Tories fine patients

Dentists will be able to fine patients who consistently miss appointments, under Tories’ NHS plans. The smallprint of the Conservatives’ Reform Plan For The NHS, said "We will introduce a new dentistry contract that will allow den-
tists to fine people who consistently miss appointments. The fine is expected to be around £20. Andy Burnham criticised the proposal and said: “People who are most in need of care will be hit hardest by fines from their own dentists.”

Scottish waiting lists

Patients are calling on the Scottish government to look again at its oral health care provision after it was revealed that the total number of pa-
tients on the waiting list in Scotland has reached a standstill and is not decreasing. Despite waiting figures drop-
ing from 82,166 last year to 79,375 this year in many rural areas waiting list numbers have grown. NHS Grampian revealed that the number of patients on its waiting lists has grown from 50,956 to 51,798.

Smile-on and AOG

Smile-on, healthcare educa-
tion and training provider, has joined forces with the Anglo-
Asian Odontological Group. On 7 May, Smile-on and the AOG are hosting a charity ball with proceeds going towards charitable projects in East Af-
rica. The event will be spon-
sored by the Dental Directory. The AOG is a social network for dentists, promoting pro-
fessionalism and friendship. It works hard to help charities both at home and abroad.

Dentistry goes mobile

New service launched to help ease access problems in rural communities

DAP review

Dental Tribune looks at the progress made since the launch of the Dental Access Programme

Case report

Dr Konel Garretson illustrates principles of diagnosis and treatment

Chief dental officer awarded CBE

New Year’s Honours List sees both CDO and former GDC president named

T he chief dental officer for England and the GDC’s former president were both awarded CBEs in the New Year Honour List. CDO Barry Cockcroft received a CBE for his contribution to dentistry and public health in Britain.

Prior to joining the Depart-
ment of Health, Dr Cockcroft, chief dental officer since June 2006, worked as a NHS general practitioner for 27 years.

He commissioned Prof Steele to carry out the Steele Report, an independent review of NHS dentistry, following the House of Commons Select Committee review of the new contract.

Dr Cockcroft is currently working on behalf of the govern-
ment to carry out the recommen-
dations of the report.

Former President of the Gen-
eral Dental Council’s (GDC) Hew Mathewson was awarded a CBE in the New Year’s Honours list for his services to healthcare.

Mr Mathewson has been a member of the GDC since 1996 and was president from 2003 until September 2009 when he became the Council’s first ever chair. He handed over to Alison Lockyer in January 2010.

Ms Lockyer said: “No one could have done more for the GDC than Hew over the six years he was at the helm. We’ve indebted to him for his assidu-
ous efforts. This award is really well deserved.”

Interim chief executive, Al-
son White, called his commit-
ment to improving protection for patients “unwavering” and said: “I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hew most warmly. This CBE recognises all of his hard work and achievements at the General Dental Council.”

She added: “We are absolute-
lly delighted to see his dedication to healthcare is being recognised by this honour.”

Janet Clarke, former chair of the Central Committee for Community and Public Health Dentistry, of the BDA and member of the Steele Review, was also honoured with an MBE.

MBEs were also given to Donna Hough, dental work-
force development lead for DCNs, North Western and Mer-
sey Postgraduate Deaneries and Laura Mitchell, consultant orthodontist and clinical lead at St Luke’s Hospital Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foun-
dation Trust.

Mrs Mitchell has worked at the hospital since 1995 and last year co-wrote the Oxford Handbook of Clinical Dentistry with her husband. The book has been translated into nine differ-
ent languages, selling more than 100,000 copies.

Angus Robertson, princi-
pal fellow in clinical illustra-
tion, Leeds Dental Institute, was also awarded an MBE. Mr Robertson has been a prac-
tising clinical photographer for more than 56 years. He has specialised in dental photo-
graphy since he took up a po-

sition as head of medical and dental illustration at the Leeds Dental Institute in 1985.

A spokesman for the In-
stitute of Medical Illustrators said: ‘His dedicated contri-

bution to the medical illustration profession has been great and this was recognised when in 1995, 1MI awarded him his most prestigious award, the Norman K. Harrison Gold Medal. Our sincerest congrat-
ulations go to both Angus and his family for this well deserved award.”

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

We have all been shocked by the emergency situation in the Republic of Haiti after the earthquake which has claimed thousands of lives and left the survivors in turmoil. Dental Tribune is appealing to all readers who wish to help by donating much needed funds to help the relief effort to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an interna-
tional, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers healthcare exclusion and natural or man-made disasters. What makes this the more poignant is that the team at MSF responding to this disaster is still trying to account for colleagues who were already working in Haiti, and who may have not survived.

To help, go to www.msf.org.uk/supportus.aspx and click on the link to donate to the Haiti relief fund. Thanks in advance for your support.