

Dynamic dentistry hits Harrogate

The British Dental Association's (BDA) 2007 British Dental Conference and Exhibition – *Dental dynamics: shaping your future* – takes place from 24–26 May at the Harrogate International Centre.

Over 3,000 delegates are expected to attend the event, which takes place a year after fundamental changes to NHS dentistry and at a time of changing patterns in the way dental care in the UK is delivered. Headline speakers tackling the political issues include BDA Executive Board Chair Susie Sanderson and a representative of the Department of Health. Doug Richard, star of TV's 'Dragons' Den', will give the keynote address on the theme of entrepreneurship.

Once again both the plenary and seminar programme has much for DCPs. Colleagues from The Smile Centre in Cornwall will be sharing their tips for getting the whole practice involved in communicating oral health messages. A session from Heather Dallas, a management trainer and Neuro-Linguistic Programming practitioner will demonstrate how the technique can be used by the team to improve patient care.



The recent changes to the way DCPs are governed by the GDC will still be highly topical at the 2007 conference and many of the major DCP associations will be there. Each association will have a stand in the exhibition and will be running a seminar on issues pertinent to their field of practice.

DCPs can book tickets for the reduced price of £100 for the full three days or £50 for a one-day ticket. There are also team discount booking options. Book your place at conference now at www.bda-events.org or call 0870 166 6625.

If you would like a copy of the brochure please email BDA Events on events@bda.org or call 020 7563 4590.

Core CPD for consultation

The GDC is calling for views on its compulsory continuing professional development (CPD) scheme for dental care professionals (DCPs), which it proposes to introduce in July 2008.

A review group was set up by the GDC in July 2006 to consider the development of CPD for DCPs. The group has proposed a scheme which will run on the same principles as the scheme for dentists and is now asking for the views of the public, dental professionals and others on two key areas. These are based on how many hours of CPD DCPs should undertake and which recommended core topics DCPs should complete as part of their CPD.

The GDC is proposing to introduce a CPD scheme in which DCPs will complete 150 hours of CPD in a five-year cycle with 50 of those hours being verifiable CPD. This

equates to 30 hours per year of which 10 are verifiable CPD.

It plans to include the same recommended core topics as dentists (medical emergencies, disinfection and decontamination, and radiography and radiation protection) as part of verifiable CPD for clinical dental technicians, dental hygienists, dental nurses, dental therapists and orthodontic therapists.

For dental technicians the GDC intends to substitute dental materials and equipment for radiography and radiation protection. This is because the dental technician curriculum does not include radiography and radiation protection as it does for other DCP groups.

The consultation document is available on the GDC website at <http://www.gdc-uk.org/News+publications+and+events/Consultations/>. The closing date for responses is 16 March 2007.

Double anniversary for charity

Dental charity Bridge2Aid (B2A) recently celebrated the anniversaries of two successful projects. The UK charity, who work in Mwanza, Tanzania invited Tanzanian dignitaries, advisors, friends and volunteers to celebrate two years of Hope Dental Centre (HDC), B2A's charitable dental clinic, and the Dental Volunteer Programme (DVP) which trains rural health workers in emergency dentistry using UK volunteers. HDC was heralded as a 'beacon initiative' when it opened and two years on it shows that the model of a self-funding dental centre in Africa really can succeed, according to the organisation.

Last year the centre generated a large proportion of B2A's income in Tanzania, funds which now cover almost all of the basic operational expenditures in Mwanza, as well as contributing a significant amount to the charity's dental and community development programmes. HDC's income means that a very high proportion of the funds raised in the UK can go directly into programme expenditure in Tanzania.

Dr Ian Wilson, B2A's Executive & Dental Director said, 'We are now reaching the point where we can employ a Tanzanian dentist to work alongside me, receive further training and help expand our capacity even further. In 2007 we also hope to welcome dentists for longer periods to work in the clinic and staff the dental bus which will be touring Mwanza's schools.'

Over 40 dentists, nurses and hygienists have given up their time and money to work on the DVP. Many have had first time experiences of Africa through the programme and they have all been overwhelmingly positive. A good proportion of the volunteers have returned for a second and even third visit. Details of how to volunteer can be found at B2A's website www.bridge2aid.org.



The B2A Tanzania team and trustees with Colonel Peter and Mrs Madaha, District Commissioner for Mwanza.