

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.

Please direct your correspondence to the News Editor, Arveen Bajaj at the BDJ, The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW or by email to a.bajaj@nature.com

PENINSULA DENTAL SCHOOL CELEBRATES NEW FACILITY

On Friday 22 October a ceremony took place at Tamar Science Park in Plymouth to mark the progress of building work for the Peninsula Dental School's Derriford Dental Education Facility.

Dr Barry Cockcroft CBE, Chief Dental Officer for England, was guest of honour at the event.

The Derriford Dental Education Facility is the fourth Peninsula Dental Education Facility in the region and joins others in Exeter, Devonport and Truro. When all four are at full capacity students under professional dental supervision will treat over 500 patients a day during term time.

The new facility has 40 dental chairs arranged in five bays of eight, plus one single surgery. It also includes tutorial rooms and seminar rooms and is 50 m from the main Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry John Bull Building.

Sixty-four students will practise at the Derriford Dental Education Facility for four days a week until they qualify. The first cohort to qualify from the Peninsula Dental School will do so in July 2011.



Professor Liz Kay, Dean of the Peninsula Dental School, with Dr Barry Cockcroft CBE

'Peninsula Dental School is taking the lead in community-based training for the dentists of tomorrow,' said Dr Cockcroft. 'My congratulations go to the Peninsula Dental School team who have developed Dental Education Facilities

that are embedded in their local communities and which provide first class training to dental students.'

The Peninsula Dental School is the first new dental school to have opened in the UK in 40 years.

CQC REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE POSTPONED

A formal request to postpone the registration of dental practices with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has been refused by the Department of Health (DH).

John Milne, Chair of the General Dental Practice Committee at the British Dental Association (BDA), had

written to the Chief Dental Officer reiterating the profession's strong feelings about CQC registration and requesting that the implementation date be postponed. The letter called for the registration of dental practices to be properly assessed and an efficient process established.

The request followed a meeting between Dr Milne and BDA Executive Board Chair Dr Susie Sanderson and CQC Chief Executive Cynthia Bower at which the profession's many concerns were articulated once again. Following that meeting, the CQC announced that it is quadrupling the number of crown post offices able to verify practitioners' CRB checks.

FIRST GRADUATES FROM INNOVATIVE COURSE

The first holders of the Diploma in Restorative Dentistry from the Faculty of Dental Practice of the Royal College of Surgeons of England have graduated from the University of Leeds with an MSc in Restorative Dentistry.

The programme allows practitioners to study in their own practice while at the same time acquiring an MSc in Restorative Dentistry without having to commit to significant periods away from the practice.

Two of the graduates have now registered for a PhD and the research will be carried out in primary dental care supported by staff from the University of Leeds.



ROYAL COLLEGE AWARD FOR PROFESSOR JONES

In October Professor Malcolm Jones, a consultant orthodontist and pro-Vice Chancellor for Health of Cardiff University, was awarded the Faculty of Dental Surgery Medal of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh at a Diploma Ceremony in Edinburgh.

The award was in recognition of his extensive past achievements and contributions to the profession which include having been the Dean of Cardiff Dental School, General Manager of the dental services in that part of Wales, an active member in the work of the General Dental Council (GDC) -

their Professional Conduct Committee and overseeing the development of new Graduate Entry UK Programmes - the Executive Secretary of the UK Council of Dental Deans, the first Chair of the Forum of European Heads and Deans of Dental Schools (European Council of Dental Deans), President of the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) and an active member of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's Dental Council, being an international examiner and member of the Speciality Advisory Board in Orthodontics for nearly two decades.



Standing left to right: Professor Jim McDonald, Professor Malcolm Jones, Dr David Felix (Dean) and Mr David Tolley (President)

TASTE GENES PREDICT TOOTH DECAY

An article titled *Taste genes associated with dental caries* published in the *Journal of Dental Research (JDR)* has hypothesised that genetic variation in taste pathway genes may be associated with dental caries risk and/or protection.

In the study, families were recruited by the Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia (COHRA) for collection of biological samples, demographic data and clinical assessment of oral health including caries scores. Multiple single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) assays for each gene were performed and analysed for three dentition groups: primary, mixed and permanent. Statistically significant associations were seen for caries risk and/or protection.

'This work is significant in that it identifies key genes that may explain the susceptibilities of some patients to tooth decay,' said *JDR* Editor-in-Chief William Giannobile. 'Although an early study, this breakthrough on taste pathways and genes demonstrates how patient preferences that are genetically predetermined may put patients at risk of disease.'

