

Liverpool dentistry celebrates triple triumph

The University of Liverpool's School of Dentistry recently celebrated prestigious achievements underlining its commitment to exceptional teaching.

Professor Barry Quinn, a champion of VR simulation in dental education, was awarded the prestigious National Teaching Fellowship (NTF).¹ This distinction, recognising outstanding impact on students and the teaching profession, holds even greater significance as only 12 dental educators have received it in the programme's 24-year history. Every year up to 55 NTFs may be awarded across all higher education disciplines from potentially over 240,000 staff who work in higher education.²

Liverpool's School of Dentistry boasts two NTF holders actively involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate education, reinforcing its leadership in the field. This unwavering commitment to excellence is further validated by the recent award of a gold rating in the national Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), recognising the University's consistently high standards in teaching quality and student experience.³

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, six staff members from the School of Dentistry were honoured with awards from the Association of Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) for early, mature and interprofessional education. The awards spanned a three-year period (2021–2023) but were not possible in person previously due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These recognitions highlight the institution's



Left to right, Professor Barry Quinn, Ms Joanne Bowles, Dr Manal Ablal, Mr Phillip Brown, Mr Jonathan Marsden, Dr Laura Gartshore, Ms Sarah McKernon and Professor Vince Bissell. The staff applications were supported by Professors Bissell and Quinn

dedication to innovation and its faculty's exceptional contributions to the advancement of dental education on a global scale.

Professor Quinn's NTF award underscores the innovative teaching methods transforming the Liverpool classroom, while the TEF gold rating signifies a wider institutional commitment to providing unparalleled educational opportunities. The ADEE awards shine a light on the individual brilliance of the School's faculty members, each committed to pushing the boundaries of dental education.

References

1. AdvanceHE. National Teaching Fellowship. Available at: <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/awards/teaching-excellence-awards/national-teaching-fellowship> (accessed February 2024).
2. HESA. Higher Education Staff Statistics: UK, 2022/23. 2 February 2024. Available at: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/16-01-2024/sb267-higher-education-staff-statistics> (accessed February 2024).
3. TEF 2023 outcomes. Teaching Excellence Framework 2023 Outcomes. Available at: <https://tef2023.officeforstudents.org.uk/> (accessed February 2024). ✦

First conference for Dental Care Trainee Programme Directors

The first national conference for Dental Core Trainee Programme Directors (TPDs) will be held on 22 March 2024 at the Millennium Point, Birmingham.

The day is open to all TPDs and Associate Deans involved with DCT training, and will focus on challenges presently facing both TPDs and trainees. Topics covered will include DCT recruitment, supporting trainees with neurodiversity and preparation for specialty training, with a workshop on trainees in difficulty.

The event is being sponsored by NHS Workforce, Education & Training, Midlands & East, and is free to participants. CPD will be approved under GDC outcomes B & D. Booking for the day is via Accent course manager: <https://accent.hicm.co.uk/CourseManager/Live/HEE/Web/sys>. ✦

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