

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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## NEW BDA PRESIDENT INSTALLED AT LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE

Dr Amarjit Gill, a general dental practitioner in Nottingham, has become the 124th President of the British Dental Association (BDA).

Dr Gill was presented with his chain of office and made his inaugural speech as BDA President at the opening of the 2010 British Dental Conference and Exhibition at Liverpool's Arena and Convention Centre which took place in May. He will serve as President for a year, acting as an ambassador for the BDA both in the UK and overseas.

Dr Gill was awarded his Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree by the Royal Dental Hospital, London, in 1981. After working as an associate in eight different practices, he became a principal in 1985, designing and building his own practice as part of a medical centre. In 1992 he became a Partner, relocat-

ing to a newly designed practice in the Wollaton area of Nottingham where he practises today.

Dr Gill has significant experience of representing the dental profession. Locally, he has served as Chair of the BDA's East Midlands Branch and the Nottingham Independent Practitioner Group, and as the development team leader of his Local Dental Committee.

On the national stage he has chaired the BDA's Private Practice and Equality and Diversity committees and served as Deputy Chair of the organisation's Executive Board. He is also an invited member of the International Academy for Dental Facial Aesthetics.

Dr Gill said, 'It is a great honour to become President of the BDA and I look forward to serving my fellow professionals in this capacity. It is a particular honour in this, the BDA's 130th year.



Dentistry is an innovative, caring profession that can transform patients' lives by giving them happy, confident smiles. I'm really proud of that and I look forward to meeting colleagues from the UK and overseas during my term of office.'



## NEW OCCLUSION BOOKLET PUBLISHED

The British Orthodontic Society has published a new booklet. Entitled *Managing the developing occlusion*, it is designed to help general dental practitioners examine children from an orthodontic viewpoint.

The booklet highlights the assessment of patients at different stages of dental development and outlines procedures and treatments available to deal with the conditions most commonly encountered. [www.bos.org.uk](http://www.bos.org.uk)

## NEW DENTISTRY MINISTER CONFIRMED

Earl Howe has been confirmed as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for dentistry. He has been the Conservative shadow health spokesperson in the House of Lords since 1997 and has previously served in Government as a Junior Minister, first at the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, then at the Ministry of Defence.

Prior to the election, the Conservatives pledged to 'reverse the long, slow death of NHS dentistry.' Their manifesto outlined that they would introduce a new contract, tie newly-qualified dentists into the NHS for five years, and allow dentists to fine

people for missed appointments. They stated that these changes would give one million more people access to an NHS dentist and allow every five-year-old a dental check-up.

The Liberal Democrats have pledged to pilot and evaluate the recommendations of the Steele Review, commit newly-qualified dentists to the NHS for five years, and improve levels of access while introducing innovative new services to encourage local control and accountability. The BDA will be inviting meetings with the new team at the Department of Health.