

New President for BADN

Angie McBain became President of the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) at its Annual Dental Nursing Conference earlier this month.

Angie has worked as Senior Dental Nurse in the Oral Maxillofacial/Orthodontic Department of Bedford General Hospital, where she was the dental nurse representative on the Professional Development and Education Forum, and was also part of the NVQ Management Group. Angie also played a key part in the upgrading of the dental nurse team in the Oral Maxillofacial unit. She took up post as the Course Co-ordinator and Lead Tutor for the NVQ Oral Health programme at Barnfield College, Luton in May 2003.

Having joined BADN in 1987, Angie founded the BADN Bedford Local Group. Angie has been on BADN Council since 2002, as the London & South East Regional Coordinator, Finance Officer and President-elect, and on the BADN Finance Committee since 2004.



She was a founder member of the BADN Conscious Sedation & GA National Group and is also a NEBDN examiner for both the National Certificate and Certificate in Dental Sedation Nursing. She also currently chairs the BADN National Education Group. Angie currently works as the Lead Dental Nurse Tutor at Barnfield College, Luton and has been instrumental in developing new dental nurse education programmes, which include a Dental Nurse Cadet Programme and a Foundation Degree in Dental Nursing.

GDC fees set

GDC | protecting patients, regulating the dental team

The General Dental Council (GDC) has set the 2008 fee levels for dental professionals, but dental nurses and dental technicians who have not yet registered are being urged to apply now and take advantage of the 2007 application fee.

Nurses and technicians who register before January 2008 will pay the existing fee – £72 – and no more until their first annual retention fee is due, in July 2009. Those who continue to put off registration will not only pay a higher fee but could leave it too late and find themselves working illegally.

To deal with the anticipated last minute surge in applications, the GDC has agreed an increase in the registration fee for all dental care professional groups from 1 January 2008.

The annual retention fee for dental care professionals (which applies to dental hygienists, dental therapists and clinical dental technicians only at the moment) will be £96 (an increase of £24 or 33%).

The Council claims the fee increases are needed to adequately resource its existing core functions, including registering the new groups of dental professionals such as dental nurses and dental technicians, as well as developing new initiatives to strengthen patient protection.

GDC President, Hew Mathewson said, 'We are committed to using our resources wisely so that our registrants' fees can be kept as low as possible. The fee levels for 2008 reflect the true costs of delivering effective regulation and the job of maintaining high standards within dentistry. The fees for DCPs, including dental hygienists and dental therapists, will in part help us to deal with anticipated last minute applications from potential DCP registrants as we approach the legal cut-off date in July 2008.'

Raising awareness of mouth cancer

The Mouth Cancer Foundation held its annual Mouth Cancer Awareness Walk last month in Hyde Park, London. Julie Wright, a registered dental nurse from Tonbridge and also a member of *Vital's* Editorial Board, took part in the event along with many members of the healthcare and dental profession.

This year, in addition to the walk, the Foundation is also organising a new event to raise awareness of the disease, the Mouth Cancer Voice Awards (MCVA). The awards are designed to increase awareness of mouth cancers among university students.

The MCVA will be looking for the most talented young stars for a talent show of university students that aims to raise their awareness of the risk factors (smoking, drinking and HPV) as well as the symptoms of mouth cancer by making them appreciate their voice, which can be lost through mouth cancer.

University students from across the country will be invited to perform a short demo for one of four categories and upload their demo to the Mouth Cancer Voice Awards 2007 website at www.mouthcancervoice.org.

These demos will be turned into video clips that will be voted for by the general public. Three acts in each category will be shortlisted to attend the grand final at the Vanburgh Theatre, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art where they will perform live before a panel of judges and be in with the chance of winning the prize of a lifetime. The final was being held on 18 November 2007, marking the end of this year's Mouth Cancer Awareness week (11-18 November). For further information on the events visit www.mouthcancerwalk.org.



Julie (right) with walking companion Anna