

GEMMA DEFIES AUSTERE BRITAIN WITH FREE CPD



Gemma Langford, member of *Vital's* Reader Panel and author of *Vital* article *Let your hygienist shine!* (autumn 2011), has set up a perio study group in Liverpool to provide relevant CPD for dental hygienists and therapists in the region.

The first event took place at Rose Lane Dental Practice in Liverpool in January this year with Ian Dunne as the guest speaker. Gemma explains: 'There is a lack of CPD courses in the North West specifically catering for hygienists/therapists, especially at a time of day that is suitable and doesn't require the delegate to lose clinical time.'

'I wanted to provide free CPD because of the current economic climate and the saturation of the job market in my area.'

Gemma, who is based at 10 Dental in Southport, attracted delegates via social media and through word of mouth. She also sought advice on providing CPD from the General Dental Council (GDC).

After the first meeting at Rose Lane, Gemma was approached by GSK who were interested in sponsoring the study groups. GSK's sponsorship enables her to provide a guest speaker for future events, food at the venues and samples of GSK products for members.

'It is important to keep up to date with developments in periodontology,' said Gemma. 'We have discussed prevention versus cure, smoking cessation, periodontal litigation and non-surgical periodontal therapy. Our planned topics for the future are prosthodontics in the disease prone patient, perio/endo lesions and orthodontics in periodontal patients.'

Readers interested in future events can contact Gemma on gemma_langford@yahoo.com. Other members of the dental team are also welcome to attend.

ARF FROZEN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The General Dental Council (GDC) has agreed that there will be no increase in the Annual Retention Free (ARF) for the next year for either dentists or dental care professionals (DCPs).

The ARF will remain at £576 for dentists, due by 31 December 2012, and £120 for DCPs, due by 31 July 2013.

Responding to the announcement, Nicola Docherty of the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) said that the freeze was 'inadequate' and that it showed that the GDC is 'out of touch with registrants'. The BADN has supplied the GDC with detailed information on dental nurse salaries, showing that £120 per annum causes considerable financial hardship to dental nurses. It has also requested that the GDC lower the ARF for dental nurses to a fee more in line with salaries and that a special fee is implemented for those working part time.

The GDC was due to meet on 7 November 2012 to consider a proposal for reviewing the ARF policy.

DENTAL TEAM BRACE THEMSELVES FOR 11 MILE TREK

The dental team from South East based Total Orthodontics raised over £5,000 for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity by completing an 11 mile trek in Kent.

Total Orthodontics, who have 11 practices in the South East region, embraced the excitement surrounding the Olympics with a sporting theme, with staff dressed as swimmers, show jumpers and even sprinter Usain Bolt.

Marketing Manager Alice Clarke said: 'It was a challenging walk and there were some achy limbs the next day. It was more than worth it though and we were delighted to exceed our £3,000 fundraising target.'

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity supports the work of the Royal Marsden Hospital and is at the forefront of cancer research.

