

« the child manages a treatment that was so unexpected still thrills me. It's that feeling of helping a child through a difficult treatment which regularly reignites my passions for dentistry.

The more challenging element is the stress. Waiting lists are at an all-time high and there's no signs of this slowing. I really hate the feeling of telling families that their child may be waiting months if not years for their treatment.

Despite the challenges, I would very much recommend specialising in paediatric dentistry to others. It is incredibly rewarding and you get to put all your technical dental skills into action. Also, there aren't many specialities you can dress up on Halloween or as Mrs Christmas and it's acceptable in a professional environment.

What time do you usually get home?

Hannah: I try and leave work for 4:45 pm in time to pick up my little boy from nursery for 5:30/6 pm. Once he's in bed however I often

spend my evenings catching up with work or committing my time to BSPD work.

My husband would say my interest outside of work is work. I have to admit I'm a little too fixated on my job sometimes. But it is what I have a passion for. I otherwise love spending time with my family and I still love floristry – I am at my happiest when I'm arranging flowers. I just wish I had more time to do it. Each year I tell myself I'm going to enter an RHS flower show. Maybe this should go on my 2024 New Year's resolution list.

Every other Saturday I work in private practice. When I'm not working I take my little boy swimming, to his football class and like to spend time on days out with my family. Where we can, we like to spend lots of time in the Lake District for weekends away. The Lakes is the place where I can really switch off from my day-to-day life.

Do you have further career plans?

Hannah: At some stage, I may consider

further training to become a Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry. I got to a stage in my training where I wanted some time out to develop my leadership skills within the community dental services setting. However, over the next few years I'd like to explore the possibility of further development in my career. I have no plans to move out of my area though. I am very settled here. Lancashire has a very high dental need and although our problems in paediatric dentistry and access are not unique to us, it's an area I really am committed to and in the long term I hope to be part of the oral health improvement and reduction in oral health inequalities in my area. ■

Interview by Kate Quinlan

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College engages the next generation of dental professionals

On Saturday 25 November 2023, the College of General Dentistry held its first 'NextGen' event, part of a new initiative to raise awareness of its mission among dental students and early-career professionals.

The CGDent NextGen Leadership Workshop, which took place in Manchester, was open to students on the Bachelor of Dental Surgery, BSc or DipHE Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, BSc Clinical Dental Technology and BSc Dental Studies courses at the University of Manchester, the University of Liverpool, the University of Birmingham and the University of Central Lancashire, as well as Foundation dentists and Foundation dental therapists in the North West region.

Successful applicants were awarded a fully funded place at the one-day workshop, which explored the skills required for effective leadership in dentistry, through a series of talks, workshops and discussion. The day focused on the five competencies in the Agency Domain of the College's Professional Framework for Career Pathways in Dentistry: autonomy, decision-making, influence, leadership and management.



Supported by five College facilitators, the delegates were encouraged to examine the key leadership skills and consider how they could develop them through short-term, medium-term and long-term goals.

Christy, a BDS student at the University of Birmingham who took part in the day, said: 'It was great to meet the facilitators and other students there. Everyone was so welcoming, and the talks and activities were easily accessible – no matter what stage or area of dentistry we were in. I've learnt multiple ways to develop my skill set, information about the College of General Dentistry and thoroughly look forward to future events.'

Many of those who attended the workshop

have become NextGen Ambassadors for the College, with the aim of raising awareness within their communities of CGDent's mission and of the career support it offers to dental professionals.

The College wishes to thank the students and Foundation Trainees who enthusiastically took part in the day; the workshop facilitators who generously gave their time and expertise (Phillip Brown, Poppy Dunton, Roshni Karia, Abhi Pal and Sir Nairn Wilson); and the University of Manchester, University of Liverpool, University of Birmingham, University of Central Lancashire and Health Education North West for their support. ✦