

## DIARY

### Bruxism Awareness Week

Date: 22-28 October 2012  
www.s4sdental.com/

### BSDHT Oral Health Conference and Exhibition

Date: 9-10 November 2012  
Venue: ACC, Liverpool  
Telephone: 01452 886365  
www.bsdt.org.uk

### Expert Panel Consensus Meeting on Monitoring, Diagnosis and Treatment of Peri-implant Disease

Date: 19 November 2012  
Venue: Savoy Place, London  
Telephone: 020 8487 5555  
www.adi.org.uk/consensus2012

### BACD Annual Conference

Date: 22-24 November 2012  
Venue: MCCC, Manchester  
Telephone: 020 7612 4166  
Email: suzy@bacd.com  
www.bacd.com

### ADI Study Club: What went wrong? Complications, errors and how to solve the problem

Date: 29 November 2012  
Location: Cardiff  
Telephone: 020 8487 5555  
www.adi.org.uk

### IMAGINA DENTAL: 2nd 3D & CAD/CAM Digital Dentistry Congress

Date: 21-23 February 2013  
Venue: Grimaldi Forum, Monaco  
www.imaginadental.org/2013

### British Dental Conference & Exhibition 2013

Date: 25-27 April 2013  
Venue: ExCel London  
www.bda.org/conference

## PRIVATE DENTAL SCHOOL TO OPEN IN LEICESTER

The Leicester Dental Teaching Academy and the University of Buckingham have announced the creation of the UK's first independent dental school.

The school, which will be located in Leicester and will take 100 students annually on a degree course that lasts five years from September 2013, will be aimed primarily at international students.

The new Bachelor's Degree in Dental Surgery will be awarded by the University of Buckingham and the course is designed to meet General Dental Council (GDC) outcome measures and European standards as well as the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Students will be introduced to patient care early on in their training and will be given a thorough grounding in business development, management and enterprise. They will gain an appreciation of the international business environment and cultures in other parts of the world such as India, Nigeria and China – and the impact of oral disease on societies around the world.

Professor Stuart Morganstein, the dean of the new dental school, said: 'Our dental school will prepare students for a lifetime career. They will have cared for a large number of patients by the time they finish their training. We will continue to support them throughout their careers.'

The central teaching hub and administrative offices will be in existing buildings in Leicester's Cultural Quarter. The Dental Clinical Centre as well as specialist suites and extra teaching and administrative space will be built on land alongside this building. This will mean 500 students living and working in the city centre along with 100 staff and 400 patient visits a day.

The new school will create employment in the city centre of Leicester in an area of economic regeneration and will provide free dental treatment to members of the public. It will be Leicester's largest drop-in centre for dental services.

## MOUTH USED AS THIRD HAND BY CAVEMEN

Dentition from a Neanderthal skeleton has provided clear signs of right-handedness, a trait unique to humans, which also indicates a capacity for language.

A dominant right arm has been theorised for decades since the discovery of the famous 'Regourdou 1' skeleton and the comparison of muscularity in its left and right arm,<sup>1</sup> and a recent study of Regourdou 1's mandible has proffered further tangible proof of this. A complete set of fully erupted, permanent teeth have been preserved, showing differential signs of tooth wear. Volpato *et al.*<sup>2</sup> have identified scratches on the right mandibular incisors, which typically indicate right-handed manipulations carried out at the front of the mouth, such as the 'stuff and cut' scenario, where meat was held in the mouth and portions cut very close to the lips. This scratching on the right labial surfaces of the incisors and canines suggests the mouth was used as a 'third hand'.

These findings have great implications for human evolution, as right-handedness signals brain lateralisation – specialisation of the brain's two hemispheres. The left side of the brain controls the right side of the body as well as playing the largest role in language. Evidence of a dominant right hand therefore suggests Neanderthals had the ability to form language.

1. Vandermeersch B, Trinkaus E. The postcranial remains of the Regourdou 1 Neanderthal: the shoulder and arm remains. *J Hum Evol* 1995; **28**: 439–476.
2. Volpato V, Macchiarelli R, Guatelli-Steinberg D, Fiore I, Bondioli L, Frayer D W. Hand to mouth in a neanderthal: right-handedness in Regourdou 1. *PLoS ONE* 2012; **7**: e439492.

By Laura Pacey

## RESOURCE EXTOLS VIRTUES OF CHEWING GUM

Wrigley Oral Healthcare, sponsors of the European Platform for Better Oral Health along with GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, has launched a new website providing resources on the oral care benefits of chewing sugarfree gum.

The Wrigley Oral Healthcare Programme is built on research with the UK and Irish dental

community that explored which online tools and resources dental professionals need to support them in educating their patients on the benefits of sugarfree gum.

wrigleyoralhealthcare.com provides professionals with instant access to clinical research on oral health, continuing professional development (CPD), the ability to order samples of sugarfree chewing gum and a supporting patient leaflet, and industry news.

