

DENTAL SUPERSTARS

The first ever Association of Dental Administrators and Managers (ADAM) Awards took place during their conference in Harrogate in May. Nicki Rowland from Perfect 32 in Beverley was named Practice Manager of the Year; Melissa White from Soar Valley Dental Practice in Leicestershire won Treatment Coordinator of the Year; and Christine Ferguson, also from Perfect 32, won Administrator of the Year. The ADAM conference proved a great success all round with feedback praising the quality of the programme, the relevance of topics and the overall value for money.

Four students have graduated from The Dentistry Business' dental practice management courses, accredited by the University of Chester. The first student to graduate at postgraduate level is practice manager Saul Rubins, while Kristy Cunningham, Lynn McGauley, Linas Bielskis and Sigute Bielskiene graduated from the undergraduate level course.

Dave Martin is the new chairman of the British Association of Dental Therapists (BADT), replacing Kira Stearns. Dave worked as a crown and bridge technician for 12 years before qualifying as a dental hygienist in the late 1990s and then going on to study part time to become a dental therapist; he is a past winner of Dental Therapist of the Year.



ADAM award winners

On 8 May 2012 the dental hygienists/therapists graduating from The Greater Manchester School for Dental Care Professionals were presented with their diplomas by the Dean of the Faculty of General Dental Practice of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Mr Russ Ladwa. The ceremony took place at the impressive Royal College of Surgeons building in London. Most of the graduates have gained places on Vocational Training Schemes in the Greater Manchester area.

NHS Lanarkshire picked up two awards at the 2012 Dental Awards. Elaine Sharp, senior oral health educator at Douglas Street Community Health Clinic, Hamilton, was named Oral Health Promoter of the Year and NHS Lanarkshire's Oral Health Team was named Team of the Year (North).

Registered Dental Nurses Christine Horbury and Maggie Nash both graduated from the University of Kent with a BSc (Hons) in Primary Dental Care in July. Christine, who appeared in the article *Diary of an undergraduate dental nurse* in the summer issue of *Vital*, also received the Smile-on prize for Academic Progress and Maggie was awarded the University of Kent Social Science Rotary Prize for Distinguished Performance in Examinations.

DETECTING ORAL CANCER ADDED TO CPD RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Dental Council (GDC) has confirmed that oral cancer: improving early detection is to be included as a new recommended topic on its continuing professional development (CPD) scheme.

At a meeting held on 17 May, members agreed to include the topic until new CPD rules and associated guidance come into force following the current CPD review.

The core CPD topics currently recommended by the GDC include medical emergencies, disinfection and decontamination and radiography and radiation protection (or materials and equipment for dental technicians).

The GDC also recommends some subjects that can be completed as verifiable or non-verifiable CPD: legal and ethical issues, complaints handling and now, oral cancer: improving early detection.

Work continues by the GDC throughout 2012 to develop a future CPD model. Any new CPD requirements will not be introduced before 2013.

Turn on page 42 to find out more about this year's Mouth Cancer Action Month.



DCP ASSOCIATIONS FORGE TOOTH WHITENING ALLIANCE

In March, the British Dental Bleaching Society (BDDBS) convened with the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy, the British Association of Dental Therapists and the British Association of Dental Nurses to discuss the future direction of dental bleaching.

Concerns were raised regarding the quality of bleaching treatment patients can receive under current legislation. The delegates also discussed working together more closely for the mutual benefit of members with regard to competency, training and education in whitening procedures.

BADN LOBBIES HMRC FOR TAX ALLOWABLE CPD

The British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) is lobbying HMRC for tax relief on continuing professional development (CPD) costs.

In correspondence between BADN Chief Executive Pam Swain and Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, David Gauke MP, Mr Gauke states:

'HMRC do not accept that all training expenses incurred by the employee will now qualify for tax relief [...] expenses must be incurred exclusively as an intrinsic part of the performance of duties...'

In response to a BADN briefing note Mr Gauke goes on to say: *'the CPD training referred to does not have the*

characteristics mentioned above. [...] No deduction is due for the costs of continuing professional education. That is so even if participation in such activities is compulsory, and failure to do so may lead to the employee losing his or her professional qualifications, and/or their job.'

According to BADN President Nicola Docherty, 'Dentists, hygienists, therapists and technicians who are self employed or business owners are allowed tax relief on their CPD costs. However, HMRC is refusing to acknowledge that CPD expenses for dental nurse employees are in fact "incurred exclusively as an intrinsic part of the performance of duties". This is blatantly unfair, as tax relief on CPD costs is denied to those most in need of it.'

The BADN is calling on other dental professional associations and the General Dental Council (GDC) to support their campaign to make CPD costs tax allowable for all registered dental professionals.

For information on how to support the BADN and their campaign visit www.badn.org.uk.