

news in brief

In development

A TV production company is currently in the throes of putting together a new docusoap that centres around a busy UK dental surgery. *The Dentist* is to be a TV programme similar to *Vets in Practice*. After requests for dentists interested in the project to make contact, the makers of the show had a great response and have now whittled down the choice to three surgeries. The next stage is for one of the practices to be chosen to star in the show. Watch this space!

Decade for ONG

This month sees the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Orthodontic National Group. During the past 10 years the group has initiated the Certificate in Orthodontic Nursing, the new PCD class of orthodontic therapists and has contributed to continued professional education. The group has held 14 regional study days, nine dental nurse days at the British Orthodontic Conference and two annual competitions.

MPTs look elsewhere

The Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists and Technologists (MPTs) has decided to seek statutory registration via the Health Professions Council rather than the GDC.

The decision follows a policy change at the Department of Health, which felt that it would be more appropriate for the MPTs to be registered amongst other groups of healthcare scientists, as most of the work undertaken by MPTs is non-dental.

Training top up

The GDC is considering the possibility of an educational provider developing 'top-up' training for dental nurses who have some experience but not enough to meet the grandparenting requirements when the PCD register opens. This would provide a route by which such dental nurses could become registered.

Team members scoop awards

There were a whole host of winners from the dental team at this year's Dental Awards 2004, which took place at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London.

The Crescent Specialist Dental Centre in Devon scooped three awards, Overall Team of the Year, Best Practice Environment and Hygienist of the Year won by Maureen Milne.

Kendrick View Dental Practice in Berkshire was awarded Best Dental Team Support Programme while its Practice Manager Judith Chandler collected the award for Practice Manager of the Year. Sara Calder of The Orthodontic Centre in South Yorkshire was awarded Dental Nurse of the Year and Brendan Hudson of PDS Dental Laboratory in Leeds (pictured) received the award for Dental Technician of the Year. Brenda Rawles from Octagon Orthodontics in Buckinghamshire collected the award for



Dental Receptionist of the Year and finally Dental Laboratory of the Year was awarded to Knight Dental Design in London.

The event was organised by Highbury Business Health Care and the British Dental Health Foundation.

GDC get go-ahead from Government



General Dental Council

The Government has confirmed that new legislation that will enable the next round of General Dental Council reforms to go ahead should be in place by January 2005.

The legislation will give the GDC new powers to extend statutory GDC registration to cover the whole dental team, including dental nurses and dental technicians, set up a complaints scheme for non-NHS dental patients and reform its procedures for dealing with misconduct and ill health amongst dental professionals. In addition it will introduce new procedures to tackle problems of poor performance in dentists and remove the current restriction on the number of dental bodies corporate.

The GDC's reform programme is being implemented through a series of amendments - Section 60 orders - to the Dentists Act. Section 60 orders give the Government the power to change regulations, Orders or Acts of

Parliament without the need for a Bill to go through the parliamentary procedure leading up to a new Act of Parliament.

GDC President Hew Mathewson welcomed the confirmation of the new legislation and said that the GDC was pressing ahead with work at their end to ensure the initiatives were set to go live as soon as practicable once the legislation was in place.

Registration fees for all registrants for 2005 have yet to be discussed by the GDC and the Council does not currently know what PCD fees will cost. However, there will be an initial registration fee and then an annual retention fee to stay on the register, which will be one fee per person, not one fee per title as there is now. The GDC intends to publish information on fees as soon as possible.