Chief dental officer awarded CBE

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

The chief dental officer for England and the GDC’s former president were both awarded CBEs in the New Year Honours List. CDO Barry Cockcroft received a CBE for his contribution to dentistry and public health in Britain.

Prior to joining the Department 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 government to carry out the recommendations of the report.

Former President of the General Dental Council (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 assiduous efforts. This award is really well deserved.”

Interim chief executive, Alison White, called his commitment 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 absolutely 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 OBE.

MBEs were also given to Donna Hough, dental workforce development lead for DCNs, North Western and Mersey Postgraduate Deanseries and Laura Mitchell, consultant orthodontist and clinical lead at St Luke’s Hospital Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation 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 different languages, selling more than 100,000 copies.

Angus Robertson, principal fellow in clinical illustration, Leeds Dental Institute, was also given an MBE. Mr Robertson has been a practicing clinical photographer for more than 36 years. He has specialised in dental photography since he took up a position as head of medical and dental illustration at the Leeds Dental Institute in 1985.

A spokesman for the Institute of Medical Illustrators said: “His dedicated contribution to the medical illustration profession has been great and this was recognised when in 1995, IIM awarded him his most prestigious award, the Norman K. Harrison Gold Medal. Our sincerest congratulations go to both Angus and his family for this well deserved award.”

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 international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural or man-made disasters. What makes this the most 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.