Book reviews

Books, videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs and any other relevant items submitted for a review in the BDJ should be addressed to:

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ORAL HEALTH & TRANS-CULTURAL TOBACCO: A GUIDE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS & TRANS-CULTURAL TOBACCO USERS (DVD)

NHS Lothian and
ASH Scotland
price £20/free
within Scotland

This new multilingual DVD resource on the modern usage of trans-cultural tobacco is produced by Minority Ethnic Health Inclusion Project (MEHIP) Lothian and is supported by funding from Action on Smoking and Health (Scotland) (ASH Scotland) and the Big Lottery.

It is aimed at health professionals and smokeless tobacco users alike, and was developed following several research projects which identified the need to develop culturally and linguistically appropriate resources in an effort to reduce tobacco-related harm.

The content of this DVD comprises a series of short audiovisual programmes covering a wide range of topics. These include which tobacco products are commonly used, why their usage is so prevalent and the health implications of their use. The DVD demonstrates that UK smokeless tobacco use is on the rise in parallel with an increasing ethnic minority population. Many of these products contain unknown quantities of chemicals and the packaging often does not carry any health warnings despite the well-documented link between smokeless tobacco and oral cancer.

This resource provides information on a topic that perhaps most clinicians feel was not adequately covered during their training. All information contained in the DVD is relevant to the topic, clearly

presented and described in a sensitive manner. It is also conveniently available in a variety of languages. Additional resources complement the audio-visual information and they include a printable oral cancer information leaflet, again available in a range of relevant languages. A thorough glossary and a photo reference gallery are available, allowing both clinician and patient to communicate despite any potential language or cultural barriers.

To summarise, I believe this resource would be of particular use to dentists, general medical practitioners and community pharmacists. There is a need for greater awareness of how smokeless tobacco products affect oral and general health so as to provide effective oral health advice. This is an excellent resource for today's multiethnic society and may be the basis for the development of a culturally sensitive smoking cessation service.

N. O'Murchu

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE EXPERT WITNESS

M. R. Young
UK: Fivenine Limited
price £30.00 hard copy/£23.00
Kindle; pp 63
Available via Amazon

This book is based on Dr Young's many years' experience as an independent dental expert witness and on his special interest in the art of writing reports. This text is primarily aimed at aspiring, novice or inexperienced medical and dental expert witnesses. The aim of the book is to provide a framework within which knowledge, skills and practice can be developed. It illustrates

what a medical or dental expert will be expected to know and it endeavours to show how to do it well. The author has recognised the innate problems of communicating between not just two different disciplines but different intellectual cultures. In essence, it is a thoughtful, well crafted text which is eminently readable. This text deserves to become the *vade mecum* for the clinician acting as an expert witness.

Dr Young reiterates the *Oxford English Dictionary* definition of an expert as 'a person who has great knowledge or skill in a particular area'. He proceeds to explore the five key skills required to be a successful expert and defines the key elements involved. Sections demonstrate how to get started and explain the importance of getting established on a national expert witness organisation. Paragraphs are devoted to the importance of your CV as a vital marketing tool. The author discusses marketing strategies including the '4 Ps': product, place, price and promotion. Emphasis is placed on feedback questionnaires.

The importance of being familiar with the relevant NHS complaints process is reinforced. It is imperative to acquire knowledge about the civil legal process. The typical stages for a clinical negligence claim are highlighted. The Bolam and Bolitho tests are succinctly explained. Dr Young discusses the criteria required for the establishment of negligence. Further sections are devoted to time management skills. The Data Protection Act is mentioned and the importance of compliance is reinforced. Dr Young uses Kipling's *Six serving men* as an acronym in effective letter writing.

Writing reports is the main activity of all expert witnesses and tabulating