Don’t miss CIC!

Dental professionals are being urged to book their places now at the Clinical Innovations Conference and Annenber Lecture 2009.

The joint endeavour from Smile-on and Alpha Omega is expected to be very popular.

The Clinical Innovations Conference (CIC) takes place on 15-16 May at the Royal College of Physicians, Regent’s Park, London.

Professor Nitzan Barchko, a worldwide authority on aesthetic and implant dentistry and Dr Devo- rah Schwartz-Arad, a specialist in oral and maxillofacial surgery, will be presenting the lecture ‘Success factors in dental implantation: a multi-disciplinary approach between the surgeon and the prosthodontist’.

On 16 May, there will be an impressive programme of lectures including presentations and hands-on sessions from Professor Nasser Burghi, head of the division of aesthetic dentistry in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at the San Antonio Dental School, leading expert in tooth whitening technology Dr Wyman Chan and periodontologists specialist Dr Siria Mirfendereski.

Other speakers include Professor Eddie Scher, Dr Chris Orr and Professor Liviu Steier.

Delegates will earn Continuing Professional Development hours, making this event an invaluable educational experience.

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

Revitalising ageing teeth

NovaMin products revitalise ageing teeth, decreases sensitivity, eliminates white spots and decreases inflammation, according to research.

Dental treatment is undergoing a transformation worldwide and dental patients are more demanding and know what they want.

They are asking for minimal intervention therapies that conserve tooth and periodontal structures.

Dr Torsten Oemus, a specialist in tooth whitening technology for tooth remineralization and long term protection of tooth structure, presented the new Comparative Study: the Micadent nanosensitive hca plus a NovaMin® Dental Kit.

Fig. 1 Micadent nanosensitive hca plus a NovaMin® Dental Kit. A spokesperson for dental company, Hager & Werken GmbH, said: ‘This is an excellent opportunity for dental professionals to be presented with new technology.’

Professor Liviu Steier, a specialist in aesthetic and implant dentistry, said: ‘This is an excellent opportunity for dental professionals to be presented with new technology.’

The new comparative study with the Micadent nanosensitive hca plus a NovaMin® Dental Kit was developed for in-office treatment of patients with acute sensitivity. This product delivers the same NovaMin® technology at a higher dose for professional applications. It is recommended after tooth cleaning and periodontal treatment when sensitivity often increases.

GDC calls for views

T he General Dental Council is looking for dentists, wishing to become specialists, for their views on flexible training opportunities.

The General Dental Council (GDC) has an ‘Specialists Lists’ covering fields such as orthodontics and paediatric dentistry.

Patients, as well as dentists wishing to refer patients, can check its website to see whether or not a dentist is a specialist.

A spokesperson for the GDC said: ‘Our goal is to provide guidance and experience – and they are capable of doing so. How could we do it?’

The consultation opened on 18 March and will run until 10 June.

The consultation can be found on the GDC website at http://www.gdc-uk.org

A copy of the consultation documentation and questions can be requested from Amanda Little on 02078875812.

You can also email: allied@gdc-uk.org or write to: Amanda Little, Consultation on Specialist Lists, General Dental Council, 57 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8DQ.

More money for Wiltshire

In Marlborough, NHS patients will increase from 26 per cent to 55 per cent while in Devizes the number will rise from 59 per cent to 44 per cent.

The extra £5.1 million is to be spent on increasing the number of NHS dentists in Wiltshire.

The extra provision will be in towns in Wiltshire including Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Malmsbury, Marlborough, Pewsey, Tidworth and Wotton Bassett.

NHS Wiltshire, which commissions dental services, is negotiating with existing practices in Calne, Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey, to take on the extra NHS work. It is also hoping to attract new practices in Chippenham, Malmsbury, Wotton Bassett and Tidworth.

The biggest increase will be in Chippenham where NHS Wiltshire plans to increase the coverage of NHS dentistry from the existing 22 per cent of the population to 47 per cent.

In Wotton Bassett the plan is to increase it from five per cent to 18 per cent and in Malmsbury from ten per cent to 27 per cent.

