

BIDS INVITED FOR PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH FUNDING

The Shirley Glasstone Hughes Trust Fund is seeking applications for funding for research projects. Bids for the 2011 competition are invited for research projects that explore one of two questions:

1. Does dentists' fear have an adverse effect on clinical decision making?
2. Which dental liners under amalgam restorations have greater patient benefit?

Evidence summaries in response to these questions have been published in the *BDJ*.^{1,2}

The questions have been selected after a review of 12 topics suggested by users of the Primary Care Dentistry Research Forum, an online community that helps general dental practitioners to shape the research agenda (www.dentistryresearch.org). A maximum of £200,000 of funding is available to the successful applicant(s). The successful projects are expected to begin in January 2012 and should be of no more than three years' duration. Bids are welcomed from UK-based candidates only and will be

judged on criteria including their originality, relevance to quality enhancement in primary dental care and the involvement of dental practitioners in the research.

The application deadline is 19 September. Full details on how to apply are available at: www.bda.org/dentists/policy-research/research-overview/shirley-glasstone.aspx. The trustees of the fund are expected to announce which bids have been successful by the end of November.

1. Fox C. Evidence summary: does dentists' fear have an adverse effect on clinical decision-making? *Br Dent J* 2010; **209**: 181-182.
2. Nasser M. Evidence summary: which dental liners under amalgam restorations are more effective in reducing postoperative sensitivity? *Br Dent J* 2011; **210**: 533-537.

TURTLE SAVED WITH ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT

According to *The Palm Beach Post*, an orthodontist from Jupiter, Florida fitted a set of braces for a sea turtle weighing over 12 stone.

Named after the wrestler André the Giant, Andre the turtle was found in June 2010 stranded on a sandbar about a mile and a half south of the Juno Beach Pier, Florida's 'Number 1 Fishing Pier'. Swimmers floated the endangered green sea turtle to shore on a boogie board and called a local marine life centre for help.

Boat propellers had gouged two holes in Andre's shell. The larger gash, about two inches deep and packed with sand, was the size of an adult forearm and the other was 'as big as a baseball' and contained a live crab.

The marine life centre staff discovered that Andre had a collapsed lung, pneumonia, an exposed spinal cord and severe infections.

Turtle experts at the centre cleaned the wound and covered it with a black foam and clear plastic to

promote healing. Andre's shell was hooked up to a plastic tube that uses negative pressure to promote new skin growth and knock out infection.

Orthodontist Alberto Vargas then used orthodontic braces like bridges on either side of the wound and pushed and pulled the turtle's shell to promote growth. Each day, a key was twisted that clicked to adjust the braces. Dr Vargas coaxed the shell to expand about one inch.

'I'm not aware of this ever having been done on a turtle before,' said Dr Vargas. 'We changed the shape of [Andre's] shell, just like we change the shape of a patient's jaw.'

After 13 months of treatment, Andre is ready to be released. His skin underneath the foam, once fully exposing organs, is now hard enough to survive in the depths of the Atlantic. Green turtles grow up to about 28 stone and live 80 years.

www.palmbeachpost.com/news



DIARY

SEPTEMBER

6th annual free Mouth Cancer Foundation 10 km awareness walk

Date: 13.00, 17 September 2011

Venue: Hyde Park, London

www.mouthcancerwalk.org

BACD/BDTA Roadshow

Date: 20 September 2011

Location: Edinburgh

Telephone: 020 8241 8526

Email: suzy@bacd.com

BDA Clinical Seminars:

Occlusion in everyday dentistry

Date: 23 September 2011

Location: London

Telephone: 020 7563 4590

Email: events@bda.org

www.bda.org/events

Training day for oral health promoters

Date: 30 September 2011

Venue: Ramada Hotel,

Tunbridge Wells

Email: wendy.mcevoy@nhs.net

CEREC CAD/CAM Symposium

Date: 30 September – 1 October 2011

Venue: Langham Hotel, London

Telephone: 0845 071 5040

Email: mark.buckland@sironadental.co.uk

OCTOBER

34th Annual Meeting of the Society of Craniofacial Genetics in conjunction with the International Congress of Human Genetics

Date: 11 October 2011

Location: Montreal, Canada

www.craniofacialgenetics.org

Community Dental Services Group Annual Presidential Meeting and Scientific Meeting

Date: 12-14 October 2011

www.bda.org/events

Quicksleeper 4 digital controlled local anaesthetic system – Hands On Course

Date: 14 October 2011 (Glasgow)

Date: 28 October 2011 (Birmingham)

Telephone: 01380 734990

Email: info@generalmedical.co.uk

www.generalmedical.co.uk