BDA supports victims of 22 May bomb attack

By DTI

MANCHESTER, UK: At the start of its annual congress in Manchester, the British Dental Association (BDA) has pledged to donate £5,000 to the victims of the bombing at a concert on 22 May. With this step, the professional body joins other initiatives that are aimed at supporting the families affected by the horrific attack.

Chair of the BDA Principal Executive Committee Mack Armstrong said: “We’ve been so proud to make Manchester home to our national conference, and we just want to do our bit to help our hosts and friends in the aftermath of this horrific attack.”

“Quite rightly Manchester has resolved to carry on. Our thoughts are with all the families touched by this atrocity,” he added.

According to the Greater Manchester Police, Monday’s attack during a concert by American singer Ariana Grande at the Manchester Arena left 22 people dead and more than 50 injured. The suicide bombing, believed to have been executed by a 23-year-old man from the south of the city, is one of the most fatal terror-related incidents in Great Britain in recent years. In response, the UK government has changed the terror threat level from severe to critical and deployed armed forces nation wide to protect vulnerable sites.

Participants of this year’s BDA conference have also had to submit to extra security measures that have been put in place for the entire event. On the first day of the congress, they joined in on a minute of silence across the UK to honour the victims.

The BDA has been continuously holding its national conference at the Manchester Central Convention Complex since 2012. Over 4,000 dental professionals were expected to attend this year’s three-day event, which also featured an extensive industry exhibition.

King’s Dental Institute appoints Barts professor as new executive dean

By DTI

LONDON, UK: Prof. Mike Curtis from Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London has been appointed new Executive Dean of King’s College London Dental Institute, the university has said. The microbiologist succeeds Prof. Dianne Reckow, who retired from her post at the end of last year.

Currently serving as Dean of Dentistry and Deputy Vice-Principal for Health at Barts and The London, Curtis is expected to take the helm of Britain’s most prestigious dental school at the beginning of the next academic year. In the meantime, the institute will continue to be led by Prof. Mark Woolford, who took over in December as interim Executive Dean. Commenting on his appointment, Curtis pledged to maintain and enhance the pre-emminence of dentistry at King’s in education, training and research.

“Professor Curtis’ appointment is an important step for us as we embark on a new university vision and seek to consolidate the Dental Institute’s position as Europe’s most comprehensive centre for dental education, research and patient care,” said Sir Robert Lechler, Provost for Health at King’s.

Last year, King’s was rated fourth in the world in dentistry according to the QS World University Rankings in the US, as well as first in Europe. Currently, around 1,000 students are enrolled in the university, as are 300 distance learning students. Curtis will bring extensive knowledge and research expertise in the field of oral microbiology to the school. His latest research focused on the role of oral microbiome in maintaining oral health and developing disease, and key microbial virulence determinants of oral bacteria.
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Dentine hypersensitivity—
“A sizeable problem”

An interview with Dr David Gillam, London

Dentine hypersensitivity is one of those nuisance conditions that may have more than one cause. It also takes a great deal of diagnostic time, unfortunately. From the patient’s point of view, it is often considered a minor problem that he or she believes he or she can deal with in everyday life. That makes it difficult to identify sometimes.

I recommend that practitioners consider the guidelines and the presenting features and manage the patient accordingly. There is a large amount of valuable information available in the literature and in the industry, but most of this is product-related. However, one cannot just wave a magic wand with one solution and expect the condition to go away. Part of what I do now is to educate and raise awareness among members of the dental profession. Therapists, particularly, are a key target group for education. There needs to be higher awareness in general.

What are the key recommendations for dental professionals with patients showing signs of hypersensitivity?

Practitioners should ask the patients the right questions. Key to this is linking the problem with lifestyle and how it affects the patient on a day-to-day basis. Also, dentists should do a differential diagnosis to exclude other causes of dental pain. A large number of dental professionals do not seem to do that. They should not simply recommend a once-off solution, but one that is based on managing the presenting clinical features. This will help to diversify the clinician’s management plan.

If the dentist provides treatment, he or she should incorporate a preventative philosophy that will involve changing certain habits. The patient should be monitored within the practice’s time frame. It is not necessary to see him or her every week. Finally, the clinician should research the pain presentation and not use any specific technique just because it is endorsed by a particular manufacturer.

Thank you very much.