

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.

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HEALTHY SMILES PROMOTED IN LANCASHIRE

In October Health Minister Lord Howe visited the Woodland's Centre in Chorley, Lancashire to launch the innovative Smile4Life programme which promotes good oral health among pre-school children in the region.

The Smile4Life programme involves members of the local NHS dental team visiting pre-schools across Lancashire to provide advice to young children and their carers on toothbrushing, the importance of regular visits to the dentist, and encouraging a healthier diet.

Lancashire County Council has joined

forces with NHS Central Lancashire, NHS North Lancashire and NHS East Lancashire to combat the region's poor record on tooth decay in children.

'The NHS White Paper set out our commitment to improving the oral health of children and the Smile4Life programme is an excellent example of how the NHS can achieve this,' said Lord Howe. 'I'm delighted to see the local authority [in Lancashire] and the NHS taking innovative action to address this very important local health issue, and I hope others will follow suit.'



GDC ENCOURAGES DIALOGUE WITH REGISTRANTS

The General Dental Council (GDC) has begun a review of its *Standards* and *Scope of practice* guidance, is to begin a series of events speaking directly to registrants in Northern Ireland, and is calling for more people to get involved in its consultation on dental education.

It is five years since the GDC replaced *Maintaining standards* with its *Standards* guidance. The move to ethical principles was a significant change in direction at the time but the last five years have seen great changes in regulation and in the GDC itself.

Since registration of dental care professionals (DCPs) began in 2008, the GDC now has more than 92,000 dental professionals on its registers. Through speaking to registrants, patients and other stakeholders and holding consultations, focus groups and a working

group, and by attending events, the GDC will review the current *Standards*. It will look at what works and does not work in the current documents, and what is missing.

The *Scope of practice* review will run alongside this and the GDC hopes to produce the new guidance in early 2012.

On 12 January 2011 dental professionals in Northern Ireland will have the opportunity to meet GDC staff face to face, learn more about how its works affects them, tell them what they think of the GDC's *Standards* guidance, give their views on revalidation and have their questions answered. The event, which will be held at Templepatrick Hotel and Country Club in Belfast, will be free of charge and will include CPD.

'This a great opportunity for registrants in Northern Ireland to speak

directly to their professional regulator,' said Donncha O'Carolan, Chief Dental Officer for Northern Ireland and affiliate member of the GDC. 'The GDC is keen to meet registrants and get their views.'

The GDC's 'Learning Outcomes' project is a fresh approach to dental education leading to GDC registration. It is proposed that the two publications *The first five years* and *Developing the dental team* are replaced with one combined publication.

'Learning Outcomes' looks at the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours GDC registrants must have to practise safely, effectively and professionally in the relevant registration category.

The consultation on the proposal, which opened on 13 September 2010, will close on 3 December 2010. See www.gdc-uk.org.

DIARY

London Deanery

An introduction to crisis management during medical emergencies

Date: every first and third Wednesday of each month, 9am-12 noon or 1-4pm
Email: sue.waller@londondeanery.ac.uk

DECEMBER

BDA Training Essentials: Child Protection: the Dental Team's Responsibility

Date: 2 December 2010
Venue: BDA, London
Email: events@bda.org
www.bda.org/events

Dental Protection: The Premier Symposium 2010

Venue: King's College, London
Date: 5 December 2010
Email: events@dentalprotection.org
Telephone: 020 7399 1339

BDA Training Essentials: Business planning and financial management for practice owners and managers

Date: 8 December 2010
Venue: Thistle Hotel, Manchester
Email: events@bda.org
www.bda.org/events

JANUARY

You and the General Dental Council

Date: 12 January 2011
Venue: Hilton Templepatrick Hotel and Country Club, Belfast
www.gdc-uk.org

Professional and Profitable Perio Dr Amarjit Gill, Professor Robin Seymour, Shaun Howe RDH

Date: 14 January 2011, 1-9pm
Venue: Ulster Museum, Belfast
www.positivecomm.com/events

Law, Ethics and Record Keeping

Date: 28 January 2011, 9am-5pm
Venue: British Dental Association, London
Email: susie.brooke@bda.org
Telephone: 020 7563 4163

BDA LAUNCHES CHARITY GIFTS AND NOVELTIES

The British Dental Association (BDA) has teamed up with UK-based oral health charity Dentaid to raise money to fund dental care in the developing world this Christmas.

A variety of gift packages are available. Created by Dentaid, packages range in cost from £15 – which would help produce and distribute oral health education kits – to £500 which would provide medical and dental care for a whole year for an orphanage in Cambodia. Donors will receive a gift card informing the recipient how their 'gift' has been put to use. One hundred percent of the revenue will go to Dentaid.

The BDA has also unveiled a collection of dental-themed gifts available for purchase from BDA Shop. Joining the ever-

popular molar toothbrush holder and molar mug – sought after on the BDA stand at many past dental events – are dentistry-themed cartoon prints in hand made frames, tooth-shaped 'cavi-tees' for golf fans, a tooth shaped floor lamp and tooth-themed jewellery and cufflinks.



The collection can be viewed and ordered at www.bda.org/xmas, by telephoning 020 7563 4555 or emailing bdashop@bda.org. BDA members will receive a discount and free delivery. Orders for pre-Christmas delivery must be placed before 17 December.

