CIC features live surgery bleaching

One of the highlights of this year’s Clinical Innovations Conference is a live, hands-on demonstration of surgery bleaching.

The live demonstration is part of the lecture ‘Profitable Clinical Practical Dentistry’ by Edward Lynch and Wyman Chan, which includes the latest practical clinical tips for successful posterior composites, bleaching plus the latest developments in tray design and the use of initiators and promoters.

The lecture will also cover predictable internal whitening, enamel micro abrasion, perfect placement of posterior composites, the best results with adhesive and the use of Oxzone.

Edward Lynch is a recognised specialist in several fields including restorative dentistry and was recently elected the third most influential person in UK dentistry. Wyman Chan has trained more than 1,500 professionals across the dental spectrum and his training courses incorporate the most cuttng-edge thinking.

A spokesperson for Smile-on, which is putting on the conference, said: ‘This year’s conference which includes the Annenberg Lecture is set to be the best yet and delegates are strongly advised to book early to avoid disappointment.’

The conference will be held on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May at the Royal College of Physicians, Regent’s Park, London.

For more information, and to book your place, call 020 7400 8989, email info@smile-on.com or go to www.smile-on.com.

GDC issues botox warning

The General Dental Council is urging dental professionals to think very carefully before carrying out non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as Botox.

Its new guidelines are the result of a public consultation on the scope of practice of the dental team in 2008.

It sought views on what different groups of professionals could do as part of their work and what would be valid additions to conventional dentistry.

Its guidelines now state: ‘Registrants choosing to offer Botox or other non-surgical cosmetic procedures should note that the General Dental Council (GDC) expects the same high standards of them, whatever the type of treatment they are carrying out.

In particular, they are advised to work within their knowledge and professional competence and be prepared to back up the decisions they make. Careful thought also needs to be given to maintaining professional standards in relation to advertising these services, and to the need to indemnify.’

Duncan Rudkin, chief executive and registrar of the General Dental Council, called it a ‘complex issue’ and said: ‘Our primary concern is, as always, patient protection. We urge dental professionals to think very carefully about carrying out non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as Botox.

You must be certain you are trained and competent, and that you can achieve the same high standards we expect of you in other more traditional areas.’

Registrants can contact the GDC through the Customer Advice and Information Team on 0845 222 4141 or email CAIT@gdc-uk.org

New dean for FGDP

Russ Ladwa is the new dean

Mr Ladwa has been elected dean of the Faculty of General Dental Practice.

Mr Ladwa, a general dental practitioner based in London, will take over from Richard Hayward in June.

Russ Ladwa is the new dean

Mr Ladwa wants to continue the Faculty’s work to improve standards of patient care through education and training of the whole dental team.

He said: ‘I am honoured to be called upon to serve this Faculty which has done so much to raise the profile of general practice and to serve the profession that has been so kind to me.’

Mr Ladwa has been involved with the Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP) UK since its early days and became a board member in 1994. In the intervening years, he has taken on the roles of examiner and assessor of several of the FGDP(UK)’s diplomas, and acted as deputy director of the Leadership and Management Certificate programme.

Mr Ladwa has twice been vice dean and has chaired the FGDP(UK)’s examinations and education committees and its international working party.

Richard Hayward said: ‘Russ brings a wealth of experience and a depth of knowledge to this role. He is dedicated to the FGDP(UK)’s mission and I wish him well for the next three years.’

Mr Ladwa will be supported by vice deans Vernon Holt and Charles Ormond.

Clinical photography course

The learning resources provider, Smile-on, is now offering dental practices training in how to take high-quality clinical photographs.

Its Clinical Photography Course by Chris Orr, is available on-line or as a CD-ROM, so it can be easily incorporated into and around the working day.

The course introduces the role of clinical photography in effective risk management and explores straightforward solutions to treatment monitoring and how to benefit from robust medico-legal protection.

It provides two hours of Continuing Professional Development and shows dental professionals how to keep patients fully informed using high-quality images, and how to support comprehensive clinical audits.

The course explores how to get great image results, focusing on eight key clinical areas, and participants receive non-obligatory advice on professional cameras and the latest in digital imaging.

A spokesperson for Smile-on said: ‘With excellent clinical photography skills, participants will be able to accurately record treatment progress and development, create ‘baseline’ records of presenting conditions, enjoy a higher standard of referral correspondence and use the images to support professional development.’

For more information call 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com

Edward Lynch and Wyman Chan will head up the demonstration

Professor calls for more prevention

The head of an inquiry into dentistry has criticised the new NHS dental contract for not producing more preventative dental care.

One of the aims of the new contract introduced in 2006, was to free up time for dentists so they could spend more time with patients promoting oral health.

However, Professor Chris Drinkwater, who is carrying out a review for the British Dental Association, is concerned that in many areas this is not happening.

Professor Drinkwater, who is president of the NHS Alliance, which represents NHS staff working in the community, said: ‘It seems reasonably clear that the contract is not allowing a more proactive approach to preventative dental health.’

He believes it could be because of the way the contract is being implemented and there may also be an issue with funding.

He added that clinician engagement is also problematic and it is something that needs addressing.

The inquiry was set up after the publication of a critical report by the House of Commons’ Health Committee last year.

However the government, which is also carrying out its own review, claims preventative health care has ‘increased substantially’. Chief Dental Officer Barry Cockcroft said: ‘Prescription of high concentration fluoride toothpaste rose by 133 per cent in 2006-7 and sales of topical fluoride varnishes have increased dramatically.’

The review was set up last month as an independent commission into NHS dentistry and is expected to produce a final report in September this year.

It is expected to concentrate on four major areas of work including innovative and flexible commissioning, integration of primary care services, developing oral health in SHAs and PCT strategies and incorporating patient experience including access into commissioning.