

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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DENTISTS SUPPORT NATIONAL ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN

The British Dental Association and the Mouth Cancer Foundation supported this year's No Smoking Day 2009 campaign, which took place on 11 March 2009.

Its organisers hoped that more than a million smokers would use No Smoking Day to try to quit. This year's theme was developed with smokers themselves, with involvement from local organisers. According to the charity, its 'Take the first step' campaign was also an invitation to use the day to make a lifelong change, as a reminder that quitting requires commitment and planning.

The campaign notes that, there are about 9.4 million smokers in UK and smoking is highest among 20-24 year olds, with 32% of men and 30% of women smoking. Smoking rates are markedly higher among poorer people. In 2006, 16% of men in higher managerial occupations smoked, compared with 29% in routine occupations. Many smokers can spend over £2,000 a year on cigarettes.

No Smoking Day's President is entrepreneur, TV personality and anti-tobacco campaigner Duncan Bannatyne OBE. Mr Bannatyne, an ex-smoker, offered schoolchildren a £2,000 investment to come up with the best idea to help parents give up smoking by asking 7-16 year-olds to Switch Ash for Cash. The competition was won by Shannon Stokes, 9, from Neath, South Wales.

Aisleyne Horgan-Wallace, ex-housemate on Big Brother 7 said, 'Millions of people may have watched me smoke my first ever cigarette live on Big Brother, but what no-one saw was my struggle to quit after the cameras stopped rolling.'



No Smoking Day's President Duncan Bannatyne OBE

The Mouth Cancer Foundation called for all smokers to think about giving up as smoking is the biggest cause of mouth cancer. The Foundation warned that smokers are six times more likely to develop mouth cancer than non-smokers and that users of smokeless tobacco have a 50 times greater chance of developing mouth cancer.

Founder Dr Vinod Joshi said, 'Mouth cancer can literally wipe the smile off your face. One of the best preventive health measures to take is to kick the tobacco habit.'

Further information is available from www.nosmokingday.org.uk.

Aisleyne Horgan-Wallace, ex-housemate on Big Brother 7



DIARY

APRIL

Dental Sedation Teachers Group Annual Symposium 2009

Date: 24-25 April 2009
Venue: Bristol Royal Infirmary Education Centre
www.dstg.co.uk

8th Congress of the International Society of Breath Odor Research

Date: 26-28 April 2009
Venue: Dortmund, Germany
www.isbor.net

MAY

ADI Biennial Implant Team Congress

Date: 7-9 May 2009
Venue: ICC Birmingham
www.adi.org.uk

Materials in Dentistry

Date: 8 May 2009
Venue: Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, London
Email: dawn.bonfield@iom3.org
www.iom3.org/events/dentistry

Clinical Innovations Conference and Annenberg Lecture

Date: 15-16 May 2009
Venue: Royal College of Physicians, London
Tel: 020 7400 8989
Email: info@smile-on.com
www.smile-on.com

JUNE

British Dental Association Conference and Exhibition 2009

Date: 4-6 June 2009
Venue: Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow
www.bda.org

JULY

FDI Rio Caries Conference

Date: 15-17 July 2009
Venue: Rio Centro Exhibition and Convention Centre, Brazil
www.fdiworldental.org

CHANGES TO NHS DENTAL CHARGES ANNOUNCED

The Department of Health has announced that changes are to be made to some NHS dental charges. From 1 April 2009, changes will be made to prescription charges and some dental treatments in England.

The maximum charge for complex NHS dental treatments, such as the fitting of crowns, bridges or dentures, will be frozen at the existing rate of £198. For the most common visits to the dentist, involving an examination,

advice and any necessary X-rays or scale and polish, the charge will go up by 30 pence from £16.20 to £16.50 and the charge for intermediate treatments such as fillings or extractions will increase by £1 from £44.60 to £45.60.

Other changes in the wider NHS include an increase in the value of optical vouchers, and prescription charge exemption for people being treated for cancer, the effects of cancer, or the effects of cancer treatment.

NEW TRAINING FOR DENTAL NURSES LAUNCHED

Dental industry figures gathered recently for the launch of a programme designed to prepare dental nurses to deliver evidence-based oral health advice and apply fluoride varnish.

The new partnership between North Western Deanery, The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and Colgate has produced a programme for registered dental nurses to study part time towards a 'Certificate in Oral Health and Application of Fluoride Varnish'.

Dr Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer for England, who opened

the proceedings at London's Chandos House, owned by the Royal Society of Medicine, said, 'The toolkit *Delivering better oral health* underpins the role of the whole dental team in preventing dental disease and moves the focus away from treatment of existing disease to positively improving oral health. Modern high quality dentistry provides a wide range of opportunities for all trained dental care professionals to take an active part in supporting patients to achieve healthy functioning mouths.'



Pictured from left to right: Dr Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer for England, Professor Lawrence Mair, Head of the School of Dentistry, UCLan, Michael Sload, Vice President and General Manager, Colgate-Palmolive (UK) Ltd, Eileen Martin, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Care, UCLan and Donna Hough, Dental Workforce Development Lead for DCPs, North Western Postgraduate Dental Deanery

HOSPITAL TRAIN PROVIDES DENTISTRY



A dentist has teamed up with the world's first hospital train, the Lifeline Express, to deliver oral health to remote parts of India. Neil Sikka of Barbican Dental Care has teamed up with charity Impact India Foundation to provide essential equipment for the charity's Lifeline Express train.

To date over 500,000 patients living in the remote rural interiors of India where medical facilities are scarce, have been treated. Last year the charity introduced dental services as a trial measure on the Lifeline Express at Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh State. Patients received free treatment for scaling, fillings, extractions and minor surgery, and biopsies of a few patients were taken for diagnosis.

Dr Sikka said, 'In the West we are lucky to have access to affordable and professional dental care. However, in the farthest reaches of remote India it is beyond a luxury, with many not being able to receive treatment, even if they could afford it. As a result, people there live with the debilitating pain of toothache day in, day out. By teaming up with Impact, I am confident we will be able to provide dental care to those who need it and give them a reason to smile.'

He plans to travel to India on the inaugural trip to provide treatment to the rural community. Anyone who would like to be involved in future trips should contact him on n.sikka@blueyonder.co.uk or for further information on Impact India, visit www.impactindia.org.

BOTOX GUIDANCE CONFIRMED

The General Dental Council has confirmed its guidance on non-surgical cosmetic procedures, and on prescribing, manufacturing and fitting dental appliances, following consultation.

For its guidance on non-surgical cosmetic procedures the Council sought views on what different groups of professionals could do as part of their work and what would be valid additions to conventional dentistry.

The guidance now states: 'Registrants choosing to offer Botox or other non-surgical cosmetic procedures should note that the GDC expects the same high standards of them, whatever the type of treatment they are carrying out. In particular, they are advised to work within their knowledge and pro-

fessional competence and be prepared to back up the decisions they make. Careful thought also needs to be given to maintaining professional standards in relation to advertising these services, and to the need to be indemnified.' The GDC's guidance on prescribing, manufacturing and fitting dental appliances follows a 12 week consultation on the issue which closed in August 2008. The purpose of the guidance is to ensure that dentists, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians understand and are responsible for the decisions they make when commissioning or manufacturing dental appliances.

For further information and to see the guidance in full visit the GDC website at www.gdc-uk.org.