Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jonathan Coe at jonathan.coe@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 400 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 800 words).

Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

Jennifer Sardo Infirri

1942–2018

Jennifer Sardo Infirri (née Atkinson, born in 1942 in Perth, Australia) passed away on 10 July 2018. Though she shied away from the limelight, she remains one of the unsung protagonists of contemporary dental public health. Her vision and pioneering work championed the development of approaches to improve the oral health of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged populations.

Jennifer graduated in 1966 with a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Western Australia. She joined the Oral Health Unit of the World Health Organisation in Geneva in 1972, working with the late David Barmes. During this time her work focused on oral epidemiology, including the testing and promotion of the CPI(TN) index and revisions of the WHO *Oral health surveys – basic methods*.

Jennifer's strength was the translation of concepts into action. She was among the earliest advocates of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) to arrest caries. Through her engagement, a number of field trials were initiated to strengthen the evidence of SDF. She used her multifarious contacts to help establish the first ART field trial in Thailand in the early 90s. What started as a small demonstration project, initially for refugees in developing countries, has, over the past 30 years, provided a springboard for basic oral healthcare, and the transition towards minimally invasive restorative dentistry.

Jennifer had a particular interest in innovative task shifting where appropriate oral health activities are performed by primary health personnel in contexts where dentists remain scarce. She supported the development of oral health training programmes for community health workers, nurses and teachers. In collaboration with a number of NGOs, she contributed to the development of several training manuals on the delivery of basic oral care.

After over 25 years of work with WHO, Jennifer joined the Italian NGO Cooperazione Odontoiatrica Internazionale

(COI), serving as president from 2003–2012 and initiating the University of Turin's first Master's degree in Oral Health for Disadvantaged Communities and Low-income Countries. By facilitating exchange and alignment between dental NGOs working in developing countries, she encouraged reorientation of volunteer action away from a simplistic transfer of expensive traditional clinical care to more locally-suited, preventative and sustainable concepts.

Many of Jennifer's concepts on oral health-care in disadvantaged communities were detailed in the publication *The root cause – a proposal for action* (1999), co-authored with Raman Bedi. Almost twenty years later, the content still provides inspiration for anyone working in oral health for the poorest.

Jennifer will be remembered not only through her enormous contribution to global oral health, but also by how she influenced countless others in their thinking, attitudes and public health actions. Her enthusiasm, persistence, analytic mind and her natural joy of life will be missed by all who had the privilege of working with her.

Christopher Holmgren and Patrizia Di Caccamo

The BDA Benevolent Fund has been working for over 130 years to ensure that no dentist is unsupported in times of need or crisis. Our ultimate aim is to reach more people in need. We need dentists in all areas of the UK to help spread the word.

If you know someone who is finding it hard to cope, make sure they know about the BDA Benevolent Fund. If we can help, we will. Share, like and keep up to date with our efforts on our Facebook page: facebook.com/bdabenevolentfund/