News in Brief

Dental Divas launches
Dental Divas, an American organisation designed to support the needs of women dentists, has announced the official launch of Dental Divas Online. The interactive website allows members to connect with other dentists, providing women dentists a place to share their ideas and network themselves. According to an ADA study, the dental industry is comprised of 40 per cent women dentists, and yet until recently, there were very few options in the form of resources, networking, and support for the challenges that women dentists face. The interactive website provides informative articles and a variety of discussions on hot topics of interest, such as running a practice, peer advice, job opportunities and even help finding maternity leave fill-in.

www.dental-divas-online.com

News

Smile!!!
The new LED smile takes Japan by storm

Take a holiday
Richard Lishman discusses furnished holiday lettings

Clinical

The Inman Aligner
Dr Tif Qureshi presents part 1

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The beauty of materials
Dr Ian Cline discusses how to achieve clinical success

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Positive review of HIV health staff ban

The Department of Health confirms review of ‘outdated’ HIV policy

The Department of Health has confirmed that the policy which currently prevents HIV-positive surgeons and dentists from working in the UK is being reviewed.

Under Department of Health rules, HIV-positive health workers working in surgery, dentistry and specialist nursing, plus obstetrics and gynaecology are not allowed to carry out invasive surgery or ‘exposure prone procedures’ that could risk blood contamination.

The announcement has been welcomed by campaigners and Aids charities, who say advances in HIV therapy drugs makes it easier for people to undertake such clinical roles.

British policy is stricter than in many European countries plus the US and Australia, where dentists with HIV can work.

According to reports, there have been no reported healthcare worker to patient HIV transmissions in the UK, and only four such cases recorded worldwide and furthermore, dentists with HIV are permitted to work in the US and Australia.

According to reports, a DH spokesperson said: “I wouldn’t expect anything less of them. Action through the courts at named individuals would sort them out PDQ. About time the BDA actually took a stance as well and actively harassed the clowns who make the decisions.”

The guidance on the policy is currently being reviewed by the UK Advisory Panel for Healthcare Workers Infected with Blood-borne Viruses (UKAP), the Advisory Group on Hepatitis and the Expert Advisory Group on Aids.

The DH has reportedly said that the review is expected to be completed within the next few months, and that it would consider any recommendations received from the three advisory panels.

"I feel it is about time that the discrimination stops against us as well!”

Another dentist replied to this response saying: “Following the legislation associated with the CQC I cannot see why a HIV dental professional cannot work normally assuming they are under the care of a medical practitioner, suitable medication regime and an undetectable viral load.”

One angry dentist said: “It would appear that it is wrong and unprofessional to regard HIV/ HIV+ patients as being any sort of risk but, if dedicated professional should become so afflicted they become pariahs, unable to work and subject to draconian restrictions.

“Typical DOH, constantly bleating about evidence based practice, yet ten years behind the times."