we positively embrace change and stop creating reasons why there is no need to do so. This was recognised over 40 years ago by Robert Kennedy who stated 'Progress is a nice word. But change is its motivator and change has its enemies.'

We know that 2010 is the start of another decade of change for us. The public finances are likely to remain dire. This will call into question the continuing funding for NHS dentistry and consequent priorities.

Three years ago the BDA launched a policy document *Dental futures – forward to twenty twenty*; that is in ten years time. The BDA sought to assess how current trends would develop and to identify the challenges which would face the profession and policy makers and funders. The report looked at trends in oral health and technology. It asked what the workforce would look like and how the money will be spent.

The profession will have to adapt to this change. The future of dentistry will be moving from the old surgical model of care to a more 'medical' approach, a well overdue and welcome advance.

The patient of the future will have different needs and different expectations. However, as Professor Steele reminded us last year, many of the 'heavy metal generation', with widespread amalgams and crowns, are still around and will require traditional dentistry.

We are training more dentists than ever before, but we will need to look at opportunities for career development and continuing professional development. Now that dental care professionals are registered, how do they fit into the delivery of

care by the whole dental team? Only recently a *BDJ* article found that patients attending a dental therapist had significantly higher levels of satisfaction compared with those who attended a dentist. The authors were from the Dental School in this very city. We in the UK have been the trailblazers of this change and where we have gone the rest of the world will surely follow.

We must all improve the care we deliver to patients through professional collaboration between the dentists, DCPs and, let us not forget, the dental industry. This collaboration is common in the rest of the real world but the latent synergy has not been fully realised.

NHS dentistry will be around in the future, but there will also be a growing private sector. The systems must learn to live with each other, just as they do in general practice.

Let me say that whilst we have a right to expect the BDA to help change things for the better for us, it does not absolve us of our responsibilities. The world famous Indian sage, Mahatma Gandhi, encapsulated this with 'Be the change you want to see in the world.'

I would like to close by saying thank you again to all those who have helped me along the way. In the coming year I am looking forward to meeting more of our members, visiting branches and sections, and representing the BDA here and overseas as well as developing links with all parts of the wider profession.

Thank you and enjoy the Conference.

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Valedictory address

John R. Drummond

John Drummond was installed as President of the British Dental Association at last year's 2009 British Dental Conference and Exhibition held in Glasgow. At this year's conference in Liverpool he gave the following valedictory address.

It is difficult to believe that a year has elapsed since I was installed as President of the British Dental Association. I was very honoured to be made your President and I have had a most wonderful year. The year has gone very quickly indeed and I have enjoyed meeting dentists and dental care professionals throughout the United Kingdom and abroad. Wherever Christine and I went we were made most welcome and this is testament to the friendliness of the profession.

I could not have carried out the duties of the post without the strong support of my Dean Professor Bill Saunders. I am also indebted to the clinical academic staff in Prosthetics who have shouldered an increased burden of duties when I have been away. Thank you Brendan Scott, Fiona Stewart, Romana Hunter and Shona Mason. The staff of the BDA have been tremendously helpful and I wish to single out Jonica Thomas, Alison Magee and Tonia Scholes who have organised my diary in

a diplomatic and efficient way. During my year I also became aware of how lucky the BDA is to have Peter Ward as a Chief Executive and I admire very much the talents of the Chair of the Executive Board, Susie Sanderson and our Chair of the Representative Body, Stuart Johnston. My wife Christine has supported me throughout the year and has tolerated, with good humour, my many absences from home and mild bad temper/stress when I have lost my diary, air tickets, passport etc!

In my Presidential address I attempted to rekindle the debate started by John Craig that the BDA should represent all dental professionals and not just dentists. The debate has indeed been restarted but not yet concluded. I am not blind to the difficulties that such an approach might cause but I still firmly believe

that this is where our future lies. We are too small a profession to continue to split ourselves into small factions. I look forward to further discussion and progress towards this goal in the not too distant future.

I am very fortunate today to be handing over to someone I have known and admired for many years. Amarjit Gill is an inspired choice for President and I know how much he is looking forward to his new role. He will be a huge asset to the Association and I wish him all the best.

This year has been the peak of my career and I am enormously grateful to all in the Association for making me President.

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