Dental Award winners celebrate in style

The dental profession turned out in style earlier this month with black ties 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, while Lovely Mary Picks up her well earned Outstanding Achievement Award. The team support winners from El-Nashar Dental Care makes sure DUTUK’s Joe Ar- pis enjoys the moment!

The traditional categories for the profession were joined this year by a new award, Product Innovation, which for the first time introduced the dental trade into the event. The inaugural award was won by Dental Design for its e-touch device, with the other finalists comprising Dentply’s Oraqix anaesthetic and Optegra’s prism loupes.

The most surprised winner of the evening was Mary Newing MBE, who was thrilled to be the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for her long years of service to the profession through her role as Editor on Dental Practice.

This year was the tenth anniversary of the Dental Awards, and it celebrated in style by the surprise appearance of Tenors and Divas In Concert, who helped swing the 500-strong assembled crowd into a jubilant mood with renditions of classical aria and swing the music.

The Dental Awards 2008 was organised by Purple Media Solutions Ltd and the British Dental Health Foundation (BDFH). The event was sponsored by Denplan, The British Web, Software of Excellence, Sunstar and The Wrigley Company.

The Winner in each category were:

1. Dentist of the Year
Winner: Hassan El-Nashar – El-Nashar Dental Care Ltd, Newton Abbot, Devon
Highly Commended: Dave Thomas – Thompson & Thomas, Sheffield

2. Hygienist of the Year
Winner: Pat Taylor – Forest Primary Care Centre, Edmonton, Enfield
Highly Commended: Sharon Ross – White Dental Spa, Alderley Edge, Cheshire

3. Team Support
Winner: El-Nashar Dental Care Ltd – Newton Abbot, Devon
Highly Commended: Smile Essentials – Leicester
Highly Commended: Woods Dental Care – Sheffield
Commended: Thompson & Thomas – Sheffield

4. Oral Health Promoter of the Year
Winner: Pat Taylor – Forest Primary Care Centre, Edmonton, Enfield
Highly Commended: Emma Clitheroe – Rutland
Highly Commended: Jill Abbott – Fenton, Stoke on Trent

5. Practice Environment
Winner: All Saints Green Dental Clinic – Norwich
Highly Commended: The Smile Suite – Clifton, Bristol
Commended: Fergus & Glover – Aberdeen

6. Dental Nurse of the Year
Winner: Lynne Lambert – The Smile Suite, Clifton, Bristol

7. Dental Receptionist of the Year
Winner: Mary Newing MBE

8. Practice Manager of the Year
Winner: Cheryl Lawrence – Park Road Dental Practice, Peterborough
Highly Commended: Kate Carr – Stables Lane Dental Centre, Sheffield
Highly Commended: Sue Bird – The Smile Suite, Clifton, Bristol

9. Dental Therapist of the Year
Winner: Lisa Bottrill – Ipswich

10. Dental laboratory of the Year
Winner: Knight Dental Design – Plumstead Common, London

11. Best National Smile Month Event
Winner: Woodseats Dental Care – Sheffield

12. Technician of the Year
Winner: FJ Nicholas, The Implant and Ceramic Centre, Miserden, Gloucestershire

13. People’s Award for Patient Care
Winner: Alastair Hayes, Tudworth Dental Centre, Wiltshire

14. Overall Team of the Year
Winner: Oral Health Team NHS Lanarkshire

15. Outstanding Achievement Award
Winner: Mary Newing, MBE

16. Product Innovation
Winner: Dental Design, e-touch

Children still waiting for ortho treatment

Hundreds of children in north Cumbria are still waiting for orthodontic treatment. 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 a 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 leuan Wyn Jones said: ‘The situation has improved but of course the provision in Anglesey has historically been far worse than in most parts in Wales and more needs to be done to increase access and ensure more NHS dental places.’
Editorial comment

Joining forces

Periodontal disease may be a ‘silent’ disease but it is a disease that needs radical attention from all. It’s far too easy to deleg- ate the dis-ease to hygien- ists, but clearly the responsibil- ity is too heavy for one pair of shoulders. So who to blame? Wex, as good pointing the finger at one sector is it; 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 hy-gienist 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 prevent-able disease which does need the active involvement of the patient. But it takes effort and dedication so we have to be re-alistic. How many of us can re ally be bothered to floss day in and day out, followed by a thor-ough 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 ig- nored. And although most of the studies reviewed are small scale, there is emerging, com-pelling evidence of the link be-tween periodontal disease and systemic conditions such as di-abetes and cardio-vascular dis-ease. With the increase in obe-sity, 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.

When diagnosed with type-2 diabetes patients are sent to an optometrist to check for signs of diabetic retinopathy, a condi- tion which can lead to blind- ness. This (free) check is re-peated annually. Yet how many doctors advise a newly diag-nosed diabetic to seek an as-sessment of their periodontal health from a dentist? And how many doctors double-check that this assessment is repeated annually?

The answer in both cases is probably none; Even with ex-ceptions the patient has to find a dentist, plus an extra £50 for the hygienist the following week.

So the time is here now where dentists and doctors should join hands to work this one out. And it’s a good time too for PCTs to of fer diabetics free annual assess-ments. Enough said.