

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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PUTTING WALES AT THE FOREFRONT OF DENTAL TRAINING

The Wales Dental Deanery saw a range of ground breaking initiatives come to fruition in 2010. The first cohort of dental nurses graduated from the Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Dental Nursing and in August 2010 a new Dental Foundation Training Scheme was launched for dental graduates.

The scheme consists of two days working in a general dental practice environment in the new Dental Teaching Unit in Porth, two days in the Dental Hospital in Cardiff and one educational study day. The Dental Teaching Unit was opened in September 2009 and is the first of its kind in Wales, boasting cutting edge technology imported from the US, eight fully equipped dental surgeries and versatile working stations which allow the dentist to work ambidextrously with their equipment. The Unit also has a 120-seat conference centre with a video



link to one of the surgeries, in addition to a specialised dental training room with 18 phantom heads.

The facilities for training dental foundation trainees, promoted by the Dental Postgraduate Section of PGMDE (Wales)

in partnership with Local Health Boards and Welsh Assembly Government, are unique across the UK and put Wales at the forefront of training young dentists and providing dental care in areas where there is a defined need.

CHILDHOOD CARIES A MATTER OF NATIONAL SHAME

An opinion article in the *Faculty Dental Journal* (the journal of the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England) asserts that some children in England may be experiencing avoidable dental pain and distress because decayed primary teeth are left unrestored or not restored to a consistently high quality by some dentists working under the NHS.

Professor Monty Duggal, author of *Carious primary teeth in children: can or*

should they be left untreated?, says that the level of care provided for tooth decay in young children 'is a matter of national shame'. A recent NHS oral health survey found that on average 30% of 5-year-old children have one either decayed, missing or filled tooth with rates varying widely across the country. Studies also suggest that children from deprived backgrounds have eight times the level of dental disease found in children from the least deprived backgrounds.

'Dental hospitals regularly receive referrals for untreated or inadequately treated decayed primary teeth because some NHS dentists do not have adequate funding streams, or in some cases training, to provide good restorative treatment [...] There has to be adequate resources both for the prevention and treatment of dental decay in children,' said Professor Duggal in the article.

The full article can be accessed at www.ingentaconnect.com/content/rcse/fdj/2011/00000002/00000001/art00003.