The complete research study is available online at <http://jdr.sagepub.com/content/early/2010/09/02/0022034510381502.abstract>.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS DRAGGING FEET ON HIV RULE

Indemnity provider Dental Protection is challenging the Department of Health (DH) to withdraw the current rule that stops HIV positive members of the dental team from treating patients in spite of evidence that there is no risk of transmission.

It is 20 years since the rules were introduced preventing dentists and other healthcare professionals from providing treatment to patients. Initially they were introduced as a precautionary measure after the case of Dr Acer, a dentist in the USA who was thought to have infected six patients with the AIDS virus. There has never been any other recorded transmission of the disease in a dental setting.

Anti-retroviral medication can now effectively control HIV, so that patients with HIV display levels of the infective particle in their blood which are too low even to measure. This combined with

high levels of infection control that are demanded of the profession means that much of Europe along with countries like Australia and the USA have removed this restriction for dentistry.

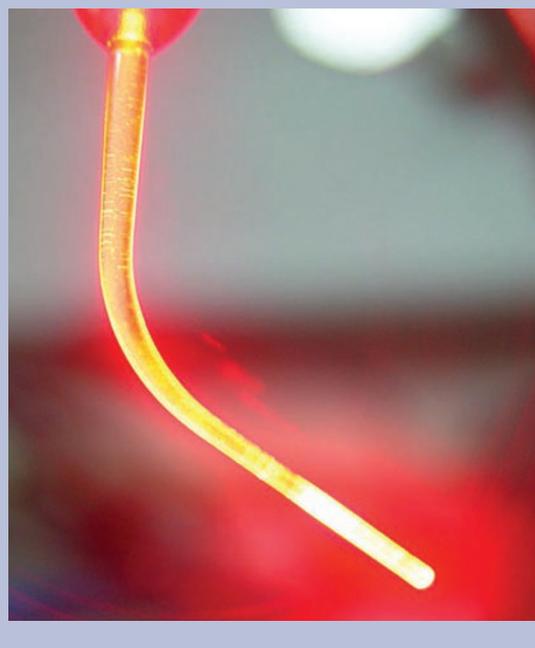
The Beijing Declaration from the 6th World Workshop on Oral Health and Disease in AIDS highlighted the outdated stance currently adopted by the DH in April 2009. Failure to revise its guidance in light of the latest consensus of evidence-based opinion leaves the DH open to accusations of discrimination.

Kevin Lewis, Director of Dental Protection, said: 'The time has come to acknowledge the evidence and stop running scared of ill-informed public perception and media scaremongering. [...] The sound of foot-dragging has been deafening and some immediate action needs to be taken to bring the UK guidance out of the previous century.'

AWARD GRANTED FOR LIGHT THERAPY RESEARCH

The Medical Research Council has awarded a generous grant of £1.1 million to a UCL Eastman Dental Institute multidisciplinary research team for their work into the use of light-activated antimicrobial agents.

Having successfully applied this technology, known as photodynamic therapy, to develop the Periowave system currently used in the painless treatment of periodontitis, the team – which includes Professor Michael Wilson and Dr Jonathan Pratten – intend to extend its potential applications to the medical field. In particular it will be used to develop catheters that will be resistant to microbial colonisation and biofilm formation.



ONLINE DENTAL TRAUMA GUIDE

An online guide for treatment of dental trauma is now available for free on the Internet at www.dentaltraumaguide.org. The guide is based on the treatment guidelines developed by the



International Association of Dental Traumatology (IADT).

The Dental Trauma Guide can be used by dental practitioners to verify diagnosis and gain valuable advice in regard to treatment and follow-up. In addition the dental practitioner will be able to get a statistical overview of the predicted healing outcome for his or her current patient. Dental schools could also use the Dental Trauma Guide as teaching material for dental education. The illustrations and the many treatment animations provide an insight into the complex world of dental traumatology.

CALLING DENTISTS OF ASIAN DESCENT

The UK's leading race equality think-tank, The Runnymede Trust, is producing a book documenting the historical contribution of Asian communities to the NHS since 1948.

As part of the project, The Runnymede Trust is looking to interview dentists of Asian descent who have worked for the NHS. The Trust is particularly keen to hear from older

people who came to the UK from the 1950s onwards, who are retired or approaching retirement.

The oral histories collected will form a book to celebrate the achievements of Asian NHS employees past and present.

The Runnymede Trust would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in participating in the project; email klara@runnymedetrust.org.

