**DENTAL TRIBUNE**

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**News in brief**

**Late payment**
The Department of Health (DoH) said news of the Review Body’s recommended contract increase (of 3.8 per cent) came too late to be included with the April payment, but should be paid at the end of May, backdated to April 1. The net rise, after exemptions is 2.2 per cent, but is not paid directly to associates, as it depends on what arrangement is in their contract with the practice.

**Less taxing**
All small businesses including most dental practices can now write off the first £50,000 of equipment, bought after April 6, against their tax bill in this tax year. Following the last budget, the advice comes from The Association of Specialist Dental Providers.

**Oral cancer**
Edinburgh-based Kenny Bicker who was recently released after spending 21 years on death row in an American jail has been diagnosed with oral cancer. He said: ‘After spending 21 hellish years in prison I thought I had been given another chance at life.’

**Banking fees**
The Royal Bank of Scotland Business account holders, including dentists are to pay fees to the bank as of June 2. The bank said it is merely ‘bringing them into line’ with their one million other business customers as well as arrangements at other banks.

**ADA mystery**
The executive director of the American Dental Association (ADA) Dr James Bramson has left his post in a hurry to ‘concentrate on one million other important projects’ as he steps down early. His abrupt departure has raised questions of who his successor will be, who is expected to ‘legitimately’ replace him. It has also led to claims of a cover up by the ADA.

**Leeds outreach**
Chief dental officer, Barry Cocker-Croft, has opened the first dental outreach teaching unit in Leeds at inside a community health centre. Students qualifying as dentists, dental nurses or dental hygiene therapists will train to generally. Special care community dental services are also provided in an adjoining unit, allowing a wide range of dental care to be offered.

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**News and opinions**

**Award winners**
The profession waited with bated breath last month to find out who had won what at the glamorous Dental Awards.

**Beautiful cover**
The Dental Defence Union (DDU) has introduced special indemnity insurance for dentists offering cosmetic work.

**Great expectations**
An individual has the right not to have their personal details disclosed without their consent but how far do you go?

**Ortho Tribune**

**Going legal**
An increasing number of claims and complaints involving orthodontics means this is an issue the profession cannot ignore.

**Medical experts back periodontal report**

Medical experts are urging dentists and physicians to work closer together in a bid to improve and understand patient health.

The news follows the latest clinical evidence from a new report which examines the association between periodontitis and systemic conditions.

A UK group of cardiologists, endocrinologists and periodontologists experts found a potential link between periodontitis and an increased likelihood of CVD.

They also discovered that periodontitis is also much more severe in subjects with diabetes mellitus - a group already at increased risk for cardiovascular events.

The **Potential Impact of Periodontal Disease on General Health** represents the first time a broad group of UK experts has convened to explore the growing body of research into this important area.


‘We welcome this new report and it reinforces the current drive for greater emphasis on prevention of ill-health and reduction of inequalities of health by the giving of advice and application of evidence-informed actions.

‘It is important that the whole dental team, as well as other healthcare workers, give consistent messages and that those messages are up to date and correct. This literature review does however identify a lack of prospective studies at this point in time linking periodontal disease with CVD and until such studies have taken place we should be cautious in attributing a causal effect’.

Dr Ray Williams, a USA periodontist at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry and lead author of the report, said: ‘The promotion of good oral health, as part of better overall health care should be seen as a natural extension of current healthy lifestyle messages around diet, exercise and the cessation of smoking, which are designed to help reduce the burden of CVD and diabetes.’

Periodontitis has attracted much interest as a potential risk factor not only for cardio-vascular disease (CVD) and diabetes, but also for its association with adverse pregnancy outcomes, respiratory disease, kidney disease and certain cancers.

The interaction of oral health and general health has been recognised in the dental profession for a long time, but doctors especially those in general practice do not recognise the link.

This could change with a recent expert report published in Current Medical Research and Opinion, which examined the potential link between oral hygiene, associated gum disease and other systemic diseases involving inflammatory processes such as CVD and diabetes.

The authors conclude that both doctors and dentists are encouraged in the report to educate patients on the importance of maintaining a healthy mouth for the sake of their general health.

Medical experts, finally acknowledge there is a link between periodontitis and systemic conditions.

The infectious and inflammatory burden of chronic periodontitis is believed to have an important systemic impact on overall health. The exact reasons are unknown but may be the result of oral bacteria entering the bloodstream and/or the systemic inflammatory reaction produced in response to the oral bacteria.

The idea that oral infection and inflammation within the mouth can result in distant sites and organs in the body, or the ‘focal infection theory’, was a popular concept in the 1920s but interest waned.

Compelling reports from Finland in 1989 linked CVD and periodontitis, and there has been a major effort to elucidate the relationship of oral health to general health. The emerging position of periodontal disease in cardiovascular and metabolic disease research has been highlighted by the World Heart Federation and by the American Diabetes Association congress commits as a topic for inclusion within recent and forthcoming international congress programmes.

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