vision put the general dental profession in the UK on a journey towards independent collegiate status, and those whose ongoing commitment carried this through to the establishment of the College of General Dentistry. The group will gather periodically for social events.

An inaugural gathering will take place at 4 pm on Wednesday 18 January 2023 at Elizabeth Gaskell's House, 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester, M13 9LW. In addition to retired current and former Fellows of the College, all those who are retired from practice and are a past Fellow of the FGDP(UK) are eligible to attend and are encouraged to make themselves known to the College. Readers are also encouraged to get in touch with retired Faculty Fellows with whom they are acquainted to make them aware of the new group.

There is no charge to become a member of the 1992 Circle or to attend the inaugural gathering. Eligible individuals wishing to attend should email contact@cgdent.uk, using the subject line '1992 Circle'.

Attendees at the 1992 Circle gathering who are members of the College are also invited to join the CGDent Fellows Winter Reception, which is taking place a short walk away later the same evening. ✧

Study identifies potential link between oral bacteria and brain abscesses

Dr Holly Roy

Bacteria known to cause oral infections may also be a contributory factor in patients developing potentially life-threatening abscesses on the brain, new research has shown.[1]

The study, published in the *Journal of Dentistry*, investigated brain abscesses and their association with bacteria that occur in the oral cavity. While this type of abscess is relatively uncommon, it can result in significant mortality and morbidity.

Researchers examined the records of 87 patients admitted to hospital with brain abscesses, and used microbiological data obtained from abscess sampling and peripheral cultures.

This allowed them to investigate the presence of oral bacteria in patients' brain abscesses where a cause of the abscess had either been found, as was the case in just 35 patients, or not found.

Their results showed that the 52 patients where no cause had been found were about three times as likely to have oral bacteria present in their samples.

Those patients also carried significantly higher counts of *Streptococcus anginosus*, a bacterium that can lead to pharyngitis, bacteraemia, and infections in internal organs such as the brain, lung, and liver. This bacterium is often found in dental abscesses.

Writing in the study, researchers say the findings suggest that the oral cavity could be considered a source of infection in cases of brain abscess where no clear cause has been identified.

The research was led by the University of Plymouth and University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.

Lead author Dr Holly Roy is an NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Neurosurgery based at the University of Plymouth and University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust. She said: 'While many potential causes of brain abscesses are recognised, the origin of infection often remains clinically unidentified. However, it was still surprising to frequently find orally occurring bacteria in brain abscesses of unexplained origin. It highlights the importance of using more sensitive techniques to assess the oral cavity as a potential bacterial source in brain abscess patients. It also highlights the importance of improving dental care and oral hygiene more generally'.

The study forms part of ongoing research taking place within the University's Oral Microbiome Research Group, led by Dr Raul Bescos and Dr Zoe Brookes, to explore the links between the oral microbiome and a range of cardiovascular and neurological conditions.

Other clinical trials are underway investigating the links between gum health and Alzheimer's disease and identifying patients under high cardiovascular risk in primary care dental clinics, as an altered balance of oral bacteria (microbiome) during gum disease can lead to high blood pressure and strokes.

These clinical studies are being carried out in primary care dental facilities run by Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise, where the focus of the research is very much on improving clinical outcomes for patients.

References

1. Roy H, Bescos R, McColl E *et al*. Oral microbes and the formation of cerebral abscesses: A single-centre retrospective study. *J Dent* 2022; doi: 10.1016/j.jdent.2022.104366.

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