

## New rules for PCDs from Europe

The GDC has introduced a new registration process for dental hygienists and therapists who come from the European Union, Norway, Iceland or Switzerland.

From 1 May 2004 nationals of these countries have had their applications individually assessed by external assessors. The assessors, who are all dental training experts, compare the applicant's qualifications, training and professional experience with UK standards and then recommend whether or not the person is adequately qualified and skilled to be enrolled with the Council and allowed to work in the UK.

Under European Union rules a person who fails such an assessment can choose to undergo a period of extra supervised training, to make up the lack of experience or knowledge, or can decide to sit an examination.

The General Dental Council decided to introduce the new procedures in order to be able to check the training standards of dental hygienists and therapists from all the EU countries - including the 10 new countries which joined the EU on 1 May - plus Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. It claims that the new individual assessment of applications will help it to check standards and protect the public.



## Racing ace supports campaign

Registered specialist in paediatric dentistry Helen Chapman (above left) has campaigned vigorously to bring about more awareness for the need for head protection to help reduce the impact of injuries to the head/face which can cause serious facial and dental injuries to children. The 'Protective Head Gear for Young Cyclist Bill' had its second reading on 23 April. Formula 1 racing star David Coulthard (above right) lent his support to the campaign at the launch of the Private Members Bill at the Palace of Westminster.

## Oral Health Month launched



At the recent BDA conference held in Bournemouth, Colgate, in partnership with the BDA, unveiled the 2004 Oral Health Month initiative. Colgate Oral Health Month, now in its third year, has become a leading UK campaign for establishing and promoting better oral health habits.

Last year over 4,300 practices participated. This year's campaign, in partnership with the BDA, will contain key messages to drive awareness of the general public that it's never too late to change habits and improve your oral health.

### Register now

Colgate Oral Health Month 2004 will take place in September. Dental professionals are crucial to delivering these key messages so; once again, Colgate is looking for active involvement from dental professionals. Practices registering will receive the new Colgate Oral Health Month pack, developed following research carried out with previous participants. This pack will contain educational materials, patient toothpaste samples, posters, competition details and other fun patient items.

If you would like to register call Colgate on 01483 401 901.