

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.

Please direct your correspondence to the News Editor, Arveen Bajaj at the BDJ, The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW or by email to a.bajaj@nature.com

NEW PRESIDENT APPOINTED AT BDA CONFERENCE

Dr John Drummond, a Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Restorative Dentistry at the University of Dundee, has become the 123rd President of the British Dental Association (BDA).

Dr Drummond was presented with his chain of office and made his first speech at a ceremony in Glasgow on the first day of the 2009 British Dental Conference and Exhibition which took place earlier this month.

He was awarded his Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree – with commendation – by the University of Dundee in 1981. Seven years later he was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree by the same institution. He was made a Fellow in Dental Surgery by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2000.

His teaching and research activities are in the fields of removable prosthodontics, workforce planning and dental careers and age identification from radiographs. Dr Drummond also has a longstanding interest in forensic dentistry and was twice deployed by the UK Government to Thailand to assist the international effort in identifying the bodies of the thousands of victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He has written numerous refereed papers and has contributed to many publications as editor or author.

Dr Drummond has formerly held positions as President of the North of Scotland



New BDA President Dr John Drummond addresses the conference

Branch of the British Dental Association, member of the Executive Board and Representative Body. He is a current member of the BDA's Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff and is the BDA representative at Dundee Dental School.

The 2009 BDA Conference featured seminars, workshops, an exhibition, social events and AGM. Among the many speakers was the BDA's Executive Board Chair Dr Susie Sanderson, who spoke on 'Securing your future: capturing

opportunities'. During her address, Dr Sanderson welcomed the consultative nature of Professor Jimmy Steele's upcoming review of NHS dentistry, and urged the Department of Health to interpret the review's recommendations 'in a way that allows the ingrained professionalism that we learn in dental schools, and that is willingly expressed in our everyday practice, not to be abused under the guise of achieving value for the public purse.'

SWINE FLU PANDEMIC ANNOUNCED

The world is now at the start of the 2009 influenza pandemic, according to Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organisation. In a

statement, Dr Chan announced that, 'The virus is contagious, spreading easily from one person to another, and from one country to another.

Nearly 30,000 confirmed cases have been reported in 74 countries.' For information on swine flu and for updated guidance for health professionals visit www.bda.org and www.doh.gov.uk.

DIARY

JULY

10th Annual Rural Dental Conference

Date: 3 July 2009
Venue: Gregynog Hall, Wales
Tel: 01686 650800

FGDP(UK) Implementation of the Dentists with Special Interests Scheme

Date: 3 July 2009
Venue: BMA House, London
Tel: 020 7869 6772
Email: fgdp-education@rcseng.ac.uk

FDI Rio Caries Conference

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

SEPTEMBER

2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress

Date: 2-5 September 2009
Venue: Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre
Email: congress@fdiworldental.org
www.fdiworldental.org

Denplan National Conference

Date: 11-13 September 2009
Venue: Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel, Warwickshire
Email: events@denplan.co.uk
www.denplan.co.uk

OCTOBER

2nd Annual European Congress on Anti-Aging & Aesthetic Medicine (ECAAM)

Date: 5-17 October 2009
Venue: Congress Centre, Mainz, Frankfurt
ssinger@tarsus.co.uk
www.anti-agingevents.com/europe

American Society of Human Genetics: Society of Craniofacial Genetics 32nd Annual Meeting and Symposium

Date: 20 October 2009
Venue: Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
www.craniofacialgenetics.org

5th SOLA Laser Congress – International Society for Oral Laser Applications

Date: 22-25 October 2009
Venue: Vienna, Austria
www.sola-int.org

TEDDY BEARS HELP ANXIOUS CHILDREN

Dental students from Bart's and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry have developed an oral health programme as part of the Teddy Bear Hospital (TBH) for three- to seven-year-old children in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets during 2009.

TBH is a student-led society which aims to reduce anxiety associated with hospitals and dentists in young children. The children bring their teddy bears as surrogate patients to see the 'teddy doctors and dentists' who are all students.

According to the organisers, oral health still remains a significant problem in Tower Hamlets, and the dentists have developed a series of dental

related workshops with the goal of reducing dental fear, promoting oral health and ultimately preventing and reducing dental disease in this group of children. The dental workshops offered include tooth brushing, visiting the dentist and healthy eating. TBH also visits local schools.

