

PERSONAL CHAIR FOR MICROBIOLOGY EXPERT



Dr Andrew Smith has been awarded a Personal Chair in Clinical Bacteriology at the University of Glasgow.

The newly appointed Professor is the Head of the Diagnostic Oral Microbiology Laboratory at Glasgow Dental Hospital & School and also the lead microbiologist for instrument decontamination services in NHS Glasgow and Clyde. Nationally, he has advised several working groups on instrument decontamination and has been involved in the last two Department of Health risk assessments for the transmission of vCJD via dental procedures.

Professor Smith has published over 70 research articles in peer reviewed journals and has research funding in excess of £2 million. This has involved key projects linking with colleagues at the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh and scientists at Health Protection Agency, Porton Down. Locally he works as a Consultant Microbiologist providing on-call and Consultant Microbiology advice to North Glasgow hospitals on all aspects of clinical microbiology. He is the only dentally qualified person to have sat and passed the advanced course in sterilisation technology administered by the Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management.

BDA WEATHERS UPS AND DOWNS OF DENTISTRY

Concerns about the economic climate are leading patients in England to cancel dental appointments and defer treatments they need, according to research by the British Dental Association (BDA).

A survey carried out by the BDA found that 59% of dentists questioned had seen their patients cancel appointments, while 68% reported decisions to defer treatment. The unfortunate knock-on effect of these decisions is an increase in the number of patients presenting at surgeries requiring emergency treatment: more than a third of practitioners said that they had seen an increased demand for emergency treatment during the past 12 months.

In February the BDA welcomed the decision to allow South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to proceed with its proposed scheme to fluoridate

water in Southampton and parts of South West Hampshire.

The BDA believes that fluoridation will play an important role in reducing the worryingly high levels of dental decay in Southampton where as many as 42% of 5-year-olds have experienced tooth decay. Despite a range of oral health measures used by Southampton City PCT to reduce these high levels of tooth decay and to address health inequalities, over 520 children in Southampton still required general anaesthetic to have a total of 2,900 teeth extracted in 2007.

The BDA is currently gearing up for this year's British Dental Conference and Exhibition, which will take place in Manchester on 19-21 May 2011. More than 4,000 dental professionals are expected to attend the event, with the theme 'Essential innovations: igniting your profession!'

RENOWNED LECTURER SPEAKS ON IMPLANT FAILURE

As 2010 drew to an end renowned researcher and lecturer Professor Tomas Albrektsson delivered his keynote lecture 'Do implants fail, and if so, why?' to audiences in London, Manchester and Glasgow.

Hosted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

(RCPSG) and web streamed to LONDEC and MANDEC, delegates were given an expert insight into implant failure and implications.

The success of this partnership approach culminated in Professor Albrektsson receiving an Honorary FDS from RCPSG.



Dr Alyson Wray, Dean of the Dental Faculty with Professor Tomas Albrektsson on receiving his Honorary FDS