

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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TENDERS INVITED AND 1,100 APPLY FOR TRAINING

COPDEND (the Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors) is calling for applications for research projects that may attract funding up to £25,000. The Research Tender Protocol and outline of the project can be downloaded from www.copdend.org.

The title of the 2011/12 Invitation to Tender for a Research Project is *Developing quality standards for UK postgraduate dental educators*. COPDEND wishes to explore the extent of formal educator training undertaken by Deanery postgraduate dental educators in the UK, with a view to developing national quality standards.

Applications should be submitted to the COPDEND Secretariat by 31 December 2011; email emma.jackson@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk. Projects will be screened by the COPDEND Research Group in

January/February 2012 and a final decision will be taken soon after.

COPDEND also organised the first ever coordinated dental foundation recruitment exercise for England and Wales this year, in partnership with London Deanery. Over 1,100 individuals applied for dental foundation training posts in England and Wales. All those eligible were due to be interviewed during November by trained and calibrated dental trainers and educators, with postgraduate deaneries allocating successful candidates to training practices in the spring for year-long posts starting next August.

The national process has been developed following several years of piloting centralised recruitment in more than half of UK deaneries.

Applications to Dental Foundation Training for 2012 in Northern Ireland and Scotland are being organised separately.

HAVE YOU SEEN JOHN IVESON?

The Major Incident Team at Winsford Police HQ in Winsford, Cheshire are appealing to dentists to check their records for any contact with an individual called John Thomas Iveson.

Mr Iveson, who was born on 13 August 1971, disappeared from Nantwich, Cheshire on 30 January 2007. The police are emphasising the importance of the enquiry in establishing the fact that Mr Iveson is deceased.

Mr Iveson, who had aliases of Butler and Nolan, was last seen alive on 30 January 2007. He has not contacted anyone since that date and it is believed that he was murdered.

As part of the criminal case, the police will need to show that Mr Iveson is in fact dead. Part of the evidence will be to prove that he has neither been seen nor registered/had any contact with any organisation, agency or public body.

Anyone with a record of contact with Mr John Thomas Iveson on anyone using the permutations of his name (John Butler/John Nolan) is requested to contact the Operation Pisces Incident Room on 01606 366533 or jill.cope@cheshire.pnn.police.uk.

PATIENTS WITH MOUTH CANCER SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM DENTAL CHARGES

Mouth cancer campaigners believe that many sufferers are being treated unequally and face years of having to fund their own restorative dental treatment.

People with mouth cancer have no guarantee to receive restorative treatment paid for by the NHS. Mouth cancer campaigners are calling for the inequality to be put right in the new commissioning arrangements for NHS dental contracts, to make sure that mouth cancer sufferers are exempt from dental charges.

Dr Chetan Trivedy, Clinical Director at Birwood Dental Care Limited – supported by the British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) – expressed their concern in an open letter sent to the *BDJ* and other media. An e-petition has also been established to seek professional and public support, and encourage debate in the

House of Commons. Mouth cancer campaigners believe there would be a public outcry if patients with any other form of cancer were asked to contribute to the cost of recovering from cancer treatment.

'It is only fair that mouth cancer sufferers have the right to receive the same level of treatment and support as any other cancer patient,' said Dr Trivedy.

A recent YouGov survey of 1,495 cancer patients for Macmillan Cancer Support found that two thirds (66%) reported

an increase in costs as a result of travelling to hospital and/or an increase in household expenses. For some mouth cancer patients, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Mouth cancer campaigners are also concerned that the lack of free examination for mouth cancer from NHS dentists is hindering improvements in mouth cancer survival rates.

This November is Mouth Cancer Action Month. To sign the e-petition visit <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22063>.