

These pages offer you the chance to open topics for debate, discuss latest issues, or even offer advice to fellow readers. In this issue the Chief Executive of the GDC explains the change of name from PCD to DCP and Pam Swain from the BADN warns of problems over subscriptions and memberships. Send us your views on these issues or anything to do with working in the dental profession. We look forward to hearing from you.

PCD to DCP a DH decision on the DA explained by the CE of the GDC

Many of your readers may be wondering why the General Dental Council has started using the term 'dental care professional' in place of 'professional complementary to dentistry', seemingly without warning.

This new term originates with the Department of Health. Just before the changes to the Dentists Act were placed before the Westminster and Scottish Parliaments in the summer, the DH decided to change the term PCD to DCP – 'dental care professional'.

We decided that for consistency, and to avoid any possible confusion from the public, the GDC should use the term DCP from now on. I hope your readers will understand the reasons for the change.

This does not affect the professional groups' individual titles

– so a dental hygienist will still be known as a dental hygienist, and a dental nurse will still be known as a dental nurse.

Readers should also remember that once registration has become compulsory for all groups (two years after the new register opens), their DCP titles will be protected by law. This means that you will need to be registered with the GDC before you can use any of the DCP titles.

For the latest information on DCP registration, readers should visit the 'Potential registrant' section of our website at www.gdc-uk.org, or contact our DCP help-line (email dcp@gdc-uk.org or call 020 7344 3740).

Antony Townsend
GDC Chief Executive and Registrar

Subscription buyer beware – publication or membership – check carefully

It has come to our attention that a number of dentists have been paying, on behalf of their dental nurses, for a subscription to a new dental nursing magazine under the misapprehension that this will entitle the dental nurses concerned to the benefits of BADN membership.

Whilst BADN is happy to provide this magazine with both articles and a representative to its Editorial Board, the Association has no commercial or financial connection with the magazine or its publishers, and does not in any way profit from the money paid in subscriptions. Taking out a £50 annual subscription to this magazine does not, therefore, confer BADN membership with its accompanying benefits.

BADN membership currently costs £37 per year (although there are lower rates for students, part-time workers, etc) and, in addition to our own quarterly *British Dental Nurses' Journal*, entitles dental nurse members to a wide range of benefits – including free

legal advice; support, advice and information on a wide range of topics including Health & Safety advice sheets; a free CD-Rom full of information, articles and advice; and discounts on a wide range of products and services – from home, car and travel insurance through holidays to high street items such as DVDs and videos, as well as health care, eye care, fitness clubs, dental nurse textbooks and magazine packages for the waiting room. BADN also has a network of National and Local Groups which offer Continuing Professional Development through a series of Study Days available at discounted rates to BADN members. The membership fee is tax deductible.

Employers may obtain membership application forms by contacting BADN on 01253 338360 or at admin@badn.org.uk

Pamela Swain
Chief Executive, British Association of Dental Nurses

Winter Diary

Teamcare Dentistry: Techniques to Improve Efficiency

Date: 24 January 2006
Venue: GKT King's Education Centre, London
Tel: 020 7848 5765
Email: emma.dunn@kcl.ac.uk

Venue: GKT King's Education Centre
Tel: 020 7848 5765
Email: emma.dunn@kcl.ac.uk

Email: paul.a.mallett@btinternet.com
Website: www.orthota.co.uk

Clinical Governance for Teams - an Update to the current status

Date: 8 February 2006
Venue: Woolwich Postgraduate Centre, London
Tel: 020 8836 6781

The British Dental Receptionist's Association Conference 2006

Date: 4 March 2006
Venue: Blackpool
Tel: 0870 080 1924
Email: gemma@bdra.org.uk
Website: www.bdra.org.uk

British Dental Conference and Exhibition 2006

Date: 18-20 May 2006
Venue: International Convention Centre (ICC), Birmingham
Tel: 020 7563 4590
Website: events@bda.org

Backcare and the Prevention of Occupational Diseases in Dentistry

Date: 22 February 2006

The Orthodontic Technician's Association Annual Conference 2006

Date: 17-19 March 2006
Venue: The Hilton Hotel, Blackpool
Tel: 01524 583410

The BDPMA Annual Conference

Date: 16-17 June 2006
Venue: Tortworth Court, Wotton-under-Edge, South Gloucestershire
Tel: 0870 8400381
Website: www.bdpma.org.uk

Please **SEND YOUR LETTERS**, which may be edited for reasons of space, to:

The Editor, Vital Magazine,
 BDJ, Nature Publishing Group,
 4-6 Crinan Street,
 London
 N1 9XW

or email vitaeditorial@nature.com

Write to us for our **Spring 2006** issue and you could be the lucky winner of our **Star Letter writer competition**. Apart from the obvious glory you will then receive a collection of the latest **Colgate Oral Health Professional products** (£100 RRP) courtesy of Colgate.



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