

DIARY

JANUARY 2010

BDA seminar –

Tender training for orthodontists

Date: 15 January 2010

Venue: British Dental Association, London
www.bda.org

British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Study Club: Impression free dentistry: are we there yet?

Date: 26 January 2010

Venue: British Dental Association, London
www.bacd.com

FEBRUARY 2010

The National Association of Prison Dentistry UK Annual Conference

Date: 5 February 2010

Venue: Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouse
www.napduk.org

Dental Forum 2010

Date: 4–6 February 2010

Venue: Vincennes, The Parc Floral, Paris
www.dentalforum2010.com

BDA Seminar – Dentistry in the UK

Date: 11 February 2010

Venue: British Dental Association, London
www.bda.org

American Institute of Implant Dentistry (AIID): Pathways to excellence in implant dentistry

Date: 19–20 February 2010

Venue: Tenerife, Spain
www.implant-dentistry.com

DENTAL EXPERTS CALL FOR CULL ON CHEAP DRINK

The Scottish Parliament should introduce minimum pricing for alcohol, according to dental public health experts at the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD).

At its conference in London, delegates called on the Scottish and UK Governments to introduce new measures to curb binge drinking, anti-social behaviour and to tackle Scotland's entrenched alcohol-related health problems.

Scotland has one of the fastest growing chronic liver disease rates in the world, with one in three divorces linked to alcohol problems and 65,000 children under 16 estimated to be living with parents with alcohol problems. Alcohol contributes to a wide range of

diseases and injuries including mouth cancer, assaults, accidents and injuries to teeth, jaws and the facial skeleton, the conference was told.

Dr Colette Bridgman, President of BASCD, said, 'One in 20 deaths in Scotland is attributable to alcohol. There is no doubt that cheap drink is damaging Scotland's health. As the relative price has dropped, consumption has risen. Stopping the sale of cheap alcoholic drinks would benefit health and won't harm business.' The conference delegates voted in favour of a nationwide minimum price for alcohol.

Dr Bridgman said that in Scotland, one in four (27%) men and nearly one in five (18%) women are binge drinking. The younger age groups (16–24) drink most and are most likely to exceed weekly and double daily limits. Fifteen of the 20 local areas in the UK with highest male alcohol-related death rates between 1998 and 2004 are in Scotland.

A recent study conducted at the University of Glasgow found that poverty was the major determinant of alcohol-related facial injuries. 'The scar on the face of Scotland: deprivation and alcohol-related facial injuries in Scotland' investigated influences on the incidence of alcohol-related facial injuries was published online in the *Journal of Trauma* on 13 November 2009.



RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

Richard Holmes from the School of Dental Sciences and Institute of Health and Society at Newcastle University has recently been awarded a National Institute for Health Research Doctoral Research Fellowship for a unique health economics project on the topical subject of resource management in dental healthcare.

The project will build upon published research (see *BDJ* 2008; 205: E12 and *Health Policy* 2009; 91: 79–88) using an 'action research' approach, with the project embedded within NHS structures. It will seek to find ways of helping

the NHS allocate its scarce taxpayers' resources as effectively as possible in the unique world of dentistry where highly skilled clinical teams operate in a competitive, high street business environment.

Dr Holmes will be supervised by Professor Jimmy Steele (academic dentistry) and Professor Cam Donaldson (health economics).

Richard spent three years in dental primary care and was one of the first dentists to be appointed as an academic clinical fellow as part of the Integrated Academic Training pathway (IAT) for Doctors and Dentists introduced by UKCRC in 2006, and now managed by the NIHR.

