



First time 'VDT' Friederike with a patient. Cover story page 26.

Ed's letter



'Some clinicians are still reluctant to refer patients to dental therapists for restorative treatment', says Josephine Stockley in *Being a dental therapist* (page 22). Why is this and what can be done to change it?

For a start, everyone should read this issue of *Vital*, which has an emphasis on dental therapists like never before. We have cover star Friederike who is part of the first dental therapist VT scheme; a feature on a new training course in the Scottish Highlands; a survey on dental therapists' experience of child protection; and of course Josephine's illuminating account which includes dental therapists' progress over time, permitted duties and salary.

For those of you crying out for CPD on the core subjects set by the GDC, you will be pleased to turn to the advice section of this issue (pages 46-51). CPD article 1 asks 'would you know what to do?' in an assortment of medical emergencies; article 2 investigates infection control.

If you're thinking of moving on in your career, I have also compiled a detailed list of DCP courses for this issue, as at present there is no central source of this information. See page 40.

We also meet Linda Douglas who relocated her dental hygiene career to the land of Mounties and maple syrup, and discuss levels of communication between dental technicians and dentists.

So what are you waiting for? Drag out your deckchair, put your feet up and read on!

Kate

Kate Maynard
Editor
vitaeditorial@nature.com



New hygiene and therapy training facilities in Scotland, page 35.



Do you know what a dental therapist does? Page 22.



Core verifiable CPD. Advice section starting page 46.

THE TEAM

Cover
Photographer: Filip Gierlinski, Filskifoto
Mobile: 07859 078945
Email: filski77@hotmail.com
The cover of this issue features Friederike Schoonhoven outside her dental practice in Banbury, Oxfordshire. Thank you to everyone at Friederike's practice for letting us work round you!

Editor-in-Chief: Stephen Hancocks OBE
Editor: Kate Maynard
News Editor: Arveen Bajaj
Vital Editorial Board: Julia Brewin, Larry Browne, Kathryn Marshall, Julie Wright, Christopher Lynch, Marina Harris, Jim Mackie
Production
Art Editor: Melissa Cassem
Production Editor: Esther McKeown
Production Editor: Sandra Murrell
Production Controller: Ian Pope

Advertising
Head of Advertising: Simon Haley
Advertising enquiries: +44 (0)20 7843 4729
Publishing
Publisher: Kim Black-Totham
British Dental Journal
The Macmillan Building
4-6 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW
Tel: + 44 (0)20 7843 3680
Fax: + 44 (0)20 7843 4725
If you would prefer not to receive any further issues of *Vital*, please contact Kim Black-Totham at the above address.

© *British Dental Journal* 2009. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the *British Dental Journal*.
The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the British Dental Association or the editor. Appearance of an advertisement does not indicate BDA approval of the product or service.