

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible. Please direct your correspondence to the News Editor, Arveen Bajaj at the BDJ, The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW or by email to bdj@bda.org

ARF fee deadline extended

The GDC has extended the deadline for payment of the ARF by dentists to 31 January 2005. Fee reminder letters were sent to all registered dentists on 10 December.

The Council claims that it planned to send these out earlier but securing Department of Health's agreement to the dentists' ARF increase has taken longer than expected, and consequently, the GDC has extended the deadline for payment by dentists to 31 January 2005.

The ARF for dental hygienists and dental therapists has not increased this year. The GDC wrote to all registered dental hygienists and dental therapists on 23 November to request payment by the 31 December deadline.

It added that non-payment would mean erasure from the Dentists Register or Rolls of Dental Auxiliaries and could also mean criminal prosecution for anyone who continues to practise after being erased.

To get back on the Register or Rolls after erasure for non-payment, an additional restoration fee has to be paid as well as the original annual retention fee. The GDC has increased the ARF for dentists by £8 (2%) and it claims that this increase, although below the rate of inflation, will help the GDC deal with any unpredicted increases in expenditure, and reduce any future increase.

More information about the ARF collection, including payment methods, can be found on the GDC website at www.gdc-uk.org/registerflow/index.html



General Dental Council

Research award



Dr. Jill Dixon, who has recently been appointed to a Lectureship in Basic Dental Sciences in the School of Dentistry at the University of Manchester, has been awarded a three year New Investigator Award from the Medical Research Council. The award provides support for clinical and non-clinical researchers in their first steps towards establishing themselves as independent principal investigators. Dr Dixon, whose research interests include the genetic basis of facial disorders, has worked in craniofacial research for the last fourteen years. The aim of her project is to investigate the function of the transcription factor p63 during development of the palate, with the objective of understanding its role in cleft palate. In the short term, it is hoped that the results of this research will help to dissect the role of p63 in normal and abnormal development of the palate, while in the longer term, the information may help in the design of therapies to improve the way in which clinicians manage patients affected by cleft palate.

In memory

Malcolm Pendlebury, Dean of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) from 1997 to 2000, sadly died in September last year.

The Faculty will be holding a service of thanksgiving in Malcolm's memory on Friday 25 February 2005 at 3pm at St Clement Danes Church, Strand, London.

It is planned that the service should be a mark of recognition and thanks for his contribution to all his interests. During his career he was extensively involved with the BDA, most recently as President Elect of the East Midlands Branch. The Faculty would be pleased if his colleagues could join it for the service in February.



DIARY

January 2005

OSAP 4th Annual Intermediate-Level Infection Control and Occupational Safety and Health Course

Date: 24-27.01.04

Venue: Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Georgia

Tel: 1-800-298-OSAP (6727)

www.osap.org.

International Dental Foundation 54th International Alpine Dental Conference

Date: 29.01.05-05.02.05

Venue: Hotel Annapurna, Courcheval 1850, France

Contact: Robert Wallace

Tel: +44 (0) 207 235 0788

Fax: +44 (0) 207 235 0767

Email: idf@idfdentalconference.com

www.idfdentalconference.com

March 2005

83rd General Session & Exhibition of the IADR, 34th Annual Meeting of the AADR, 29th Annual Meeting of the CADR

Date: 9-12.03.05

Venue: Baltimore Convention Centre

www.dentalresearch.org

April 2005

Academy of Laser Dentistry Source 2005: Lasers in Dentistry

Date: 6-9.04.05

Venue: New Orleans Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Tel: 1-877-527-3776

Email: memberservices@laserdentistry.org

www.source2005.org

A helping hand

The IDH George Square Dental Centre recently raised over £450 for Children in Need.

The team at the practice asked local businesses to donate prizes, which included vouchers for local restaurants, beauty salons and high street stores, as well products including watches, handbags, toothbrushes, wine and a bottle of 'House of Commons' whisky from the local MP. The local laboratory donated £50 as well as other donations. Everyone entered into the spirit of the day by dressing up as tooth fairies and the IDH head office provided tooth fairy t-shirts!

In the evening five members of the dental team were invited to join the audience at the BBC studio in Glasgow.



The team undertook many fund raising activities

Hospital groups changeover

Dr Raj Joshi has recently been installed as the Hospitals Group President, and takes over the role from Dr Peter Nicholson. Dr Joshi qualified at the Royal Dental Hospital, London in 1975 and after postgraduate and specialist training at Guy's and Eastman Dental Hospitals was appointed Consultant in Restorative Dentistry (with a special interest in Periodontology) in 1988 in Sheffield.

He has been involved with the BDA since his undergraduate days and has been a member of the CCHDS, the Representative Body and the President of the South Yorkshire Branch of the BDA.

He is currently Chairman of the Association of Consultants and Specialists in Restorative Dentistry and the SAC in Restorative Dentistry, and runs the MclinDent and specialist training programme in Periodontics in Sheffield.

Private practice of the year

The end of 2004 saw the launch of the first ever 'Private Dentistry Practice of the Year Award', which went to the London Smile Clinic. Eight individual categories of award covered a broad range of criteria, from patient care and marketing, to innovation and community work.

All were designed to reflect the areas where a practice can both strive for excellence and make a difference to both its patients and employees. The overall winner, and Private Practice of the Year, was the one deemed to perform best across all areas.

The panel of judges recognised in the winners an exceptionally strong performance in all eight areas of assessment (including staff and patient care, marketing, décor and making this the benchmark practice for which others should aim.

The winners of the other eight individual categories, were Thomas Dickerson of the Westbury Park Dental Practice (Best Employer), Octagon Orthodontics (Most Attractive & Most Innovative Practice), Advance Dental Clinic (Best New Practice), Commitment to Care Dental Practice (Best Patient Care), Care Dental (Most Improved), Q Clinic (Best Marketing) and the Nepal Maxillofacial Project (Best Community Contribution).



Inaugural conference held



The British Association of Oral Surgeons held its inaugural conference at its home in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh earlier this year. Professor J P MacDonald, Dean of the College, opened the conference, which was attended by nearly 200 delegates, and included a varied academic programme with lectures covering many aspects of oral surgery and oral medicine. Next year's conference will be held in Portsmouth in September, enquiries should be addressed to BAOS office at the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.