In addition, a TBH 'Safety Day' for more than 180 children is organised once a year on the Mile End campus. The children, teddies, and teddy doctors and dentists learn through play and other interactive activities based on health and safety in the home. The children go home with a 'goodie bag' including a toothbrush and toothpaste.



FOCUS ON WORLD ORAL HEALTH

The University of Salford has been commissioned by the FDI World Dental Federation and Unilever Oral Care to lead a major evaluation of their public-private partnership to improve oral health across 38 countries.

The research will see academics from the University's Faculty of Health & Social Care assessing the success of the Live, Learn, Laugh programme – a partnership between the FDI and Unilever to raise awareness of oral health across the world.

Launched in August 2005, there are now 42 national dental associations from 38 countries participating. The individual programmes include educational resources for school children, the provision of toothbrushes, and free dental treatment.

Professor Cynthia Pine and Dr Lindsey

Dugdill will be visiting Kenya, Poland, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines to determine whether the programme is achieving its aims – which range from providing care for abandoned children in Nairobi to training teachers and nurses to deliver hand and mouth hygiene programmes in schools in Jakarta.

The study will use qualitative and quantitative research methods to assess whether people's behaviour is changing as a result of the programme, and whether awareness of oral health is being raised across the globe.

Professor Cynthia Pine said, 'In many developing countries there is very limited access to dental care and simple problems can become life-threatening infections. Prevention is critical as is establishing a hygiene routine.'

TOOTH DECAY TREATMENTS FOR CHILDREN TO BE EXAMINED IN NATIONAL PROJECT

Dental health researchers from the University of Dundee have been commissioned to lead a £2.87 million, UK-wide research project examining various methods of treating tooth decay in children.

Dr Gail Topping, Dr Nicola Innes and Dr Jan Clarkson from the School of Dentistry at Dundee will head up a team comprising researchers from universities in Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle and Sheffield to carry out the study on behalf of the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment (NIHR HTA).

They will assess the benefits of three different methods of treating tooth decay in primary teeth with cavities: conventional fillings, biological treatment of the decay, and using only preventive techniques recommended in national guidance to stop further decay. They will also investigate children's thoughts on the different types of treatments.

Biological treatment of the decay refers to a process of sealing the decay

into teeth with filling materials or under crowns, generally without the need to use injections or dental drills. Preventative methods focus on better toothbrushing, reducing the child's sugar intake, and the application of high fluoride varnish and fissure sealants.

Dr Topping said, 'Treatment for decay in baby teeth varies widely across the UK and there is, as yet, no conclusive evidence for the most effective approach to its management. This trial will enable a clear recommendation to be made regarding the important question of how decayed baby teeth should best be managed in primary dental care.'

The study will involve children aged three to seven who already have decay in their baby teeth but experience no toothache or abscesses. Participating dentists will be from general dental practices throughout the UK where children who attend for regular dental care will be invited to take part.

In addition to the preventive treatment



for all children in the trial, participants will be randomly assigned to one of the three treatment groups. The children will be asked to rate on a special scale any discomfort they felt during each treatment and asked about what they think of the different ways of treating their teeth.

All children in the trial will be seen by their dentist up to four times per year and checked for any problems which require care.

DEATH NOTICE

Jose (Jo) Prior née Greenwood BDS London 1968 DDPH RCS Eng 1980 died at home in Stone, Gloucestershire on 7 June 2009. Jose was Senior Lecturer for Dental Therapists at New Cross, London until 1982, Director of the Dental Auxiliary School Cardiff until 2001, and a member of the General Dental Council Dental Auxiliaries Committee and Panel of Examiners for PCDs.

NEW HEALTH SECRETARY

The British Dental Association (BDA) has welcomed the appointment of Andy Burnham as the new Secretary of State for Health. The Member of Parliament for Leigh in Greater Manchester was previously the Secretary of State for the Culture, Media and Sport and replaces Alan Johnson. John Milne, Chair of the BDA's General Dental Practice Committee said, 'The BDA offers its congratulations to Mr Burnham on his appointment and looks forward to working with him and his team.'

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED

Professor Crispian Scully CBE has been awarded the first Gold Medal of the

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, for his work in the fields of oral medicine and pathology and in special care dentistry.