RESEARCH INTO NEW APPROACHES TO ORAL CANCER

Dr Shahid Chaudhry has been awarded a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology through UCL Eastman Dental Institute for his research into the clinical behaviour of tumours.

Dr Chaudhry, who is a Specialist Registrar in Oral Medicine at UCLHT Eastman Dental Hospital, conducted his research at the Cancer Research-UK Research Institute Tumour Cell Biology Laboratory. His investigation

into ubiquitin-linked pathways in the regulation of a cell's actin cytoskeleton and their role in the process of carcinoma invasion offers scientists valuable insights into the clinical behaviour of oral tumours and their pattern of spread at the cellular level.

It is hoped that Dr Chaudhry's research will lead to novel therapeutic approaches for oral cancer in the future.

MUSICAL TEETH DVD IS A SUCCESS

'Teeth the Musical DVD' has won this year's Patron's Prize at the National Oral Health Promotion Group annual conference.

This 14 minute animated film is aimed at the learning disabled and young children and is a partnership project between Somerset Primary Care Dental Service, Bridgwater College, Biggerhouse Film and Somerset Film.

The serious message about oral hygiene is related in a fun and informative way by a character called Fred who finds his teeth talking and singing to him about the importance of taking care of them properly. The film features artwork produced by the students, who also supply voiceovers and sing songs.



The DVD is accompanied by a trainer's pack with ten student magazines.

'We are trialling the new trainer's pack in schools and colleges and it is being very well received as an excellent training resource,' said Rachel Pinder, Acting Assistant Clinical Director of the Somerset Primary Dental Service.

The DVDs can be previewed and purchased at www.jumpcuts.org.uk.

GROWTH FACTOR REGENERATES TOOTH SUPPORTING STRUCTURES

An article in the *Journal of Dental Research (JDR)* reports the largest study to date in the field of periodontal regenerative therapy.

A randomised, double-masked, placebo-controlled trial was conducted in 253 adults afflicted with periodontitis. Periodontal surgery was performed, during which one of three different doses of fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2) was randomly administered to localised bone defects. Each dose of FGF-2 showed significant superiority over the standard of care for the percentage of bone fill at 36 weeks after administration, and the percentage peaked in the mid-dose FGF-2 group. These results strongly show that the topical application of FGF-2 can be efficacious in the regeneration of human periodontal tissue that has been destroyed by periodontitis.

The study was conducted by M. Kitamura, from Osaka University Graduate School of Dentistry, Japan, and a team of researchers.

Most current therapies cannot predictably promote repair of tooth-supporting defects. A variety of regenerative approaches have been used clinically using bone grafts and guiding tissue membranes with limited success.

'The tissue engineering technology has important ramifications in the treating of localized bone defects around teeth resulting from periodontal disease,' said *JDR* Editor-in-Chief, William Giannobile.

The abstract published in the *JDR* is available online at <http://bit.ly/jdr4616>.

DEREK LAWTON COWLEY

Derek Lawton Cowley died on Friday 29 October 2010.

Born on 2 October 1924, Dr Cowley practised as a dental surgeon in Hull, East Yorkshire from the early 1950s until 1984 with his two brothers.

An obituary will follow in a future issue of the *BDJ*.

THEY'LL BE BRUSHING ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Dr Graham White, who was featured in the 9 October 2010 issue of the *BDJ* (209: 323), has successfully completed his trek in the Himalayas for charity.

'I got to over 14,000 feet and came back without ill effect,' said Dr White.

Many Nepalese live in remote Himalayan villages and farms and are several days' walk from dental care. 'Diet is very good, oral hygiene less so,' said Dr White.

With this in mind, the Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield distributed 100 toothbrushes to parents and children that he encountered during his trek, including 20 to a tiny school.



Nepalese children with their toothbrushes

GLORY FOR GLASGOW DENTAL CENTRE

On 5 November 2010 Glasgow's multi-award winning Scottish Centre for Excellence in Dentistry (SCED) took the crown for Best Specialist Referral Practice at the 2010 UK Private Dentistry Awards in London.

Opened in April 2009, SCED is one of Europe's largest private centres for dentistry, implantology and facial rejuvenation. The brainchild of Dr Arshad Ali, the centre cost £3 million and employs a team of 37 including dentists, doctors, nurses, hygienists and administrative staff.

Among other awards, SCED was acclaimed as one of the Leading Dental Centres of the World in 2009. It is the only centre in the UK outside London to achieve this and one of just 37 centres in the world to be recognised for the award.

Clinical Director Dr Ali said: 'Last year we put together the country's best team and provided them with the most advanced equipment and resources to give patients the finest treatment to be had anywhere. [This award] is proof that we are firmly achieving what we set out to do.'

DENTAL SCHOOLS COUNCIL MEETING



On 29-30 October 2010 the Dental Schools Council met at the School of Oral and Dental Sciences, University of Bristol. They were joined by the Dental Schools Officers group together with the Chief Dental Officers from England, Northern Ireland and Wales. A wide range of issues currently affecting dental schools were discussed, such as the White Paper, the Browne Report and the Comprehensive Spending Review