

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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## NEW DEVICE WILL IDENTIFY DECAY BEFORE YOU DO

A team of scientists from the University of Liverpool has won an award for developing a device that can identify early tooth decay and plaque before it is visible to the human eye.

iDENTifi comprises a clinical digital camera which incorporates Qualitative Light Induced Fluorescence (QLF) technology to take images of the mouth using blue light and special filters which can show up cavities and plaque. The images can then be transferred using wireless technology to a computer, laptop, iPad or smart phone for immediate assessment and evaluation by a dental professional.

iDENTifi has been developed by a team from the University of Liverpool in collaboration with dental healthcare developers Inspektor Research Systems BV. The original concept for the device began over

a decade ago when the Liverpool team wished to incorporate QLF technology into clinical SLR cameras.

The tool shows up early stage plaque, tiny cavities, secondary cavities and cavities which can occur on the occlusal surfaces of the teeth. The device can identify more mature and potentially damaging plaque without the need for current methods using dyes or disclosing agents.

It has the potential to improve preventive dental strategies and could change patients' dental care and dietary behaviour. iDENTifi will be of particular benefit to orthodontic patients to highlight plaque left behind after cleaning.

'Winning a prestigious Medical Futures Award proves that iDENTifi

has real commercial and market potential,' said Professor Sue Higham, from the Department of Health Services Research and School of Dentistry. 'This will give us access to business expertise and networks which will help iDENTifi secure the recognition and investment needed to become a viable dental healthcare product.'

iDENTifi will continue to be used in clinical trials and a launch is anticipated in summer 2012.



## CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

Dentist Alan Price raised £815.00 for the Mouth Cancer Foundation when he and his team cycled from London to Paris. The money will go towards helping improve support for mouth cancer sufferers and their families, as well as highlighting the shocking facts about mouth cancer.

Elsewhere cyclists Tom Wainwright, a physiotherapist and Robert Middleton, an orthopaedic surgeon, also helped raise funds and awareness for the Mouth Cancer Foundation by cycling from John O'Groats to Lands End. They undertook the 953 miles in memory of their friend Paul Beament who died of mouth cancer in 2004, aged 34. Paul's cancer was not associated with any known risk factor.

Bristol dentist Dr Neil Gerrard is set to raise up to £40,000 for children born with cleft lips by donating profits from his new book to charity. All profits made from the first 2,000 sales of *There*

*is no perfect dentist* will go to the Smile Train, an international charity that helps children in 78 of the world's poorest countries and also provides cleft-related training for doctors and medical professionals. Dr Gerrard's book reveals insider knowledge about the dental industry and provides readers with the information they need to find the best dentist and make the right choices about dental health. A review will be published in a future *BDJ*. <http://www.cliftons-miles.com/dentists.html>.

Finnish company Planmeca Oy, one of the world's leading dental equipment manufacturers, has announced its donation of a Planmeca Compact i dental unit

and a Planmeca ProMax 3D s imaging unit to the temporary dental clinic that is being set up by the Japanese government and Japan Dental Association in the tsunami region. Set up of the temporary dental clinic was scheduled for June.

Youngsters in Devon took part in a mass 'brushathon' in May to mark National Smile Month. Dental hygienist Corinne McElligott and her puppet Roo the kangaroo visited nurseries in the region to raise awareness about toothbrushing, healthy eating and drinking. The children learned a rhyme to go with their brushing routine: 'Wriggle and flick so the germs don't stick'.