

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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DENTAL FOUNDATION APPLICATIONS ARE IN

One thousand, one hundred and seventy-two individuals have applied for dental foundation year 1 (DF1) training posts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for 2013. All of those eligible are being assessed this month by trained and calibrated dental trainers and educators. Postgraduate deaneries will allocate successful candidates to training practices in December for year-long posts starting in February 2013, and in the spring for posts starting next summer.

One thousand, one hundred and thirty-nine applicants, of whom 1,026 are students or recent graduates of UK dental schools, have been invited to attend assessment centres to compete for

an estimated 952 funded training posts in NHS practices. Some applicants may also have applied to Scotland where there are further training posts available. This is the second year that COPDEND (the UK Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors) working in partnership with London Deanery has organised national recruitment to dental foundation training posts.

Professor Chris Franklin, Chair of COPDEND, said 'We are building on the process we introduced last year to ensure applicants have a fair and transparent way to apply for these important training posts.'

Meanwhile, the British Dental Association (BDA) has announced that young dentists are calling for

support for their demand for government to guarantee all graduates from UK dental schools a Dental Foundation Training (DFT) place. The demand comes in the BDA's newly-published *YDC Asks*, a mini-manifesto for young dentists developed by the organisation's Young Dentists Committee (YDC).

The Committee is asking those who support it to sign a government e-petition. The petition argues that the failure to allocate DFT places to UK graduates both wastes taxpayers' money invested in their training, because denying each individual a DFT place means that they are prevented from providing NHS care, and is unfair to the graduates who have taken on significant amounts of debt in order to complete their studies.

The launch of the petition follows a recent admission by the Department of Health that 35 UK graduates from the 2011 cohort have not been allocated DFT places. Each graduate, DH acknowledged, will have cost the public purse approximately £150,000 to train.

To sign the e-petition go to <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/40302>.

BADN CEO CELEBRATES TWO DECADES OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Chief Executive of the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) Pam Swain celebrated 20 years with the BADN at a drinks reception held at the Mayfair Exchange in London in September.

Former President of the BADN Angie McBain MBE addressed the assembled guests who have worked with Ms Swain over the last two decades. Ms McBain emphasised not only Ms Swain's dedication to the BADN and the changes she has made to what was a small niche association to bring it into the twenty-first century and make it the largest and most professional of the DCP associations, but also the endless support she has provided to past presidents, council and members of the Association.

Ms Swain was presented with a pearl necklace, a gift from BADN Council, by Finance Officer Joan Hatchard.

TOP NAMES SECURED FOR CONFERENCE 2013

Earl Howe, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality in the Department of Health, has been confirmed to speak at the 2013 British Dental Conference and Exhibition which takes place from 25-27 April 2013 at ExCel London. Dr Robert Lowe, a leading aesthetic practitioner from North Carolina, and Bart van Meerbeek, Professor in Biomaterial Sciences at the Conservative Dentistry department of Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, have also been confirmed.

Dr Lowe will be presenting four sessions in the main auditorium on advanced aesthetic restorations, clinical treatment planning and problem solving, and composite



restorative dentistry. Professor van Meerbeek will be presenting two sessions on adhesion and ceramics.

BDA members will be entitled to a free one-day pass for both the conference and exhibition or they can choose to attend for two or three days at a discounted rate. Further information can be found on the event webpage www.bda.org/conference.

For the latest updates 'like' the Facebook page www.facebook.com/bdaconference and follow the event on Twitter @bdaconference. Remember to book early for the best rates.