

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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PRIZEWINNERS ADDRESS RISK FOR PREMIER SYMPOSIUM

Eight outstanding individuals were presented with awards at Dental Protection's tenth Premier Symposium, held at King's College, London on 4 December 2010.

The event, aimed at all members of the dental team, saw over 300 dental professionals gather to hear topical and informative lectures from Professors Richard Palmer and Tara Renton, among others.

The undergraduate first prize was shared by Sarah McKernon for *A clinical audit of undergraduate record keeping* and trio Rosemary Cuning, Catherine Renfrew and Rhoda Kirkland for their *Healthcare improvement project focusing on hand hygiene*.

Postgraduate first prize was won by Geoff Chiu for *Improving the accuracy and quality of operation note-keeping*



Left to right: Rosemary Cuning, Catherine Renfrew, Rhoda Kirkland, Sarah Holslag, Hayley Lawrence, Linda Sun Liu, Sarah Mckernon

and the dental care professional (DCP) first prize went to Sarah Holslag, a dental hygienist for *Informed consent. Have you got it?*

The annual risk management competition has a total prize fund of £6,000 and accepts entries from projects which recognise the importance of patient safety.

PATIENTS TO RATE DENTAL SERVICES ONLINE

Patients can now rate NHS dental practices on a new online service, Patient Opinion (www.patientopinion.org.uk), launched in December by Health Minister Simon Burns.

With 1.2 million visits to dentists every month, the Government has launched the new service to make it easier for patients to find key information about dentists in one place.

Patients will be able to view information such as opening times and additional services offered by

England's 22,000 NHS dentists on one page without having to search multiple sources.

Patients can read comments about how easy it is to get an appointment; how highly they would recommend the dental practice; how well patients are treated by staff; and if patients felt they were involved in decisions about their care.

In a unique partnership, comments left by patients on the independent Patient Opinion site will be republished on existing website NHS Choices, giving patients even more information to make informed decisions about

their care. There are around 200,000 searches for dental practices on NHS Choices every month, of 7 million hits on average.

'People will be able to directly communicate with NHS dental staff online, giving them a clear picture of the results they are achieving,' said Health Minister Mr Burns. 'They can use this information to improve their services, and achieve our aim of health outcomes being among the best in the world.'

Feedback will be independently monitored and any abuse, including naming of staff, will not be posted.