

## FIRST DENTAL CLINICAL LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIPS LAUNCHED

Health Education England (HEE) and NHS England have recently launched the first Dental Clinical Leadership Fellowships in the NHS in England. This is a joint initiative between HEE and NHS England under the direction of Dr Sara Hurley, Chief Dental Officer and Professor Stephen Lambert-Humble MBE, Postgraduate Dental Dean for Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

The four fellows include Yasmin Allen, Nikki Patel, Sami Stagnell and Shan Ellahi. They all host a different range of experiences from within different sectors of the dental sphere and were selected in order to deliver a diversity of experience to the fellowships.

Ms Allen said: 'This is the first post of its kind of this type focussing on leadership and management skills especially related to commissioning within dentistry.'

The fellowships include a certificate in leadership and commissioning delivered by the University of Brighton. The aim is to provide fellows with the skills necessary to work within a rapidly changing environment of NHS dentistry and to be equipped to deal with the challenges of working in a senior role.

The fellows will help deliver a range of projects across the portfolio of HEE and NHS England including a review of unscheduled dental care in England; health improvement with a focus on oral hydration, nutrition and mouth care in care homes and hospitals; interdisciplinary working between pharmacists and dentists to improve prescribing decisions and oral health advice; developing patient safety and incident management processes within dental services; improving the availability of data and information systems for dental clinical commissioning; and supporting the development of dental services in response to the Five Year Forward View.

Professor Lambert-Humble said: 'Clinical leadership and management are essential skills to empower our young clinicians. It's crucial that this is developed at an early stage in their careers. This is an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand what happens behind the scenes in dentistry, and help the training of people who will be well placed to become future leaders in dentistry. Dentistry needs to work much more closely with other areas of health and social care, learning from and collaborating with other groups to ensure oral health is seen as a fundamental part of the general health improvement agenda.'

Dr Sam Shah, Programme Director for Clinical Leadership, said: 'Dental teams are vital to clinical commissioning and the future of the profession relies on well trained clinical leaders. The National Clinical Fellows Scheme and the Darzi Programme have both demonstrated the benefits of investing in clinical leadership. I hope this initiative inspires the profession and brings about a change in culture.'

For information on upcoming events arranged by NHS England in collaboration with HEE working across Kent, Surrey and Sussex, visit <http://bit.ly/1Kqw312>.

## LANDMARK COLLABORATION REVIEWS LINKS BETWEEN GENERAL AND ORAL HEALTH

Stakeholders from dental, medical, and scientific fields came together on 27 January at the British Dental Association (BDA) to discuss contemporary research links between general health and oral health.

Public Health England (PHE) and King's College London have undertaken a rapid review of the links between general and oral health in association with the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the BDA Scientific Section.

Researchers in four working groups have focused on the relationship between oral health and diabetes; oral health and dementia; oral health and pulmonary infection; and oral health and cardiovascular disease. Provisional factsheets on each of the four areas were presented at the seminar for discussion and peer review by delegates.



The event was chaired by Professor Jenny Gallagher from King's College London assisted by Professor Damien Walmsley, Scientific Advisor to the BDA, and Dr Sandra White of PHE (pictured, left to right).

Professor Walmsley said: 'The published information from these rapid reviews will highlight important findings on the links of oral health and systemic diseases which will be immensely valuable to all clinicians in their everyday practice.'

## CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO REDUCE KIDS' HEFTY SUGAR INTAKE

Public Health England (PHE) has launched a new Change4Life campaign encouraging parents to get 'Sugar Smart' and take control of their children's sugar intake.

The campaign's launch comes after it was revealed that four- to ten-year-olds eat and drink over 5,500 sugar cubes, or 22 kg a year – that's the average weight of a five-year-old. A new Sugar Smart app will help parents see how much sugar there is in everyday food and drink by scanning the barcode of products. A short film has also been created warning about the health effects of consuming too much sugar.

The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) backed the campaign. Its spokesperson, Claire Stevens, said: 'We hope the new Sugar Smart resources and app will empower parents and their children to investigate for themselves so that sugar consumption can be radically reduced. But families on their own can't make a difference. It's time that the Government responded to the excellent recommendations made by

Public Health England in their report: *Sugar reduction: the evidence for action*.<sup>1</sup>

BSPD is still campaigning for a preventive scheme reaching out into schools and communities as Childsmile has so successfully done in Scotland.

Five million Sugar Smart packs will be given away to primary age children and their families, and a nationwide Sugar Smart roadshow began on 18 January this year.

*The Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP[UK]) has announced that it backs calls for sugary drinks to be taxed. The proposal has already been supported by the House of Commons Health Select Committee and is recommended in PHE's report.<sup>1</sup> The FGDP(UK) believes the need for action is so acute that the Government should adopt all the measures in the report in its forthcoming obesity strategy.*

1. Public Health England. *Sugar reduction: the evidence for action*. 2015. Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/470179/Sugar\\_reduction\\_The\\_evidence\\_for\\_action.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470179/Sugar_reduction_The_evidence_for_action.pdf). (Accessed January 2016)