

◀ Professor Murali Srinivasan (Centre of Dental Medicine, University of Zurich) presented on the role of digital denture construction in clinical practice and his passion and enthusiasm for this topic was evident throughout his talk. Professor Srinivasan motivated the audience to consider the use of digital technology such as intra-oral scanning for patients and shared his reflections on using various digital resources.

The last talk of the day was provided by Mr Bill Sharpling (Faculty of Dentistry, King's College London), Ms Caroline Persaud and Mr Mike Brindle (clinical

dental technicians) and was on the role of clinical dental technicians (CDTs) in caring for older adults. The presentation was enlightening and thought-provoking, especially in regard to how CDTs can be heavily involved in a patient's care plan and can bring their specialised, yet varied skill set to help address a patient's care needs.

The conference was rounded up with winners of each poster category being announced and expressions of gratitude given to the presenters, sponsors, venue and attending delegates, who helped make the day a huge success. Lifetime memberships were awarded to Vicki Jones, Debbie Lewis,

Mark Taylor, and Michael Butler, who have been on the committee for over 20 years and are stepping down. Adele Cunningham (BSG president for 2024) will be hosting the spring meeting on 14 June 2024 in Cardiff.

The well-organised and inclusive event, coupled with the wide-ranging and appealing programme, resulted in a fantastic day for all and helped to reinforce the society's aim of maintaining and improving the oral health of older people.

For more information on the BSG, visit <https://www.gerodontology.com/>.

## Plymouth wins Times Higher Education Award 2023

The University of Plymouth's work to combine first-rate dental training with outstanding community care has been rewarded at the Times Higher Education Awards 2023.

The pioneering work of the Peninsula Dental School and the Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise won the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community category at the awards.

It is recognition of the efforts of more than 100 staff and 400 students working and studying with the University, and in communities across Devon and Cornwall.

Professor Ewen McColl, Head of the Peninsula Dental School, said: 'This award is a fantastic achievement for everyone connected with University of Plymouth, Peninsula Dental School and Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise. To have our work recognised at a national level is further evidence that our approach is delivering positive change across our community. It is the result of an amazing team effort that continues to benefit our students and staff, and the people of Devon and Cornwall.'

The award was presented during a ceremony held in Liverpool on Thursday 7 December, hosted by broadcaster and author Sandi Toksvig.

In presenting the award, the judges also said: 'By addressing the serious gap in NHS dental provision through their exemplary social enterprise and its practical support for disadvantaged groups, including

promoting oral hygiene among children, Plymouth's top-rated dental school has provided an excellent example of a university really making a difference in its community.'

The Peninsula Dental School was originally established to tackle oral health inequalities in the South West, whilst training future dentists and dental therapists. In 2013, it also established the Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE) to treat patients who may not otherwise have access to care. In 2021/22, the period covered by the awards, students registered with the Peninsula Dental School – and working at clinics run by PDSE – saw almost 5,600 patients across Devon and Cornwall.

Over the course of 28,000 appointments, 418 dental and dental therapy students were able to deliver crucial primary care to many of the more vulnerable members of society, including those experiencing homelessness and other forms of social exclusion.

This activity marked a significant rise both in the number of patients seen, and appointments delivered, at the University's



Dental Education Facilities in Plymouth, Exeter and Truro.

In addition to this primary care offer, during 2021/22 the University expanded its range of programmes designed to improve levels of oral health with the community.

A Supervised Tooth Brushing Programme, led by academics and students, worked with pupils at 146 primary schools to provide advice and guidance on the benefits, and most effective methods, of brushing their teeth. More than 3,000 children aged 16 and under, who are unable to register with a dentist, were seen at a paediatric oral health clinic.