

Speciality trainees meet in Manchester



DSTNC members with speakers: (L-R) Neil Patel, Emily Sherwin, Laura Gartshore, Barry Cockroft (speaker), Monica Padilla, Chantelle Fatania, Reshma Agrawal, Elaine Hawthorn (speaker), Jane Pierce (speaker), Joanna May and James Darcey

The recently formed Dental Specialty Trainee's National Committee (DSTNC) held its inaugural conference in the Manchester Conference Centre on 6 February 2015.

The committee was set up with the joint goals of representing the voices of all UK dental StRs and providing a means of communication between registrars from different specialties. A key objective is to organise activities that will benefit all dental specialty trainees, focusing on areas common to our curricula and training needs. A first step towards achieving these goals and to raise awareness of the committee was the organisation of this national meeting.

After an introduction from the current DSTNC chair, Chantelle Fatania, the morning's session was presented by Dr Jane Povey of the Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management. She gave a varied and thought-provoking presentation which highlighted the importance of strong leadership in healthcare. She provided us all with food for thought and parted with the quote: 'Good leaders create followers, great leaders create leaders'.

The afternoon session began with a presentation from Barry Cockroft, outgoing Chief Dental Officer, covering the changing dental health demographics of our UK population.

Other presenters included Elaine Hawthorne, practice owner and chair of the Greater Manchester and Lancashire LPN for dentistry, and Jane Pierce, Head of Education, Policy and Quality Assurance at the GDC.

Our last speaker of the day was John Milne, Chair of the BDA's Dental Practice Committee. As well as demonstrating the support the BDA can provide for all dental specialists, John discussed the challenges with managing the evolving NHS dental system.

Feedback on the day has been positive and the committee is now looking at how we can proceed in our goals to represent trainees and provide further valuable meetings in the future.

BY MONICA PADILLA,
POST-CCST STR IN ORTHODONTICS,
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re-energise you.

4. A little relaxation goes a long way. Build activities into your schedule that are important to you. Spend an hour a week doing something that you enjoy.
5. Act. Action will make all the difference.

BY SURINDER POONIAN

If you are a young dentist and have ideas for a story or feature for the Young Dentists section of BDJ Upfront, please contact us at bdjnews@nature.com.

ELECTIONS TO THE COUNTRY COUNCILS OF THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Nominations are sought for by-elections to fill vacant seats on the following Country Councils of the British Dental Association (BDA):

NORTHERN IRELAND

- 1 vacancy representing Northern Ireland branch

SCOTLAND

- 2 vacancies representing East of Scotland Branch
- 1 vacancy representing North of Scotland Branch
- 1 vacancy representing West of Scotland Branch

WALES

- 1 vacancy representing Cardiff and South East Wales Section
- 1 vacancy representing North Wales Section

Each Country Council has the following remit:

- to provide regular advice and comment to the Principal Executive Committee as consultative committees
- to consider and advise the Principal Executive Committee on all matters relating to dentistry within the country concerned
- to advise the Principal Executive Committee on all aspects of policy within the country concerned, facilitating external expert and member input to policy formation where required
- to receive regular reports from the Principal Executive Committee, to enable each Country Council to debate and comment on the activities of the Principal Executive Committee
- to liaise with branches and sections.

Members are elected from the branches in each country or, in the case of Wales, sections. The Country Councils play a vital role in ensuring that the Principal Executive Committee, which is concerned with the strategic direction and governance of the Association, is kept in touch with the views and concerns of members. Country Council members are the 'voice of members' to the Principal Executive Committee and senior management team.

The Country Councils together constitute the United Kingdom Council which, amongst other functions, considers an annual report from the Principal Executive Committee on its strategic priorities and activities.

Term of office: This shall be until February 2018, with the entitlement to stand for a further three year term of office at that point.

More information about the by-elections to the Country Councils, including downloadable nomination forms, can be found at: bda.org/elections

Nomination forms must be returned to the Elections Team at 64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8YS or elections@bda.org by 17.00 Wednesday 20 May 2015. Hard copy election packs can also be obtained by contacting Stephen Skelton on 0207 563 4141 or email s.skelton@bda.org.