Dental Award winners celebrate in style

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 Dentalpow’s Oragix anaesthetic and Optergo’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 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 guests in celebratory mood with renditions of classical aria and singingalong favourites.

Commenting on the event, chair of the judging panel and editor of co-organisers The Probe Lisa Townshend said: ‘The awards evening was a fantastic night. I’d like to commend everyone who entered, but special congratulations go to all of our winners – you set an example of professionalism and care for your patients for us all to follow.’

The Dental Awards 2008 was organised by Purple Media Solutions Ltd and the British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF). The event was sponsored by Denplan, The Dental 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 Aycliffe, County Durham
Highly Commended: "Debbie Bell – Surrey
Highly Commended: Sharon Ross – White Dental Spa, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

2. Hygienist of the Year
Winner: Pat Taylor – Forest Primary Health Care Practice, Eastfield, Sheffield
Highly Commended: Caroline Harwood – Carlisle
Highly Commended: "Debbie Bell – Surrey
Highly Commended: Sharon Ross – White Dental Spa, Alderley Edge, Cheshire

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

4. Oral Health Promoter of the Year
Winner: Pat Taylor – Forest Primary Health Care Practice, Eastfield, Sheffield
Highly Commended: Kate Carr – Stabler Lane Dental Centre, Sheffield
Highly Commended: Sue Bird – The Smile Suite, Clifton, Bristol

5. Practice Environment
Winner: All Saints Green Dental Clinic – Norwich
Highly Commended: "The Smile Suite – Clifton, Bristol
Commended: Thompson & Thomas – Sheffield

6. Dental Nurse of the Year
Winner: Emma Clithero – Rutland Road Dental Practice, Peterborough
Highly Commended: Kirsty Barber – Manor House, Alnwick
Highly Commended: "Jacqueline Milizia – Lanarkshire

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

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

9. Dental Therapist of the Year
Winner: Lisa Bottrell – Ipswich
together first point for new orthodontic patients. Instead they will have to travel to one of the new centres – something some parents in Carlisle may not be able to afford.

PTC managers are now confident this backlog will soon be cleared and that changes to the way the service is run will prevent similar problems in the future. However, the new system means that the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, will no longer be the first point for new orthodontic patients. Instead they will have to travel to one of the new centres – something some parents in Carlisle may not be able to afford.

Hundreds of children are still waiting for orthodontic treatment

hundreds of children in north Cumbria who are still waiting orthodontic treatment after services became too slow. At the start of the year the backlog was almost at crisis point with 1,000 patients on the waiting list. But the primary care trust (PCT) has announced that two new centres, in Penrith and Cockermouth, have already helped to reduce that to 400.

The situation proved 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.’

Fergus & Glover – Aberdeen
Highly Commended: The Dental Spa – Shrewsbury

6. Dental Nurse of the Year
Winner: Jacqueline Milizia – Park Road Dental Practice, Peterborough
Highly Commended: Kate Carr – Stabler Lane Dental Centre, Sheffield
Highly Commended: Sue Bird – The Smile Suite, Clifton, Bristol

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

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

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9. Dental Therapist of the Year
Winner: Lisa Bottrell – 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: Alastair Hayes, Tidworth Dental Centre, Wiltshire

13. People’s Award for Patient Care
Winner: Alastair Hayes, Tidworth 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

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 Aspin is enjoying the moment!

Lovely Mary picks up her well earned Outstanding Achievement Award
DENTAL TRIBUNE
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Periodontal disease maybe 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? Why is it 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 dis-ease 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 gen-eral health. For example, a reduc-tion 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 oph-thalamist for annual tests 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 time is here when 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.

A genuine reward

There is something to be said when it comes to winning a ‘kosher’ award for being an excep-tional professional (see page two). The Dental Awards continue to grow from strength to strength and is the only respected event that de-serves a whopping applaud. Year after year The Dental Awards are presented in only the best venues, followed by quality cuisine and first class entertainment. This year Fred MacAulay’s humour was in-fectious, while the tenors and divas set a moving atmosphere which was just impossible to ignore. Well done Purple Media Solutions and big congratulations to all you winners.

Penny Palmer
DTUK editor

A genuine reward

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