

PUT A CHECK-UP IN YOUR TROLLEY

The first NHS dental practice to be based in a supermarket in England has been opened in Bedford by Integrated Dental Holdings (IDH).

The new practice opened in June at Tesco Bedford Riverfield Drive Superstore and is open every day, enabling patients to register in-store and get an appointment quickly. The dental team consists of three dentists, six dental nurses, one hygienist, a receptionist and a practice



manager – a team originally located in a community centre in Bedford.

Shazna Bibi, practice manager at the superstore practice, said: 'Patients have been enthusiastic about the new practice and many people have admired our facilities. Our location in the Tesco Superstore is terrific and patients have told us how convenient it is. We used to be booked for weeks before patients could secure an appointment, but now it's much easier to see them as we have open books, more dentists and the availability of evening and weekend appointments. Patients can also see a hygienist without seeing a dentist first. We offer private dental treatments too, so patients can easily find out about the available options while in store.'

NEW PATHS TO DENTAL SCHOOL

Specialist private medical college Medipathways has launched a new two-year honours degree programme in Biomedical Science, the first of its kind in the UK, designed specifically for medical or dental school entry.

While studying with Medipathways on the Birkbeck campus in London (the degree is validated by the University of Buckingham), students will receive special attention for their UKCAT/BMAT, work experience and interview preparations, optimising their chances for entry to medical school. Students can also apply for UK medical or dental school after just the first year. This gives students three opportunities for gaining entry to medical or dental school over a two-year period; a traditional three year BSc route only allows for two opportunities.

To find out more visit www.medipathways.com.

STOP PRESS: SUGAR COULD AID CANCER FIGHT

Sugar rarely receives positive press – particularly in the *BDJ* – but according to researchers in San Francisco, a natural form of sugar could offer a new, non-invasive way to precisely image tumours and potentially see whether cancer medication is effective.

A new imaging technology developed at UC San Francisco in collaboration with GE Healthcare uses a compound called pyruvate, which is created when glucose breaks down in the body and which normally supplies energy to cells. In cancer, pyruvate is more frequently converted to lactate. Previous animal studies showed that scientists could track the levels of pyruvate converted to lactate via magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), by using a technology called hyperpolarisation and injecting the hyperpolarised pyruvate into the body. The amount of lactate produced and rate of conversion enabled researchers to precisely detect the limits of a mouse's tumour, identify which cancers were most aggressive and track early biochemical changes as tumours responded to medication, long before physical changes occurred.

Now, a 31-patient study performed by scientists at UCSF and their collaborators has shown that the technology is safe in humans and effectively detects tumours in patients with prostate cancer.¹

This first *in vivo* human study lays the groundwork for using the technology to diagnose a variety of cancers and track treatment non-invasively, without conducting repeated biopsies.

1. Nelson S J, Kurhanewicz J, Vigneron D B *et al*. Metabolic imaging of patients with prostate cancer using hyperpolarized [1-¹³C] pyruvate. *Sci Transl Med* 2013; **14**: 198ra108.

DIARY

BDA Community Dental Services Group – Annual Presidential and Scientific Meeting 2013

Date: 9-11 October 2013
Venue: Hilton Cardiff, Cardiff
Telephone: 020 7563 4590
Email: events@bda.org
www.bda.org/groups

Tooth wear and erosion

Date: 11 October 2013
Venue: Hilton Liverpool Hotel, Liverpool
Telephone: 020 7563 4590
Email: events@bda.org
www.bda.org/seminars

BDTA Dental Showcase

Date: 17-19 October 2013
Venue: NEC Birmingham
www.dentalshowcase.com

Bridge2Aid Bash (live band, disco, hot buffet)

Date: 18 October 2013
Venue: Hilton Metropole, Birmingham
Telephone: 0845 850 9877
Email: thebash@bridge2aid.org
www.bridge2aid.org

Dentech China 2013

Date: 23-26 October 2013
Location: Shanghai
www.dentech.com.cn

The Dentist as Artist-Technician by Jason Smithson

Date: 8 November 2013
Location: BACD 10th Annual Conference, Hilton London Metropole
Telephone: 020 7612 4166
www.bacd.com

BSDHT Oral Health Conference

Date: 15-16 November 2013
Venue: International Conference Centre, Birmingham
Email: enquiries@bsdht.org.uk
www.bsdht.org.uk

DPL Premier Symposium

Date: 23 November 2013
Venue: The Shaw Theatre, London
Telephone: 020 7399 2914
Email: events@dentalprotection.org

9th International Vienna Orthodontic Symposium (IVOS)

Date: 6-7 December 2013
Venue: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna
www.ivos.at