

Dental news

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

DEVONPORT DENTAL EDUCATION CLINIC OPENS

The Peninsula Dental School Dental Education Clinic at Devonport, Plymouth, has been officially opened by Lord Colwyn, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords and Vice-Chair of the House of Lords Dentistry Group.

The Devonport Dental Education Clinic is a purpose built dental education facility which has 40 dental chairs arranged in five bays of eight, plus three single chair bays. It also includes seminar rooms and an IT suite along with a laboratory where students will learn clinical skills for procedures such as casting models, adjusting dentures and making mouth guards.

A range of dental care is available free of charge from dental students under the supervision of a qualified dental tutor. Treatments and services include dental check-ups, oral examinations and diagnosis including X-rays and fillings and extractions. The Dental Education Clinic is primarily an NHS training clinic for dental students. Should a patient require a treatment that is currently not provided by dental students, they will be treated at the Dental Education Clinic by qualified dental staff or referred to



Lord Colwyn, centre, with Dr Gill Jones, Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Professor Liz Kay, Dean of the Peninsula Dental School, with clinical staff from the school's Devonport Dental Education Facility

other the dental units in the city. Professor Wendy Purcell, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Plymouth said, 'As a key partner in the Peninsula Dental School, the University of Plymouth is committed to leading

transformational change in the city and region. I consider that this new facility will play a vital role in furthering the regeneration of the city of Plymouth as well as offering free community access to an important health service.'

TRACK CPD ONLINE

From August this year, all General Dental Council (GDC) registrants will be able to track and submit continuing professional development (CPD) returns online for the first time.

The new online facility will allow professionals to track and record CPD hours over their five-year cycle at the click of a mouse. If they have previ-

ously submitted paper forms, they will be able to edit and add hours from their current five-year cycle online. Once they have entered their hours for this year, the site will tell them how many hours they have left to do.

Around 47,000 dental care professionals need to provide an annual declaration of continuing professional development (CPD) hours this summer. All dental care professionals who

registered with the GDC before 30 July 2008 and paid the annual retention fee by 31 July this year will receive a letter with instructions on how they can log on to the eGDC website and fill in their annual CPD hours electronically.

Professionals can contact the GDC with any questions by emailing gdcregistration@gdc-uk.org or calling the Customer Advice and Information Team on +44 (0) 845 222 414.

ORAL HEALTH AND MEMORY INVESTIGATED

American researchers have received \$1.3 million funding to research the

link between oral health and memory. The National Institutes of Health has



awarded the grant to a team led by Dr Bei Wu, a gerontologist at the University of North Carolina and Dr Richard Crout, an expert on gum disease and associate dean for research in the West Virginia University School of Dentistry, who will continue with a program testing oral health and memory in 273 people aged 70 who underwent brain function testing, dental evaluations and blood tests to check for inflammatory proteins associated with poor cognitive function.

Although previous research has associated oral health with overall health problems, including dementia, no studies have made clear how the state of the teeth and mouth affect mental function. The new funding will establish larger studies looking for links between oral health and brain function over time, while scientists will also seek to establish a link between improved cognitive function and better oral hygiene through intervention to improve oral health.

NEW TENDER WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

The British Dental Association, in association with Henry Schein, is to offer a series of practical and interactive two-day workshops on how to tender for NHS contracts. The workshops will examine the tendering process and cover all aspects which need to be considered when tendering to PCOs, including assessing the viability of tenders, developing tender documents that meet PCO criteria, giving presentations and how to handle panel questions.

The course is £600 for BDA members and their staff, or £1,000 for non-members. Upcoming dates are 27 and 28 August in London, 3 and 4 September in Manchester, 17 and 18 September in Newcastle and 24 and 25 September in London. For further information or to book your place please call Jenny Wei on 020 7563 6884 or email j.wei@bda.org. Alternatively you can contact the Business Team on 020 7535 5864 or email businessteam@bda.org.

INTERIM DEAN APPOINTED

Professor Liz Kay, Dean of the Peninsula Dental School, has been chosen to become the Interim Dean for the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry when the current Dean, Professor Sir John Tooke, leaves the organisation to join University College London as Vice Provost (Health), Head of the UCL School of Life and Medical Sciences and Head of the UCL Medical School.

Professor Kay has been the inaugural Dean of the Peninsula Dental School since her appointment in May 2006. She commented, 'While I am personally delighted that the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry has confidence in my abilities to be its Interim Dean, what it really shows is the fantastic working relationship between the two schools, and the amazing way in which both organisations are integrating to the benefit of students, members of staff and the wider community.'

Professor Kay will hold the role of Interim Dean until a new Dean of the Peninsula Medical School is



appointed at some time in the coming academic year.

HALTING HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTION

Scientists from University College London (UCL) have created light-activated antimicrobial surfaces that could help fight the spread of hospital-acquired infection (HAI).

Professor Mike Wilson, Dr Jon Pratten and Dr Stefano Perni of UCL Eastman Dental Institute together with Professor Ivan Parkin of UCL Chemistry, working with colleagues in the UK and Spain, have developed a groundbreaking way to modify silicone so that it kills microbes when exposed to light from a laser or from ordinary fluorescent lamps.

Silicone is a polymer which is used to make medical devices such as catheters, but bacteria can colonise its surface and infections associated with catheter use are a major cause of HAIs. The novel material is produced by incorporating a

light-activated antimicrobial agent and gold nanoparticles into the polymer so that on exposure to light, highly reactive molecules are generated that kill any microbes on the polymer's surface.

A catheter made from such a material could, therefore, be kept free of live microbes by periodic irradiation from a small, inexpensive laser diode attached to it.

