

UEA urges Government to start new dental school in the East

The University of East Anglia (UEA) has welcomed the Government's Dental Recovery Plan which affirms a new commitment to provide additional NHS dental services.

The Plan, launched last month, includes a commitment to more training places 'in a way that is targeted to improve provision in areas of the country where it is most needed'. It commits to exploring 'the creation of new dental schools in currently under-served parts of the country'.

Professor David Maguire, Vice-Chancellor at the University of East Anglia, said: 'We are pleased that the Government's Dental Recovery Plan includes the opportunity for new dental schools in England to provide the next generation of dentists. We will continue to press the Government to allocate new undergraduate dental places to those areas, like Norfolk, where the NHS dental access need is most acute and where a new dental school can have the greatest impact.'

'Within the next couple of years, UEA and our partners could play a crucial role in delivering, and maintaining in the long-term, much needed NHS dental services to the people of East Anglia.'

The Norwich Centre for Dental Development, established at UEA last year, is the first step towards launching



a formal bid for an undergraduate Dental School at UEA. Alongside the Norwich Medical School, it brings together local partners, including the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) and the Quadram Institute, which specialises in food and health research (including digestive health). UEA will seek to collaborate with further education providers and other universities in the East to provide the range of dental skills that are in such short supply throughout this region.

UEA is about to start work on a new, state-of-the-art Anatomy Suite, located opposite the NNUH, to support practical anatomical teaching for medical and allied health profession students. If the Government

allows UEA to offer undergraduate dental training, these plans could be extended to include capacity for a new Dental School by 2025.

Dr Bernard Brett, Interim Medical Director at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, said: 'We have worked collaboratively with UEA for more than 20 years developing successive generations of skilled health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. We fully support UEA's plans for a dental school which will bring benefits for our local population and will complement the high quality teaching and education programmes being delivered by the University and the Hospital.'

DLEF essay prize for 2024 launched

The Dental Law and Ethics Forum (DLEF) has announced the launch of its essay prize for 2024. This prestigious prize, now in its third year, is designed to inspire young dentists to engage with the dento-legal aspects of dentistry. The competition has three categories and the successful candidates will each be awarded £250 and given the opportunity to speak at the December meeting of the DLEF. The deadline for all three is 31 July 2024.

The three categories are:

Final year students. Essay title: 'Is it ever acceptable for a qualified dental professional to discuss their religious beliefs with a patient?' (Up to 800 words)

First year registrants. Essay title: 'Discuss how the standard of record keeping expected of a dental professional can be maintained in a busy workplace.' (Up to 1,000 words)

Registrants qualified for between two and five years. Essay title: 'Can images of patients taken during dental training be used to promote the work of a dental professional in general practice?' (Up to 1,500 words).

The DLEF is a group of influential people in the dento-world who meet several times a year for talks given by experts in the world of dento-legal and medical ethics. Established 25 years ago, the forum provides valuable opportunities for debate and networking. As well as the meeting on 12 December, the

DLEF will hold meetings on 19 March, 13 June, and 24 September 2024.

Chris Morris, current President of the DLEF and dually qualified as a dentist and a lawyer, said: 'The standard of entries last year was very high, and all three winners gave excellent presentations at our December meeting. The 2024 essay titles are again designed to explore reflection on contemporary issues which can arise in dental practice, and are the kind of topics that the indemnity providers regularly deal with.'

Full details of the prizes and how to apply can be found on the DLEF website: <https://www.dlef.org.uk/essayprize-2024/>.