

VITAL MAGAZINE TO BECOME *BDJ TEAM*

This winter 2013 issue of *Vital* is the last issue that will be printed and posted in traditional magazine style. In 2014 *Vital* will be changing its name to *BDJ Team* and will be published in a digital format.

Over the past ten years *Vital* has been informing and entertaining dental care professionals (DCPs) across the UK both in print and online - showcasing the lives of the twenty-first century DCP, providing CPD and inspiring discussion and debate among dental teams. It has proved enormously popular with readers.

As a valued publication within the British Dental Association's portfolio, *Vital* will be re-launched as *BDJ Team* to complement the BDA's flagship title, the *British Dental Journal (BDJ)* and strengthen the *BDJ* brand.

All of the familiar content within *Vital* will continue to be published on the *BDJ Team* website. It will also be possible to browse through the pages of *BDJ Team* virtually through Zmags (www.zmags.com).

For a trial period, *BDJ Team* will be published once a month in 2014, starting in March, and each month will provide one hour of free verifiable CPD to readers.

To ensure that you stay informed about *BDJ Team* and the free verifiable CPD, make sure that you complete the postcard attached to page 15. If you do not have a postcard, email Kate Quinlan, *Vital's* editor, on k.quinlan@nature.com, who will provide you with a link to an online form.

The team behind *Vital* would like to thank readers for their continued support as we look forward to the launch of *BDJ Team*.

NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE CPD TAX RELIEF

The British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) is delighted that John Woodcock, Labour MP for Barrow, has backed their campaign for tax relief on continuing professional development (CPD) costs by tabling a Parliamentary question on the subject.

At the moment, employees are not allowed tax relief on the cost of CPD, even when CPD is required by the registering body and is therefore necessary to remain working in specific professions. This ruling applies to all employees, not just those working in dentistry.

BADN is running a campaign to lobby Treasury Minister David Gauke and MPs to change this decision. Dental nurses are particularly hard hit, due to low salaries and the fact that the majority of dental employers do not pay for CPD, leaving dental nurses to pay their own CPD costs out of their minimum wage salaries.

Unfortunately, Mr Gauke's response to Mr Woodcock's question was merely a version of that given to BADN and those who have already taken part in the campaign - that there are no plans to introduce tax relief for CPD costs.

BADN President Nicola Docherty said 'We would encourage more MPs to [back our campaign]. In order to make MPs aware of the problem, we would urge all members of the dental team, not just dental nurses, and members of other professions who find themselves in the same situation, to lobby David Gauke and their local MP. A copy of our letter and briefing note to David Gauke, his reply and a sample lobbying letter can all be downloaded from the BADN website www.badn.org.uk'

The BADN has also expressed concern about the composition of the new General Dental Council (GDC). It is concerned that, of the six dental appointments available on the Council, five appointees are dentists and only one is a DCP: dental technician David Smith. This is despite the largest GDC registrant list being dental nurses.



GREAT YARMOUTH CELEBRATES DENTAL NURSES

On 17 October 2013 JG Plummer & Associates celebrated their dental nurse achievements at the Imperial Hotel Great Yarmouth.

Carole Plummer opened the event followed by Dr John Plummer giving an address on the history of the company from a single handed practice in Great Yarmouth in 1970 to the 11 practices throughout Norfolk and Suffolk that exist today.

Dr Brian Robertson also spoke at the event and said that it is an exciting and challenging time for dental nurses and that JG Plummer & Associates aims to recognise, embrace and support the extension of DCPs' roles within the dental team.

Partners Dr Michael Parkinson and Dr Denver Fester, Chairman of the Norfolk and Norwich British Dental Association (BDA), presented City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing certificates to apprenticeship candidates. Post qualification awards in Dental Radiology were also presented.