

BSP GET MOUTHIE ABOUT GUM DISEASE

On 12 May this year, for the first time in its 67-year history, the British Society of Periodontology (BSP) took the bold step of launching an innovative UK-wide campaign to raise awareness of gum disease and its far-reaching impact on general health.

The BSP is using the power of social media and some eye-opening face cards to show how you could look with gum disease – providing a fun way to draw attention to gum health – which were available via the campaign website and distributed around dental practices, pubs, universities and an event at London's Westfield shopping centre.

BSP President Dr Phil Ower, who was recently interviewed in the *BDJ* (220: 382), said: 'As gum disease is a serious public health issue, affecting the quality of life of over half the population, we felt it was time to shout a little louder. We have been met with fantastic support from a variety of organisations.'

The campaign is a new departure for the BSP as it is aimed at the whole country – primarily the public,



but health and dental professionals too. The message of the campaign is: 'If left untreated, gum disease will wipe the smile off your face.'

12 May was European Gum Health Awareness Day, part of the European Federation of Periodontology's campaign to raise awareness of gum disease across Europe, drive action and encourage people to have their gum health checked, and encourage people to participate in the campaign and spread the message.

The ultimate aim is to encourage people to visit their dentist if they suspect they may have any of the symptoms of gum disease and to visit www.howsyoursmile.co.uk for more information.

VIEWS SOUGHT ON REGISTRANTS' ADDRESS DETAILS

Further to the General Dental Council's (GDC's) decision to cease publishing the full addresses of dental professionals on its public register, the GDC now wants to hear views on the details that should be included on the register.

The GDC is presenting two options:

1. Publishing the name and registration number of the dental professional
2. Publishing the name, registration number and town of where the dental professional lives.

The changes will affect both dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs).

Ian Brack, GDC Chief Executive, said: 'We want to bring GDC in line with other professional healthcare regulators, balancing our role in protecting the public with the need to treat dental professionals fairly, whilst protecting their personal information.'

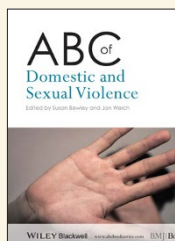
'We are very keen to hear from all interested parties of the merits of publishing the name and number of the dental professional, compared with the name, number and home town appearing on the register, before we make our final decision.'

'Whatever outcome is reached, the registration number will become the primary identifier of registration status, so it is good practice for dentists and dental care professionals to start to display it appropriately.'

The British Dental Association (BDA)'s Principal Executive Committee favours option one: publishing the name and registration number of the dental professional only, in the interests of registrants' safety. It is encouraging members to take part in the consultation.

You can respond to the consultation by visiting <http://response.questback.com/thegeneral-dental-council/onlineregister/> by 30 June.

BOOK REVIEW



ABC OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Susan Bewley and Jan Welch (Eds)
Wiley Blackwell

price £21.99 pp 136

ISBN 9781118482186

The first edition of *ABC of domestic and sexual violence* complements the existing series of *ABC* books. Both the editors are passionate about this subject and, with this book, aim to improve health services to support families suffering domestic and sexual violence.

This book is targeted at all teams providing healthcare, and aims to increase knowledge and confidence to enable the team to identify, question and act appropriately within this realm. It highlights when, where and how to achieve this most effectively within conventional healthcare settings.

The 26 chapters are conveniently titled and penned by various authors. The authors provide a valuable picture of each topic and go on to identify noteworthy points and give very practical ideas of how to cope when faced with a domestic and sexual violence issue. Case examples are described in many chapters, including 'The Dental Team'. These case scenarios provide real insight into what 'survivors' (classically termed 'victims') may be thinking and feeling. Signposts to online resources and descriptions of available services that patients may be referred to are included. To understand the evidence base of each topic, further reading is recommended. A 'Risk Identification Checklist' provided as an appendix gives front line practitioners the basic tools to identify high risk cases.

However, 'The Dental Team' chapter is rather disappointing as it provides no additional information beyond what is learnt and understood by a recent graduate. Alone, this chapter is poor as a clinical tool, but it identifies further chapters and this is where the real information can be found.

The book goes on to consider documentation and how clinicians may be involved in court proceedings. The points made and lessons learnt listed here can clearly be applied to many situations dental teams commonly find themselves in.

The book very effectively challenges traditions and viewpoints, including female genital mutilation, as well as questioning male circumcision. It also does not forget the less obvious groups involved in domestic and sexual violence: males, children, the vulnerable or elderly and the perpetrators themselves.

Despite the distressing subject, the book is thoughtful and non-apologetic throughout and allows the reader to see the true value in its pages and not be put off by taboos. Overall, the book achieves its aim of empowering healthcare workers to ask searching questions at appropriate points, whilst providing clear structured guidance and excellent signposts.

C. MOLYNEUX