

BOOK REVIEW



THE CHANGING ROLE OF DENTAL CARE PROFESSIONALS

N. Wilson, S. Gelbier
BDA
price £6.95; pp 120

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This book is in the third in a series of five British Dental Association witness seminars which were held in 2011. The content is an edited transcription of a seminar chaired by Nairn Wilson and Stanley Gelbier. The contributing group included a range of dental care professionals who offered a wealth of knowledge and information and included everyone from dental therapists to orthodontists and even the former Chief Dental Officer. Through progressive, structured discussions and individual opinion, the history and advancements of dental auxiliaries, assistants, nurses and therapists were well explored and explained. This book, therefore, has a wide audience and is aimed at all dental professionals who have a keen interest in the history of dental professionals and their relative journeys from the 1930s to today.

As the book is based on an open table discussion there are no set chapters and instead a steady

movement from topic to topic is presented in chronological order. This is almost similar to reading a script and so requires attention to follow the path of conversation. This makes it an enjoyable read and interesting points are brought up throughout the text with a personal influence from the individual contributor's experiences.

It very clearly explains how the dental experience has changed from a predominately male-dominated profession in a single surgery environment to a multi-disciplinary team event with numerous variations depending on the treatment being provided and the various ways in which this can be offered with the diverse skill mix.

Overall this book does provide the relevant information in a suitable format and it very well achieves its intended aims. This provides an accessible resource to more fully understand how changes in dental-related education, qualifications and roles have developed over the years and, subtly, it suggests how these roles may continue to change in the future. Of course with no illustrations or diagrams, the more visual reader may find this less interesting and so for that, a visit to the BDA museum is well recommended to supplement this text!

P. BAHAL

CAREERS

A CALL TO ACTION FOR YOUNG DENTISTS



The East Midlands Young Dentist Group. Back row (l-r): Krish Mistry, Priyanka Bhogaita, Muhammad Jasat, Radhika Kotecha, Shriya Nair; front row (l-r) Risha Gupta and Janine Doughty

My name is Janine Doughty and I am the Young Dentist Representative for the British Dental Association's (BDA's) East Midlands Branch Council. The East Midlands BDA Young Dentist Group (YDG) has gone from strength to strength over the past year. We have engaged with and connected young practitioners throughout the region with some exciting and heartening results. I would like to share the story of the East Midlands YDG, and call other young British dentists to action: to unite and support one another!

My background

I graduated from the University of Bristol in 2010, after which I spent two years enjoying my sociable vocational training and OMFS senior house officer jobs in Sheffield. Thereafter, I returned home to Nottingham where it soon became apparent that being a general dental practitioner (GDP) could be a very lonely and isolating occupation. I would spend most days working single-handedly in a busy practice, with minimal support, other than a referral letter template. Furthermore, I wasn't sure how to meet other young dentists in the area, and had little recourse for the exchange of ideas with other members of my profession, or the discussion of clinical cases.

In my pursuit to find young dentists in Nottingham, I began attending local dental committee meetings, BDA lectures, and even became a council member for the BDA. Despite taking these seemingly sensible steps, I was still struggling to find an enthusiastic cohort of young practitioners. At this point, I decided that it was time to take matters into my own hands, and I volunteered for the role of Young Dentist Representative on the East Midlands Branch Council.

NOTICES

Margaret Elizabeth Robinson

We are sad to announce that Margaret Elizabeth Robinson passed away peacefully in North Wales on 29 January 2015.

Born on 28 May 1935, Margaret retired as Head of Dentistry for Liverpool in 1995 and was made a life member of the British Dental Association (BDA) in 1997.

Richard Jonathan Thomas, AIB

Mr Richard Jonathan Thomas, AIB, General Secretary of the Federation of local London Dental Committees (LDCs), beloved husband, father, son, brother, colleague and friend to

so many, died on 13 February 2015, aged 63.

All are welcome to attend a celebration of his life on Saturday 14 March 2015 at 2 pm at Woodford Green United Free Church, 4 Elms Road, Woodford Green, IG8 0UP.

Afterwards there will be refreshments at the County Hotel, 30 Oak Hill, Woodford Green, IG8 9NY. For catering purposes please RSVP to richardsfuneral@outlook.com.

If you are unable to attend but would like to add a message to the book of condolence, please use the same email address: richardsfuneral@outlook.com.