These light-activated antimicrobial polymers have the added advantage that microbes are very unlikely to develop resistance to them. As they are also activated by light from ordinary fluorescent lamps, they could also be used to coat surfaces (eg floors, doors, desks etc), thereby helping to reduce the number of pathogenic bacteria, viruses and fungi in the hospital and dental healthcare environment.



WINNERS AT JUNIOR PAPERS DAY

The East of England Junior Papers Day recently took place at the British School of Racing in Newmarket. Sponsored by the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Col-

lege was represented Rob Chate, one of the regional consultant orthodontists, in his capacity as the Secretary of the Faculty.

This year's winners were Roshan Sothinathan, a Senior House Officer (SHO)



Standing from left to right are winners Roshan Sothinathan, Rory O'Connor, Vikas Attargekar and Martin Lazenby. Seated from left to right are Annapoorna Pai, Richard Damerou and Mehdi Yazdi

PRIZE AWARDED



Dr Karwan Moutasim recently won the Royal Society of Medicine Odontology Section President's Prize for best research presentation. Dr Moutasim is a Clinical Research Training Fellow at the Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre in the University of Southampton. His presentation was on the role of the integrin $\alpha v \beta 6$ in oral submucous fibrosis, research that he carried out at Queen Mary University of London.

The prize is awarded annually and is open to clinicians who have qualified less than twelve years prior to the meeting. The winner is given a certificate, a cheque for £100 and a year's Young Fellow Membership of the Society.

from Ipswich Hospital, for his audit presentation *A retrospective audit assessing mandibular fracture management*, Rory O'Connor, an SHO from Addenbrookes Hospital, for his presentation *An audit of mandibular fractures*, Vikas Attargekar, a Staff Grade from Peterborough Hospital, for his audit presentation *Blood usage in osteotomies*, Martin Lazenby, an SHO from Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, for his research paper on *Blood-borne viruses: are we taking them seriously*, Mehdi Yazdi, an SHO from the Norfolk and Norwich and Norwich University Hospital, for his presentation *A case of oral pemphigoid: from head to toe*, Annapoorna Pai, a Staff Grade from the Norfolk and Norwich and Norwich University Hospital, for her presentation *Diagnostic dilemma of cervical masses* and Richard Damerou, also an SHO from the Norfolk and Norwich and Norwich University Hospital, for his poster presentation *Facial swelling over the mandible. Is it another abscess?*

DIARY

AUGUST

The Shirley Glasstone Hughes Trust Fund research day: How to win research funding for primary care based research projects

Date: 19 August 2009

Venue: British Dental Association, London

Tel: 029 2043 6184

Email: b.caines@bda.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

Email: 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.

Software and Technology for Product Development and Manufacturing Conference: Digital Manufacturing and Materials for Dentistry Seminar

Date: 20-21 October 2009

Venue: Ricoh Arena, Coventry

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

Date: 22-25 October 2009

Venue: Vienna, Austria

www.sola-int.org

NOVEMBER

BDTA Dental Showcase

Date: 12-14 November 2009

Venue: NEC Birmingham

Tel: +44 (0) 1494 729959

www.dentalshowcase.com/visit

FIRST ORTHODONTIC COMMISSIONING EDUCATION DAY

The British Orthodontic Society (BOS) has announced that it is organising the first National Orthodontic Commissioning Education Day in September 2009. The day is aimed at individuals or organisations who are directly or indirectly involved in commissioning NHS orthodontic services.

BOS says that while the new contractual arrangements of 2006 in England and Wales brought about a number of positive changes, there are still many issues that would benefit from further clarification and guidance and it is

hoped that shared knowledge between SHAs, PCTs, orthodontic managed clinical networks and providers will help in this process.

The day-long event will be held as a parallel session at the BOS annual conference which takes place on Tuesday 15 September 2009 in Edinburgh.

Registration for the meeting is free but places must be booked in advance. Lunch and refreshments will also be provided free by the BOS.

More information and booking is available from www.bos.org.uk.

RURAL DENTAL CONFERENCE EXPLORES ORAL HEALTH

The link between oral health and overall health was explored by speakers at the 10th Annual Rural Dental Conference held in Mid Wales recently. Organised by the Welsh Rural Postgraduate Unit under the auspices of the Institute of Rural Health, the conference was held at Gregynog Hall, near Newtown.

The conference was opened by Dr Margaret Kellett, Dean of Leeds Dental School, who outlined the evidence for the link between oral and overall health, following her co-authorship of an expert report on this topic last year.

Pictured below from left to right:

Nigel Carter, BDHF Chief Executive, Fiona Sandom, dental therapy/hygiene tutor for North Wales, Margaret Kellett, Dean and Director of Leeds Dental Institute, Charles Vaughan Jones, Postgraduate Dental Tutor for Rural Wales, Kirsty Moons, Associate Director for DCP postgraduate education in Wales, Professor Jonathan Cowpe, incoming Dean of postgraduate dental education for Wales, Francesco D'Aiuto, clinical lecturer at UCL Eastman Dental Institute, Diane Harris, dental certificate nurse tutor for Wales and Andrew McBain, a lecturer at the Manchester School of Pharmacy.



NEW EDITOR SOUGHT

Community Dental Health, the journal of the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD), is looking for a new Editor to take up the position from 1 January 2010. Express-

sions of interest are invited and should be forwarded by 31 August 2009 to *Community Dental Health*, c/o Professor Denis O'Mullane, Editor, Oral Health Services Research Centre, University Dental School and Hospital, Wilton, Cork, Ireland. Email cdh@ucc.ie.