

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible.

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## SALFORD FACULTY DEAN VISITS HONG KONG HEALTH UNIT

Authorities in Hong Kong have created a dental playland to take the fear out of going to the dentist. Professor Cynthia Pine, Dean of the University of Salford's Faculty of Health & Social Care and also consultant in dental public health for Salford Primary Care Trust, went to the internationally unique Oral Health Education Unit at the invitation of Hong Kong's Chief Dental Officer.

Every day the Unit hosts bus loads of school children who come to learn about brushing their teeth and what happens at the dentist's surgery. Professor Pine was also in Hong Kong at the invitation of the Vice President of the College of Surgeons to act as the external examiner for a new specialist programme in dental public health.

As well as her official examiner duties, she also took the opportunity to see how dental health is promoted in Hong Kong, with the aim of comparing these strategies with the UK.

Part of this was a trip to a centre which helps children learn to brush their own teeth through the use of mannequins –



developing a key life skill for healthy teeth. Professor Pine said 'The visit to Hong Kong has helped me to set up a joint research project comparing different ways we can improve the dental health of children. Doing the same study in dif-

ferent parts of the world at the same time can help us understand what works best. We can use our experiences to directly benefit the children of Salford and offer greater collaboration between our University and the University of Hong Kong.'

## GOVERNMENT BARRING SCHEME LIST WILL AFFECT DENTISTS

The General Dental Council (GDC) has clarified its position in relation to the change in the law following the introduction of the Government's new Vetting and Barring Scheme.

From July 2010 any dental professionals who are changing jobs or starting work for the first time will need to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). This authority

was created to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults through the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

Within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the delivery of dental care is a 'regulated activity'; therefore all those delivering that care must be registered with the ISA in the long term. Registrants

already employed and not changing jobs will be included in the scheme over time, with everyone needing to be included by 2015.

The GDC now has a legal obligation to share information about GDC registrants with the ISA and is waiting to be advised as to exactly what information it will have to share. This is likely to be anything which could indicate that a registrant poses a risk to children or vulnerable adults.