

LETTER

Vital reading

As a newcomer to the dental industry (in the sense that I'd just been appointed Marketing Co-ordinator for the British Dental Practice Managers' Association), the world of periodontal disease, UDAs and deciduous extractions seemed confusing to say the least. Fortunately, one of the first things to drop through the letter box was the summer issue of *Vital*. Initially, I thought it was, ahem, the reading material I'd ordered from Denmark and was surprised that it didn't come in a plain brown envelope. Once that confusion was out of the way, I flicked through it and was encouraged to see many photographs of people. This was more like it. There was an article about a woman who'd given up making violins to spend all day looking people's mouths. Then some case studies about

DCPs (I know what they are now). The Spot the Difference was a brief (too easy) diversion and then I read the Hotspots. Okay, so I still can't bore on at parties about endodontic treatment and I've yet to receive any free toothbrushes (a major perk of joining the dental industry, I understand) but I feel much more in tune with the many lovely dental people I'm looking forward to meeting.

Well done and keep up the flow of great articles – reading them is my CPD!

Dave Hancock
BDPMA Marketing Coordinator

Dave wins Colgate goodies worth £100.



Laundry control

These days cross infection within the clinical environment is a hot topic. Is it not a logical assumption to make that we as professionals – who take on board all the risks associated with contamination – should not then be expected to take our soiled uniforms home and launder them ourselves?

We as a profession appear to be expected to transport soiled uniforms within the restricted confines of our own cars – or in my case via public transport – and launder them within our own kitchens.

In dental practices we have strict uniform policies restricting us from being permitted within staff dining environments or stepping outside the practice in uniform. This is to minimise the risk of cross contamination and infection for patients. Is it not therefore of equal importance that we as individuals should be granted that same respect and privilege?

In Denmark I believe staff working within health environments wear clinical scrubs as these are cheaper to supply and are laundered

on site and returned ready for use within the clinical environment to reduce risks. Most dental practices I am aware of do not even make provision for designated changing areas for staff, who are often expected to change and store their own clothing within toilet facilities. Maybe it is time that as staff we are considered equally as important in the fight against infection control.

Bernadette Tierney, By email

Concise CPD

I have just subscribed to *Vital's* online CPD. The instructions in my copy of *Vital* were quite straightforward and the CPD articles were well written and concise, covering the core CPD topics.

I have so far found *Vital* to be a well constructed magazine with useful and informative articles for all members of the dental team.

Nichola Smith RDH RDT, By email

COURSE DIRECTORY CORRECTION

(Vital summer 09 pages 40-43)

The listing headed 'UCL Eastman Dental Institute and Burkhart School of Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy' incorrectly grouped two institutions together. The Eastman Dental Institute's courses for DCPs can be found, as mentioned, at this link: www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk/cpd/dcps/index.html

The School of Dental Therapy & Dental Hygiene is based at the Eastman Dental Hospital. The following courses are provided:

- DipHE - Diploma in Dental Hygiene - 24 months
- DipHE - Diploma in Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy - 27 months.

Both courses are full time (Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm).

More information can be found at: <http://www.uclh.nhs.uk/GPs+healthcare+professionals/Clinical+services/Eastman+Dental+Hospital+%28Dental+services%29/Dentistry+-+Burkhart+school+of+dental+hygiene+and+dental+therapy/>

Telephone: 020 7915 1205

Email: soht@uclh.nhs.uk for auto-reply with more information or saliann-stclair@uclh.nhs.uk for direct contact with the Office Manager/School Administrator.

The school's name is no longer prefixed with Burkhart.

Ed's note: Look out for an updated complete course directory in a future issue of Vital.