

HONOURS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

East of England Junior Papers Day

Three senior house officers won first prize at the East of England Junior Papers Day held on 6 July at the British School of Racing in Newmarket, sponsored by the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **Niamh O'Rourke** of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust won the prize for her presentation on *An audit of compliance with BAHNO Standards*; **Amaka Ngwuocha** from the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for her case report presentation on *Bilateral Acoustic Neuroma*; and **Lauren Jessica Hardwick**, also from the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, for her poster presentation on *An audit on mental capacity*.

The East of England multi-professional Deanery also awarded runner-up prizes to **Aaron John Cronin**, **Hakeem Ajao**, **Stefan Abela** and **Mohamed-Saeed Seedat**.

President of the International Academy of Oral Oncology

Professor Crispian Scully CBE has been elected President of the International Academy of Oral Oncology (IAOO) at the Singapore Congress in July.

NICDR grant

A team of researchers at King's College London and the Forsyth Institute have been awarded a large grant by the US National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) to continue their work on compiling the first comprehensive list of oral bacterial species.

The Human Oral Microbiome Database provides descriptions of each species together with tools for analysis of their DNA. The NICDR grant will enable the researchers to continue cataloguing the Human Oral Microbiome and describing the 1,000 different bacterial species found in the human mouth.

First cohort graduate from Peninsula Dental School

Forty-seven dentists are the first graduating cohort from the Peninsula Dental School in the South West of England, the first new dental school to open in the UK in 40 years.

Students at Peninsula Dental School first hone their clinical skills by using the latest virtual technology before carrying out assessments and treatments for NHS patients under supervision, at dental education facilities in Exeter, Plymouth and Truro over the four-year course.

Rowena takes the reins

Rowena Milan is the new Publisher of the BDA Publications portfolio. Rowena joined the *British Dental Journal* editorial team in 2005 as Journal Editor and became *BDJ* Managing Editor in 2010.

Kate Maynard, best known as Editor of *Vital*, the *BDJ*'s sister title for dental care professionals (DCPs), has also added to her duties by assuming the role of *BDJ* News Editor on a permanent basis. Kate originally joined the *BDJ* editorial team in 2003 as Manuscript Administrator before rising through the editorial ranks.

EDUCATION

Year five fees

The announcement that 2012-2013 entrants to dental school will see their year five fees fully covered by the bursary is a good short-term solution that provides breathing space for a longer-term solution to be agreed. That

is the view of the British Dental Association (BDA), which has been lobbying against what looked like a huge gap in student finance that could have seen next year's intake of dental students applying for courses this year without knowing the size of the financial commitment they were making.

Academic staffing increase

Data published by the Dental Schools Council reveal a 4% increase in the number of clinical professors, senior lecturers and lecturers in dentistry during the 2009-2010 academic year, to a total of 390 Full Time Equivalents (FTE), and a 20% increase in the number of senior clinical teachers and clinical teachers to a total of 135 FTE.

While dental schools are positive about the increase in total numbers of clinical academic staff for the fourth consecutive year, the number of research-active clinical academic dentists remain 28% lower than in 2000. Since 2005, with the smallest number of dental clinical

academics (433 FTE) in the decade, there has been a 25% expansion in student numbers; the number of clinical academics has increased by 21% in this time, but the number of research-active clinical academic dentists has shrunk by a further 10% (to 390 FTE). Sixty-two percent of professors, senior lecturers and lecturers are aged over 46 and women now make up 36% of the clinical academic team compared to 32% in 2004.

http://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/clinical_academic_staffing_survey.htm

Manchester refurbishment

After nearly two years in the planning the work to refurbish the Department of Child Dental Health at the Manchester University Dental Hospital has been completed. The refurbishment has included the installation of 11 Takara Belmont treatment centres featuring chairs that provide easy access for younger patients and no small gaps for children's fingers.

COMMISSIONING EXPERIENCING MIXED FORTUNES

Commissioning of NHS dental services is going through turbulent times as it contends with structural change in the NHS, the launch of pilots for a new dental contract and pressures on funding.

The BDA's *2011 Dental commissioning survey* found that more than one-quarter (28%) of primary care trusts (PCTs) questioned have had their commissioning functions merged with those of other PCTs. But only a few (8%) said that such clustering had decreased their ability to respond to local needs. Half of those questioned said that clustering had improved their ability to manage contracts.

The survey also uncovered funding concerns: 21% reported cuts of more than 4% to their budgets for salaried primary dental care, and 18% reported smaller decreases in budgets for hospital dentistry.

Further details are available at: www.bda.org/lcresearch.

