

New child dental health taskforce

Practice manager wins grant

The first ever global child dental health taskforce has been established this month. The taskforce will initiate pan-European and wider global action between now and 2025 to make tangible improvements in child oral health. The initiative is backed by the World Health Organisation, the World Dental Federation and over 40 chief dental officers and leading dental figures from across the world.

Although oral health has steadily improved over the last 30 years, dental disease is still the number one disease affecting children, occurring five to eight times more frequently than asthma, the second most common chronic disease. In industrialised countries the majority of schoolchildren are affected by dental decay, disease levels being highest in under-privileged groups. Dental disease levels are also increasing rapidly in the developing countries. The taskforce will encourage sharing of resources and best practice between international dental leaders.

The initiative comes during the UK's presidency of the European Union, and reducing health inequalities is a key theme of

the UK presidency. England's Chief Dental Officer Professor Raman Bedi said, "Good oral health is fundamental to good health overall. We are establishing this taskforce to improve oral health amongst children on an international level and to reduce oral health inequalities. Over the past 30 years we have seen unprecedented improvements in child oral health, but far more needs to be done to tackle this easily treatable disease. The taskforce will ensure effective sharing of information on preventative measures and work to implement initiatives to improve oral health inequalities both within and between nations."



Left to right, Richard Everitt, sales and marketing manager at Oral-B, winner Amanda Huntley and Bridget Crump, Chairman of the BDPMA.

A practice manager from Solihull has won a £2,500 career development grant.

The Oral-B sponsored British Dental Practice Managers Association (BDPMA) Career Development Grant received a high standard of entries but was won by Amanda Huntley for her paper on "Managing People".

On winning she said: "I was really excited to receive the award. It has opened up new opportunities for me to further my career. I feel passionate about the role of practice managers developing into 'business managers' of their own organisations and intend to use my grant to further my own development in this area."

Amanda's winning paper highlighted some of the key areas where effective people management can make a real difference to the overall performance of the business, amongst them communication, training and the valuing of diversity within the workplace.

For more information on the grant contact the BDPMA on 0870 8400382 for details.

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Professor Raman Bedi has stepped down from his post as Chief Dental Officer for England in order to return to King's College London and take forward the work on the Global Child Dental Health Taskforce. Barry Cockcroft is now Acting Chief Dental Officer for England.



Pictured from left to right, Professor Paul Eric Petersen, WHO Oral Health Programme, Dr Brian Mouatt, World Dental Federation (FDI) and Professor Raman Bedi, Chief Dental Officer for England