The programme highlights the importance of communication skills when treating patients and looks at interventions dental professionals should take to improve patients’ oral and general health.

It also looks at patient self-care and how practitioners can raise self-care issues with patients. This includes oral health messages as well as advising patients on healthy diets, sensible drinking, and smoking cessation.

The programme is for all dental professionals from dentists to orthodontists to hygienists.

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

Dr Penny Palmer, a specialist in periodontology and prosthodontics, said: ‘The e-learning package can either be downloaded online or bought as a CD-ROM. It supports dentists in implementing the Delivering Better Oral Health toolkit, which was sent to all NHS practices in England in 2007, by the Department of Health.

The programme aims to improve knowledge and understanding, and help consistent and effective delivery of evidence-based health messages by the dental team.

The e-learning package can either be downloaded online or bought as a CD-ROM.

With the programme, dental professionals will be able to provide evidence-based health care interventions that impact on oral and general health and promote behaviour change in patients to improve self-care.

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Guest comment

The way forward

Despite en masse criticism and anger about the new contract, the government and the profession have described this transitional phase as merely ‘turbulent times’. Recent access data showing a 0.4 per cent (99,000) increase in access have been seized upon by the DH as a sign that the reforms are working, even though the number of patients seen was still 1.1 million (3.9 per cent) fewer than the 28.1 million seen in the two-year period immediately prior to the introduction of the new NHS contract in March 2006.

We all know the NHS is a budgeted system and that if we want to provide work outside of the NHS it must fall under the vain banner of being ‘cosmetic’, because surely if it is needed the NHS will provide it. DH literature aimed at both patients and dentists is filled with unhelpful phrases such as: ‘In April 2006 the NHS introduced new rules which mean that orthodontic treatment is only given to people who need it for clinical reasons’ and my personal favourite is the term ‘clinically necessary’.

The words ‘clinically necessary’ and ‘clinical reasons’ seem to be an interpretation for ‘working within a budget’, so why is the DH reluctant to talk to patients and dentists about the reality of working within a budget? Are we now as a profession surely to believe that children who fall outside of the IOTN requirements do not need orthodontic treatment, unless their parents have the means to go private? Whilst I agree that funding needs to be rationed so that the optimum number of people can benefit from the NHS, where is the honesty about the real financial reasons behind why these decisions have been made?

In my recent interview with CDO Barry Cockcroft I asked him what NHS dentistry is aiming to provide. I was given a barrage of friendly sounding words such as clinical, effective and evidence and outcome-based treatment. But after probing a little bit further I was told ‘It’s about clinical and cost effectiveness, and that’s a judgement dentists have to make.’ Initially this sounds like a nice non-specific phrase which with simple treatment makes a lot of sense; why should the NHS provide white fillings on back teeth when silver metal ones will suffice at a fraction of the cost? But what about more complicated treatments? Can we really have a situation where all treatments are both clinically and cost effective?

In many cases certain treatment options such as large span fixed bridges or implants can be very clinically effective but a removable partial denture may be the most cost effective option. So surely now is the time the DH opens a proper dialogue about how the NHS can provide more complex treatments or are we stealthily moving to a basic core system where the emphasis on seeing more and more patients to improve statistics is given priority over providing high level care to the whole population? Whatever the case lets hope the DH starts to give clear guidance as to the direction of NHS dentistry, maybe then NHS dentistry can deliver realistic goals based upon realistic aims.

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Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to the active or other components of the preparation. Do not use in children under the age of 6. Special warnings and special precautions for use: Do not swallow. Interactions with other medicines: None known. Undesirable effects: Some cases of mucosal irritation and swelling of the oral tissues have been reported especially with high doses or in continued use. The symptoms usually resolve on stopping treatment with Peroxyl. Legal classification: P. Product licence number: PL 00049/0038 Product licence holder: Colgate-Palmolive (UK) Ltd. Guildford Business Park, Midleton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7JZ Recommended retail prices: £3.99 (300ml bottle) Date of revision of text: February 2008.