

## BLUE LIP SELFIES RAISE AWARENESS OF MOUTH CANCER



Ben Atkins, James Mehta and Professor Elizabeth Kay sporting blue lips at the launch of Mouth Cancer Action Month

This November is Mouth Cancer Action Month, and to raise awareness this year, MPs, dental professionals and the general public have been encouraged to don a pair of blue lips and take a 'blue lip selfie'.

Oral health charity the British Dental Health Foundation launched the campaign at the House of Commons on 28 October to continue the fight against a disease that has increased by 50% in the last decade alone.

Chief Executive of the Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter OBE, said: 'The blue lip selfies are a really good way of getting people interested in what the campaign is about. The reality is we are facing more cases and more deaths from mouth cancer than ever before, and we need the help of the profession to curb these statistics'.

The Foundation believes that if people are aware of changes

in their mouth, and in particular ulcers that do not heal within three weeks, lumps or swellings and red and white patches in the mouth, they are in a better position to act quickly.

Mouth cancer sufferer Jacky Merrison spoke at the event, along with Emma Riley, a former oral health practitioner for the Pennine Trust, and representatives from campaign sponsors and supporters.

Sponsor Denplan has launched a special Facebook app at [www.bluelipselfie.co.uk](http://www.bluelipselfie.co.uk) for the campaign where users can customise selfies with blue cartoon lips and share them on the gallery. Selfies can also be shared on social media using the hashtag #bluelipselfie to help raise awareness of the disease.

More information on the campaign can be found at [www.mouth-cancer.org](http://www.mouth-cancer.org).

## 'PRESCRIBING RIGHTS UNFAIR ON DENTAL THERAPISTS'

New president of the British Association of Therapists (BADT), Fiona Sandom, is pledging to work towards changing the 'unfair' status quo on prescribing rights for dental therapists.

It comes as physiotherapists were granted powers to prescribe [a restricted list of] medicines under new laws coming into force in Wales, Ms Sandom's home country.

The change – also applying to chiropractors and podiatrists – is aimed at easing the pressure on

these areas of the NHS. Nurses, pharmacists and optometrists can already prescribe certain medicines, with powers now extended to additional groups of health professionals, subject to training.

Ms Sandom explained: 'It's unfair and hampers our work greatly, since we are unable to carry out the full scope of our practice and whilst some of our places of work have Patient Group Directions (PGDs) in place, they are still extremely limiting.'

## ARF HIKE

#ARFHIKE:  
EVENTS UNFOLD

23 October 2014

ARF decision due

The General Dental Council (GDC) announces that it will make a decision on the Annual Retention Fee (ARF) level for 2015 on 30 October 2014. The decision will follow careful analysis of more than 4,000 responses to a consultation that ran for nine weeks until 4 September 2014.

At the meeting on 30 October, the Council will be asked to consider options for the level of ARF based on three financial models (Table 1).

Model	Reserves December 2015, expressed as months of 2015 budgeted operating spend		Resultant
	Most likely	Likely worse case	
Model 1	3.8 months	3.0 months	Dentists £945 DCPs £128
Model 2	3.0 months	2.2 months	Dentists £890 DCPs £116
Model 3	2.5 months	1.7 months	Dentists £850 DCPs £111
Current ARF	Less than zero	Less than zero	Dentists £576 DCPs £120

Table 1 ARF financial models

29 October 2014

The British Dental Association (BDA) says that it has called on the GDC to reject all three proposed options for a rise in the ARF ahead of its meeting on 30 October. The BDA outlines six reasons for members to vote against the three tabled proposals, arguing that the GDC has repeatedly altered the methodology and justification for its proposals (the six reasons to vote against can be found on the BDA website: <http://www.bda.org>).

The BDA says the GDC has painted an alarmist and inaccurate picture of rapidly accelerating complaint levels, and that the options facing Council members are focusing entirely on the cash held by the regulator's reserves – options that did not feature in the consultation.

30 October 2014

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Judicial review granted

The BDA announces that its application for 'rolled-up' judicial review proceedings against the GDC has been granted. The review is confirmed to take place at some point between 1-16 December 2014. These fast-tracked proceedings should enable resolution of the case before dentists are legally required to pay their professional fees on 31 December 2014.