

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

International dental agreement

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between King's College London Dental Institute and the Tohoku University Graduate School of Dentistry in Japan. The agreement will further promote research collaboration between academic staff in areas of mutual interest, including exchange visits between academic and research staff.

Professor Stephen Challacombe, Vice-Dean and Director for External Development of King's College London Dental Institute and Dr Nobuhiro Takahashi, Professor and Vice-Dean of the Tohoku University Graduate School of Dentistry signed a collaborative agreement at a special ceremony held recently at the 84th General Session of the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) in Brisbane, Australia.

The agreement formalises links which have been developed between researchers at the two universities over a number of years. Mutual research interests include basic biology of oral diseases, understanding the host-parasite relationship including immune responses to oral flora and the development of biologically active materials.

Professor Challacombe said, "This formal agreement will enable our institutions to pool their expertise in a number of important research areas, particularly those linking basic research into the bacteria that cause disease and the development of new treatments and disease prevention measures for our patients. We share a specific interest in developing and strengthening the interface between the oral health sciences and clinical care."

Special care dentistry in Cambridge



Following the General Dental Council's December 2005 decision to recognise special care dentistry as a new speciality, the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh came to Cambridge recently to provide a study day for 57 clinicians working in this field across the East of England, as well as to outline the forthcoming changes in its membership exam for Special Needs Dentistry. The course was organised by Sarah Manton, and hosted by the regional adviser, Rob Chate, with the Dean Professor Jonathon Cowpe presiding. Pictured above, contributors to the special care dentistry study day, from forward to aft, and from starboard to port, Sarah Manton, Tony Brooke, Roger Davies, Lesley Longman, and Chris Bell, with Jon Cowpe (Dean), Rob Chate (Regional Adviser), Candice (the punt chauffeur), and Dave Harper (the piper).

Dentists gain incorporation status

Further to our recent news item on dentists now being legally allowed to own their own companies (*BDJ* 201: 191, 26 August 2006) we would like to suggest that readers consult their protection organisations regarding the need, or not,

for additional indemnity cover if they are thinking of taking up this option. It seems that there are currently differing opinions about the need for this, or not, and it would be prudent to seek advice to help clarify individual circumstances.

FDA review dental amalgam

The American Dental Association (ADA) has reaffirmed its position that dental amalgam is a safe and effective cavity-filling material, in written testimony to a two-day joint panel meeting of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

According to the testimony, the ADA does not advocate for the use of one dental material over another, however it champions the principle that patients and their dentists should have access to the full range of safe and effective options for treating dental decay.

The purpose of the FDA meeting was to gather facts and opinions in this periodic review of the dental filling material, and the FDA has combined the expertise of the Dental Products Panel of the Medical Device Advisory Committee with the neurology expertise of the Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs Advisory Committee to consider the peer-reviewed scientific studies on dental amalgam and any potential neurotoxic effects.

Dental amalgam contains elemental mercury combined with other metals such as silver, copper, tin and zinc to form a safe, stable alloy. Because amalgam contains elemental mercury, some groups have raised concerns about its potential health effects and questioned its continued use in dentistry. Dental amalgam has been used for generations to fill decayed teeth that might otherwise have been lost to decay.

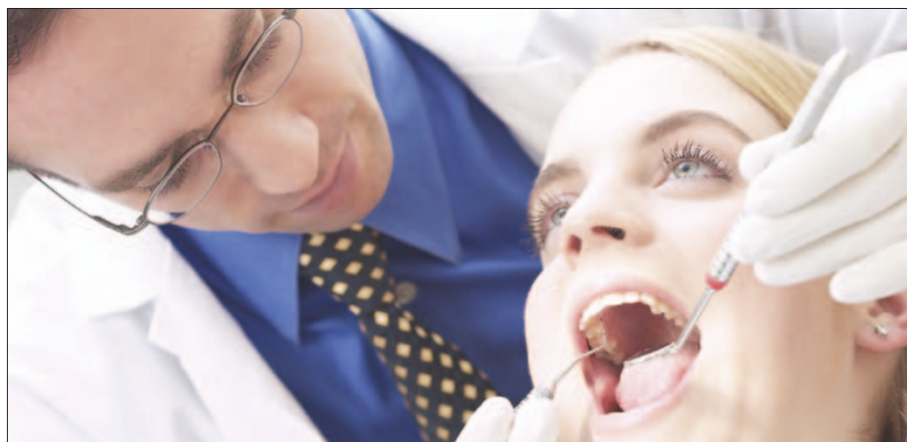
While other dental fillings materials are also available, dental amalgam remains a valued option because of its strength, durability, affordability and the fact that it can be used below the gum line, which is difficult to keep dry. The ADA states that the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence, including the recent clinical trial results, supports the safety and efficacy of dental amalgam and it should continue to be made available to dentists and their patients.

Periodontal health guidance

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) have developed guidelines for the management of patients with periodontal diseases to encourage referring dentists and periodontists to work together to optimise the health of patients. *Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Periodontal Diseases* is intended to help the general practitioner in the rapid identification of those patients at greater risk for the consequences of periodontal inflammation and infection and, therefore, those patients most appropriate for specialty referral. AAP President Kenneth A. Krebs said, "Today, there is a greater public awareness about periodontal diseases and more treatment options for patients than ever before. However, as advancements in periodontal

therapy continue to develop at a record-breaking pace, periodontal diseases remain the most common cause of tooth loss in adults. In addition, accumulating research is further defining the links between periodontal diseases and other systemic conditions such as diabetes, adverse pregnancy outcomes and cardiovascular diseases. Patients are beginning to understand that good periodontal health is more important than ever before."

