**News**

**Dental Award winners celebrate in style**

The dental profession turned out in style earlier this month with black tie and posh frocks to hear who won what award at this year’s dental awards.

Hassan El-Nashar was delighted to win Dentist of the Year. The team support winners from El-Nashar Dental Care makes sure DTUK’s Joe Aspis enjoys the moment!

Lovely Mary picks up her well earned Outstanding Achievement Award.

**Children still waiting for ortho treatment**

Hundreds of children are still waiting for orthodontic treatment.

**Extra dentists for Anglesey**

The local Anglesey health board (LHB) has announced two new contracts to bring extra dentists to the west and east of the island – giving access to local treatment for another 4,000 patients. Back in January 2007, a mere third of Anglesey residents had access to an NHS dentist – forcing patients to travel as far as Liverpool to get treatment. The shortage saw a protest group collect more than 1,000 signatures in just days to voice anger at the massive hole in services. Anglesey LHB chief executive Lynne Joannou said: ‘These additional contracts should help to stabilise the provision of NHS dental services and improve access for members of this community. Work goes on to continually improve the situation and the oral health of the population of Anglesey.’ The local Welsh Assembly member Lesan Wyn Jones said: ‘The situation has improved but of course the provision in Anglesey has historically been far worse than in most parts of Wales and more needs to be done to increase access and ensure more NHS dental places.’

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**Dental Tribune**


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Editorial comment

Joining forces

Periodontal disease may be a ‘silent’ disease but it is a disease that deserves radical attention from all. It’s far too easy to delegate the dis-ease to hygienists, but clearly the responsibility is too heavy for one pair of shoulders. So who to blame? We can’t just point the finger at one sector. For this is an issue that needs the help from dentists, primary care trusts (PCTs) and all equivalent bodies.

Unsurprisingly periodontal disease is barely recognised in the new contract, and with hygienist treatments costing £50 a go, this is a problem that’s not going anywhere. On top of that, getting an appointment with a local hygienist is like getting a ticket for Glastonbury. If you don’t call way before the plaque builds up, you have to pole-vault the walls to get an appointment.

So with two-thirds of the adult population suffering some form of periodontal disease we could all be donning gummy smiles pretty soon at this rate.

Nevertheless it is a preventable disease which does need the active involvement of the patient. But it takes effort and dedication so we have to be realistic. How many of us can really be bothered to floss day in and day out, followed by a thorough gurgling of aggressive mouthwash? It’s just another chore on the ‘to-do’ list that most people are just too tired to cross off.

However, the significance of this condition cannot be ignored. And although most of the studies reviewed are small scale, there is emerging, compelling evidence of the link between periodontal disease and systemic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. With the increase in obesity, the numbers diagnosed with type-2 diabetes have also risen.

For many years dentists have recognised that diabetics have poorer periodontal health. The key to this new research is that improved periodontal health can lead to better general health. For example, a reduction in periodontal disease for diabetics can lead to a small, but significant improvement in the patients’ blood sugar levels.

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