

New PCD school opens

A new School of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry was opened last month at The University of Portsmouth, by Health Minister Rosie Winterton.

Named after William Beatty, Lord Nelson's surgeon and dentist on-board the HMS *Victory* at the Battle of Trafalgar, the new School is housed in a £4m purpose built building and includes a 24-bay treatment clinic, two private surgeries, a phantom head skills laboratory and a dental radiography suite.

The School is the first of its kind in the country and offers a range of courses in response to the national shortage of dental professionals. The training model is one of

team based training within the School and through partnerships, enabling student dental nurses, dental hygienists and therapists to engage in outreach working opportunities where primary care is delivered.

Its programmes were developed in partnership with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Workforce Development Confederation and Primary Care Trusts. Awards offered include a BSc in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, a Certificate of Higher Education in Dental Nursing and a Foundation Award in Science and Dental Therapy.

For further information on these courses at the University of Portsmouth contact Carol Gough on 023 9284 3946.



Sara Holmes, Head of the School of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry (left) with Health Minister Rosie Winterton and students at the School

New qualification

The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses has recently introduced a new qualification for dental nurses interested in or involved with radiography.

The Dental Radiography for Dental Nurses National Examination and Certificate is a qualification consisting of a national curriculum which is based on the British Society of Dental Maxillofacial Radiology's national curriculum for dental students.

This recommends approximately 40 hours of instruction consisting of 20 hours of practical experience and 20 hours of theoretical teaching. Practical training can be undertaken

in different environments including general dental practice while theoretical training can be obtained in different ways including attending a formal course and/or accessing the BDA's online lecture course which is currently in development.

On completion of both the practical and theory elements of the training, dental nurses will be entitled to sit the exam which is organised by the NEBDN and will be held twice a year. For further information please visit www.nebdn.org or contact Mrs Jennifer Lavery on: 01253 778417.

Also have a look at the dental radiography article, 'Excellent X-rays' on page 45.

'Talking Teeth' for National Smile Week



The British Dental Health Foundation has announced the theme and dates for this year's National Smile Week, and is urging all members of the dental team to get involved by organising an event.

National Smile Week is the UK's biggest annual oral health campaign. Now in its 29th year, this year's event will run from Sunday, May 15 to Saturday, May 21.

This year's focus will be on 'Talking Teeth' and the campaign will centre on the theme of Friends and Communication – encouraging the profession and the public to pass on oral health messages to those around them.

The aim of National Smile Week is to provide simple, practical oral health information to as many people as possible, and the Foundation hopes that the theme will encourage dental professionals around the country to get involved in passing this advice on to their patients.

For this year's campaign, the Foundation is providing a free six-page guide called The Event Organiser. The guide contains oral health information relevant to this year's campaign, tips on organising a successful event and possible event ideas. For your free copy please contact the Foundation on 0870 770 4014.

Event organisers will also receive a National Smile Week Resources Catalogue, which is full of useful products designed specifically for this year's event. For more information visit www.dentalhealth.org.uk

news in brief

Regular updates to your door

The GDC is expanding its circulation of the GDC Gazette, which aims to keep dental professionals up to date on the latest GDC developments, practical information and the latest news on statutory registration for professionals complementary to dentistry.

It sends copies to its current registrants and now also to future registrants (via dental schools, hygiene and therapy schools and the dental professional associations), trusts and health boards, consumer bodies and a range of other organisations.

If you would like to receive your own copy, please contact the GDC to be added to its mailing list. You can email communications@gdc-uk.org or telephone 020 7887 3824.

BDA Conference 2005

This year's British Dental Conference and Exhibition programme in Glasgow on 19-21 May is designed to encompass many of the issues significant to PCDs. The seminars, workshops and lectures are relevant to all members of the dental team, covering management and teamwork as well as clinical topics. These include extending the clinical role of PCDs, the future role of dental nurses and a conscious sedation demonstration to name but a few.

Also available is a special 'Team Booking' discount option and you can also book individual tickets for the three-day event for £90 or one-day tickets for £40. Most tickets include free entry to the Friday night party at the Corinthian Glasgow. If you've never attended the conference before and you want a taster you can get free entry to selected seminars by registering for an 'exhibition only' ticket. (Exhibition tickets are free before 12 May).

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare's 'Talking Points in Dentistry' programme will celebrate its 20th Anniversary at the conference. Delegates can register for the Glasgow event using the BDA conference booking form via the BDA website.

For more information or to book visit www.bda-events.org or call 0870 166 6625.

New dental nurse scheme launched

A new dental nurse cadet scheme has been launched in Oldham that will see 17 new trainees heading for Oldham's dental surgeries. The scheme, the first of its kind, is modelled on the nurse cadet scheme and could ease the burden on NHS dentists.

The cadets have already been through 12 weeks at The Oldham College, and will now go into surgeries for four days each week to learn their trade by a dentist's side. They will eventually obtain NVQ levels 2 and 3, and at the end of two years they will be fully qualified dental nurses.

The scheme was developed by Oldham's consultant in dental public health Colette Bridgman with Donna Hough from the Workforce Confederation and Tony Spencer from The Oldham College and is part of a national push to bring more dentists to the NHS and to enable dental teams to deliver aspects of dentistry traditionally carried out by dentists.

"The idea of the scheme has been to provide high quality training, to encourage more young people into NHS dentistry, and of course to enable dentists to focus on work which only they can do," explained Colette.

The PCT has also been working closely with local dentists to test new ways of working in a pilot scheme running since November 2003, which is also being looked at as an example of national good practice.



Safia Hussain and Rizwana Bogum Dental nurse cadets

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