The Academy believes that the new guidelines can help the entire dental team in the timely identification of patients with periodontal diseases and those most appropriate for specialty care. A copy of the paper is available online at www.perio.org/resources-products/pdf/Referral.pdf.



Distance learning prize awarded

Sachin Sedani of GKT, London has been awarded the Poptlett Prize for distance learning for his outstanding work over the five years of his undergraduacy at Kings College in London. He studied maxillofacial surgery during his elective period in Johannesburg with a perspective in how HIV/AIDS patients are treated. Sachin's final thesis will be published shortly.

The Poptlett Prize was set up two years ago by Alan Scaplehorn, Managing Director of Dental Maintenance Plan Ltd (DMP Ltd), in memory of his dear friend and co-founder the company, Ian Poptlett. Ian had always maintained strong links with Kings College, where both he and Alan qualified in the 1960s. He was also a great believer of ongoing training and development. The £1,000 prize and framed certificate will be formally presented to Sachin at the Clinical Day in November at the GKT Institute.



Going global

The Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Sir Liam Donaldson delivered a keynote lecture, 'Global Health Strategies for Global Health Challenges', at the Royal Naval Dental Services (RNDS) Wood Memorial Lecture Day which took place recently Fort Blockhouse in Gosport.

The current director, Surgeon Commodore (D) Graham Morrison opened the day with his 'State Of The Nation' address that provided the backdrop for two presentations on current strategic issues being addressed by headquarters staff and some of the challenges confronting the career management team.

The dental care professionals (DCPs) enjoyed informative presentations from the GDC and the FGDP on emerging registration requirements while the Dental Officers were entertained by Professor Setchell, Dr McCullagh and Dr Frankel who provided three contrasting presenta-



tions on aspects of advanced restorative dentistry, showing the diversity in modern day treatment planning.

The Wood Memorial Lecture Day remembers Surgeon Captain (D) James Wood, the organisation's second director, who was instrumental in establishing the structure that has underpinned its growth and development over the last 86 years.

Pictured, Surgeon Commodore (D) Graham Morrison, Director Royal Naval Dental Services (left), with Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for England.

European dental role for academic

Professor Malcolm Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor at Cardiff University and former Dean of the Dental School, has been elected the next President of the Association of Dental Education in Europe (ADEE), a representative body for 160 Dental Schools in Europe and a major source of professional advice to the EU.

Professor Jones graduated from the Dental School in Cardiff in 1973 and was the first alumnus to become its Dean. He is a Consultant in Orthodontics, who completed his speciality clinical training at the Royal Dental Hospital and School in



the late 1970s. His clinical interests are in the area of management of patients with facial deformity and his research interests have been largely in the applied area with a particular focus on biomechanics.

DIARY

October

BDTA London Dental Showcase 2006

Venue: ExCeL, London

Date: 5–7 October 2006

Tel: 01494 729959

www.dentalshowcase.com

Preparing for retirement

Venue: Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate

Date: 6 October 2006

www.bda-events.org

Community Dental Services Group Annual
Presidential and Scientific meeting

Venue: Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel,
Birmingham

Date: 12–13 October 2006

www.bda-events.org

The American Dental Association (ADA)

147th ADA Annual Scientific Session and
Marketplace Exhibition

Venue: Mandalay Bay Resort and
Convention Center, Las Vegas

Date: 16–19 October 2006

www.ada.org

Hospitals Group Annual Presidential and
Scientific meeting

Venue: Portmeirion, North Wales

Date: 26–27 October 2006

www.bda-events.org

November

BDA events – A clinical guide to
periodontology

Venue: Marriott Hotel Regent's Park,
London

Date: 3 November 2006

www.bda-events.org

British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry's
(BACD) 2nd Annual Conference

Venue: Britannia International Hotel,
London

Date: 16–17–18 November 2006

Email: info@bacd.com

www.bacd.com

Health Protection Agency: Laser and IPL
Sources Safety Training for Medical and
Cosmetic Applications

Venue: HPA Radiation Protection Division,
Leeds

Date: 28 November 2006

Telephone: 0113 267 9041

www.hpa.org.uk

A mouth's eye view

A photographer who takes pictures with a camera in his mouth has just released a book of the images he has produced from this unusual form of photography. Using a pinhole camera, *Mouthpiece* by Justin Quinnell features his visit to the dentist, portraits of friends and family, snakes, tortoises, alligators and angry cats, the everyday acts of having a bath, cleaning his teeth and eating his dinner.

All the pictures are taken with a pinhole camera and include a collection of landscape photographs with a through-the-mouth view of icons of world travel, such as Sydney Opera House, Hong Kong, St Marks Square in Venice, the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

A one-time Parliamentary and European Election Candidate, Justin has tirelessly promoted pinhole photography for over twenty years. A recognised



expert in the subject, he regularly lectures in the UK and abroad. A committed Green Party member he has also acted as publicist for a number of organisations including the National Cycle Network and World Pinhole Day. For more information visit www.pinholephotography.org.