ERRATUM

News (*BDJ* 2010; 209: 332)

It has been brought to our attention that in *BDJ* volume 209 issue 7, the caption for the photograph included with the news story *FELLOWSHIP FOR TIP EDGE PIONEER* was incorrect.

The caption should have read as follows: Left to right: Faculty Secretary Rob Chate, Mr Richard Parkhouse and Dean Dr David Felix.

We apologise for this error and would like to thank Dr Rob Chate for bringing it to our attention.

DIARY

NOVEMBER

Diagnosis and Treatment of Breath Odours: Current Insights

Date: 15 November 2010

Venue: Institute of Physics, London

Email: lisa.cornwell@iop.org

www.iop.org/events/scientific/conferences/y/10/breath/

Know How To Get Your 5 A Day – Healthcare Conference

Date: 17 November 2010

Venue: Rheged, Penrith

Telephone: 01768 864466

Email: debs@doddaccountants.co.uk

www.doddaccountants.co.uk

4th National Conference on Decontamination of Dental Instruments

Date: 19 November 2010

Venue: Royal Armouries, Leeds

Telephone: 0141 201 9353

Snoring and Sleep Apnoea Seminar for GPs

Date: 20 November 2010

Venue: London

Telephone: 0114 250 0176

www.s4sdental.com

The Journey is the Reward by A. Gilbert, S. Howe, J. Stanfield

Date: 20 November 2010, 9am–5pm

Venue: Aberystwyth University

Telephone: 07738 287764

www.positivecomm.com/events

DECEMBER

BDA Croydon Section – 7 Steps to Becoming Indispensable to Your Practice Team

Date: 1 December 2010

Venue: Croydon Postgraduate Centre, Mayday University Hospital

Email: croydonbda@yahoo.co.uk

www.ewisdom-london.nhs.uk

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

GUM DISEASE UNDERESTIMATED IN THE US

Research published in the *Journal of Dental Research* from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) suggests that the prevalence of periodontal disease in the United States may have been underestimated by as much as 50%. More American adults may suffer from moderate to severe gum disease than previously thought.

In a National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) pilot study, funded by the CDC's Division of Oral Health, a full-mouth, comprehensive periodontal examination was conducted on over 450 adults over the age of 35. The prevalence rates were then compared against the results of previous NHANES studies which used a partial-mouth periodontal examination.

Historically, NHANES has served as the main source for determining prevalence of periodontal disease in US adults.

The pilot study discovered that the original partial-mouth study methodology may have underestimated true disease prevalence by up to 50%.

'Research suggests a connection between periodontal health and systemic health,' said Dr Paul Eke, epidemiologist at the CDC and lead author of the study. 'In light of these findings, understanding the relationships between periodontal disease and other systemic diseases in the adult US population is more crucial than ever.'

The original article can be found here: <http://jdr.sagepub.com/content/89/11/1208>. An individual's risk for periodontal disease can be assessed at www.perio.org.

THINK BEFORE YOU EXTRACT, SAYS MDDUS

The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS) is urging dentists to double check before extracting teeth if they have doubts over orthodontists' treatment requests.

The UK-wide dental defence organisation has noticed a recent increase in calls to its advisers seeking advice on requests for orthodontic extractions. MDDUS suggests dental practitioners seek a second opinion before carrying out any extractions if they do not agree the proposed treatment is appropriate.

'There is a responsibility on the receiving dentist to check the details and if they are not sure of the accuracy of the prescription or the appropriateness of the proposed treatment, then they are obliged to not proceed with treatment,' said Rachael Bell, dental adviser.

'We advise our members in this situation to try speaking to the referring dentist directly ... if in doubt check or refer for further investigation or opinion.'

FOR THE GREATER GOOD

The AOG, a dental professional and cultural society whose slogan is 'towards the greater good', has unveiled a new charitable project for 2011 as part of a planned trip to India.

The AOG (which means 'welcome' in several Indian languages) encourages its members to raise their professional standards and inspires them to get involved in its many charitable schemes which have included the building of several dental centres, libraries and orphanages.

Members of the AOG will travel to Chitrakoot, a village in India, between 18–26 February 2011 to unveil plans to

build a new dental laboratory and surgery unit as an extension of its Chitrakoot outreach project in the Madhya Pradesh region.

The AOG already supports a cleft lip and palate treatment centre in the region, which also provides free dental services to the residents of over 500 villages.

The AOG also hosts an annual Christmas Ball, the proceeds of which are donated to charity. Membership is open to all GDC-registered dental professionals and as part of its thirtieth anniversary celebrations costs just £10. www.aoguk.org