

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 OUTREACH FACILITY FOR CARDIFF

Cardiff University School of Dentistry is expanding its programme of outreach clinical experience for undergraduates with a brand new unit.

The new facility, which is currently under construction, will provide 18 treatment units for dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs), at Mountain Ash, 17 miles north of the Dental School. It follows on from the success of Cardiff University's first Community Based Clinical Teaching Unit at St David's, which has been established for eight years.

The Unit will provide a wide range of primary care clinical experience for the undergraduates with associated seminar activity. Hygiene and therapy students will attend in the second and third years of their course and will work alongside dental students to emphasise the teamwork approach.



Professor Michael Lewis, Dean of Cardiff University School of Dentistry, said that the new facility will 'help us continue this vital strand of our educational and service strategy,

providing access by appointment to daytime dental care for an estimated 10,000 people.'

The facility will open in September this year.

HEALTHY GUMS LINKED TO HEALTHY LUNGS

A new study published in the *Journal of Periodontology* suggests that periodontal disease may increase the risk for respiratory infections such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia.

The study, which was carried out by a team from the ITS Centre for Dental Studies & Research in Ghaziabad, India, included 200 participants between the ages of 20 and 60 with at least 20 natural teeth. Half of the participants were hospitalised patients with a respiratory disease such as

pneumonia, COPD or acute bronchitis and the other half were healthy control subjects with no history of respiratory disease. Each participant underwent a comprehensive oral evaluation to measure periodontal health status.

The study found that patients with respiratory diseases had worse periodontal health than the control group, suggesting a relationship between respiratory disease and periodontal disease. Researchers suspect that the presence of oral pathogens associated with periodontal disease may increase

a patient's risk of developing or exacerbating respiratory disease.

'This study provides yet another example of how periodontal health plays a role in keeping other systems of the body healthy,' said Donald S. Clem, DDS, President of the American Academy of Periodontology.

Previous research has associated gum disease with other chronic inflammatory diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

The study can be found at: www.joponline.org/doi/abs/10.1902/jop.2011.100582