

DENTAL DRILL TO BE DROWNED OUT

A new device has been invented by Professor Brian Millar which is designed to cancel out the noise of the dentist's drill, thereby reducing some patients' anxiety about dental treatment.

The prototype for the device works in a similar way to noise-cancelling headphones but is designed to deal with the very high pitch of the dental drill. Patients would simply unplug their headphones, plug the device into their MP3 player or mobile phone, then plug the headphones into the device, allowing them to listen to their own music while completely blocking out the sound of the drill and suction equipment. The patient can still hear the dentist and other members of the dental team speaking to them but other unwanted sounds are filtered out by the device.

Professor Millar, of King's College London's Dental Institute, was initially inspired by carmaker Lotus' efforts to develop a system that removed unpleasant road noise while still allowing drivers to hear emergency sirens. Then with over a decade of collaboration with engineering researchers the prototype has been designed, built and successfully evaluated.

The device uses technology called 'adaptive filtering' where electronic filters lock onto sound waves and removes them, even if the amplitude and frequency change as the drill is being used.

'The beauty of this gadget is that it would be fairly cost-effective for dentists to buy,' said Professor Millar. 'What we need now is an investor to develop the product further, to enable us to bring this device to as many dental surgeries as possible.'

LYNCH PLANS TO INFLUENCE DENTISTRY ON ALL LEVELS



Professor Damien Walmsley (left) with Dr Christopher Lynch

Dr Christopher Lynch has been named as the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Dentistry* – a leading international dental journal in restorative dentistry.

Dr Lynch, Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry at Cardiff University, takes over from Professor Damien Walmsley of the University of Birmingham, who steps down after a successful nine years in the role.

Commenting on his appointment, Dr Lynch said: 'My ambition is that the *Journal of Dentistry* will continue to be a leading dental publication, with an emphasis on publishing high quality research that has the anticipated level impact of influencing the practice of dentistry at clinician, research, industry and policy-maker levels.'

DIARY

FEBRUARY

Sirona Dental Systems: CEREC CAD/CAM technology

Date: 25/26 February 2011

Location: Chiswick

Email: mark.buckland@sironadental.co.uk

Telephone: 0845 071 5040

www.sironacadcamsolutions.co.uk

MARCH

BDA Seminar: Preparing for retirement

Date: 4 March 2011, 09.30-16.45

Venue: BDA, London

Email: events@bda.org

Telephone: 020 7563 4590

www.bda.org/events

Oral-B 'Up to date' scientific exchange seminar

Date: 8 March 2011

Venue: Kenwood Hall, Sheffield

Email: julia@ab-communications.com

Telephone: 0785508550

BDA Seminar: A practical team approach to periodontics

Date: 11 March 2011, 09.00-16.40

Venue: Leeds Marriott Hotel, Leeds

Email: events@bda.org

Telephone: 020 7563 4590

www.bda.org/events

BACD: State of the art ceramics in 2011 with Dr Christopher Orr

Date: 14 March 2011

Location: Letchworth Garden City

www.bacd.com

The BACD Roadshow: The future of dentistry: should you be scared?

Date: 15 March 2011

Location: Bristol

Email: suzy@bacd.com

Telephone: 020 8241 8526

www.bacd.com

UCL Eastman CPD: Budgeting and management accounts

Date: 17 March 2011

Email: m.kelly@eastman.ucl.ac.uk

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