

Impacting thousands more lives

Oral diseases currently affect around 3.5 billion people in the world – it is primarily the poorest, most disadvantaged and most marginalised populations who are suffering the most. Bridge2Aid are working in exciting new ways so that they have a bigger impact on oral health, and a lower impact on the environment. They're going to be flying fewer volunteers to Africa, and working much more closely with African dental professionals. These local professionals are going to be delivering the majority of Bridge2Aid's training. And their training is going to cover much more. This also means that they will be nimbler, able to support projects in a wider range of countries, and impact on many thousands more lives.

In February, Bridge2Aid worked in partnership with Tanzanian dentists to deliver training and education around the issue of infant oral mutilation to nearly 500 health workers, community educators and school teachers in northern Tanzania. In March, they were working with dental therapists in Malawi to train 90 community health workers, teachers and youth workers to become oral health promoters in their villages. Much more is planned for the rest of the year.

If you would like to support the work of Bridge2Aid, and help prevent oral disease and pain, sign up to the Treat 1: Train 1 scheme. Just donate the income from treating one patient in pain in your practice in the UK each month and Bridge2Aid can train one oral health promoter in a rural community in East Africa. For more information visit <https://bridge2aid.enthuse.com/#/>.



Dysphagia management



Dr Maeve McLernon offers an insight into some of the topics she hopes to cover as part of her lecture within the BDA Theatre at the British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show (BDCDS) 2022:

'In my lecture, I will be highlighting some clear questions in the medical history that can help identify those with potential dysphagia, and some red flags that may indicate a patient at high risk of aspiration. I will be discussing adaptations to dental treatment that may be appropriate for lower-risk patients, and when to refer for specialist support, all against a background of patient education.

'I hope delegates will come away with the understanding that treating patients with dysphagia will increasingly become part and parcel of general practice. I aim to help them build confidence to identify patients who may have dysphagia, embrace the importance of patient and caregiver education and recognise what can be dealt with in general practice and what may require referral.

'I feel lucky to be given a platform at the BDCDS to highlight this area of interest. The show presents a real opportunity to take in a wide range of varied CPD which may spark your interest in a particular subject previously unexplored. There is no other professional event that exists of its magnitude and I think this year it will be better than ever.'

The British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show 2022 will be held on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May, NEC Birmingham, co-located with DTS.

For more information, visit <https://birmingham.dentistryshow.co.uk/>, or email dentistry@closerstillmedia.com.

For all your waste disposal needs

Initial Medical will be on hand at this year's British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show (BDCDS) to support delegates with all their waste disposal needs: visit stand H98.

Chat to the team and find out how Initial Medical can help you to streamline your waste disposal, take the eco-friendly route with your documentation, and help to protect your practice with some of their exceptional infection control solutions.

As Initial Medical offer bespoke, tailored solutions to your waste disposal needs,

you can speak to them about your unique requirements and find out how they can help you. They also provide amalgam separators and amalgam waste collection services to help ensure your practice remains compliant and our oceans remain safe. Find Initial Medical at stand H98 – they're happy to help and look forward to seeing you there!

To find out more, get in touch at 0870 850 4045 or visit the website today www.initial.co.uk/medical.

