

judgement. I don't. We should – and have a duty to – empower patients and give them preventive techniques, not just paste over cracks. Even if someone has an exceptional oral hygiene routine, there will always be the need for a dentist. Patients attending the minimum recall level have 90 days, or as I like to view it, 180 opportunities to keep their diet healthy, maintain gingival health, maintain fluoride delivery and a visit to the hygienist. There is a large chance that the compliance will drop off as soon as they leave the practice if the value of what you're saying is absent, hence why I place so much emphasis on working together with a patient to deliver exceptional care.

Having said that, it is the only part of dentistry I find difficult. I see so many different patients on a daily basis from varying backgrounds and stories. Not getting the optimal outcome for a patient – even if it is due to their lack of compliance – is something I take very personally. As a general rule of thumb, but particularly applicable to dentistry, you need to be ok with the fact you can't help everyone. However, this does not detract from the fact that this is my mission.

As a man of faith and a welcoming philosophical outlook on life, it felt appropriate to wrap things up with some philosophical thoughts for others to take away

I have recently lectured to students at Birmingham University, and it was eye-opening to see how much enthusiasm they have. I told them you can't get worried about change. Change is inevitable and is the only constant we have. The bar is always being raised, and you have to constantly adapt and embrace change. By doing that you can start to move forward in life – professionally and personally – and learn to enjoy it.

I live by many mottos in life, but if I had to choose one it would be that everything happens for a reason. At the time you won't know the success behind it, but persevere. There is an old English saying I believe which goes something like 'as one door closes five doors open'. That is so true about my life. Dentistry is constantly changing and I am constantly changing, so I look forward to what this profession will offer me in the future.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Dr Jacques Monnot

It is with sadness that we give notice of the recent death of Dr Jacques Monnot, former President of the French Dental Association (CNSD) chair of the European Regional Organisation (1986-1992) and President of the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI) (1999-2001).

UDAs must be binned, say BDA

The BDA has responded to the latest findings of the Which? Clean Up Dental Costs campaign, and reports of significant waiting times for NHS treatment. The BDA has consistently called for action on the comprehensively flawed UDA system at the heart of NHS dentistry.

Mick Armstrong, Chair of the British Dental Association (BDA), said: 'The government remains committed to a byzantine system that has failed both dentists and their patients. These targets might suit a Whitehall spreadsheet but do not reflect the reality of millions of people receiving and seeking NHS treatment.

'Money being clawed back from dentistry is not being reinvested in dentistry. We want to see prevention at the heart of dentistry. We want real and agreed clarity for both patients and practitioners on what the NHS will cover, and at what cost. None of that will be possible until the UDA is consigned to the dustbin of history.'

eJournals for BDA members

British Dental Association (BDA) members can now access a suite of thirteen major dental journals through ScienceDirect. These include *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*, *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, *Journal of Endodontics*, *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Dental Clinics of North America* and *Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology*, all published by Elsevier. Members can simply contact the BDA Library to request registration details and are then able to access remotely the latest issues and several years' back issues of all of these journals. Go to www.bda.org/ejournals for more information or contact the BDA Library on library@bda.org or 020 7563 4545