Dentistry minister loses seat in General Election
Ministerial Health team decimated by lost seats, lack of clear outcome leaves both dentistry and country in limbo

The minister in charge of NHS dentistry, Andy Burnham, has lost her seat in the General Election.

Doubled Mrs Expenses for her role in the MP expenses scandal, Mrs Keen lost her seat of Brentford and Isleworth to the Conservatives.

She and her husband Alan Keen, were investigated by the parliamentary commissioner for standards earlier this year, after they combined second homes and deputy vice principal (Health) at King's College London. King's Health Partners' executive director, Professor Robert Lechler, said: “I am delighted that we have made further appointments to the positions of clinical academic group leader.”

Research prize awarded
Dr Maria Retzepi, lecturer in Periodontology at UCL Eastman Dental Institute was awarded the Andie Schroeder Research Prize at the World Symposium of the International Team for Implantology (ITI) in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr Retzepi was commended for her work on ‘The Effect of Experimental Diabetes on Guided Bone Regeneration’. 

National Smile Month
National Smile Month was launched in the House of Parliament on 15 May, Organised by the British Dental Health Foundation, this year’s National Smile Month tagline of TeethLife aims to highlight the importance of looking after your teeth and maintaining a healthy diet for life. The official launch was hosted by Parliamentary sponsor Sir Paul Beresford MP. The campaign itself runs between May 16 and June 16 and encourages people of all ages to get involved and talk about their teeth, in the hope of being able to improve general standards of dental health. 

Chief executive Dr Nigel Garter said: “Getting people to talk about their teeth and dental habits is vital in our goal of improving the state of oral health in this country. We have had a tremendous response to the campaign, particularly in the last couple of years, but we must work harder to ensure this year’s National Smile Month can build on that success.”

Care Quality Commission
From April 2011, all dental practices in England will have to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This represents a significant change for private practices as it will be the first time that they will be formally regulated. The CQC has stated that the aim of the new registration system is to make sure that people can expect services to meet essential standards of quality and safety that respect their dignity and protect their rights.

Professor Nairn Wilson
Professor Nairn Wilson has been appointed leader of the Dental Clinical Academic Group. Professor Wilson is currently the dean and head of the King’s College London Dental Institute at Guy’s and St Thomas’ and King’s College Hospitals, and deputy vice principal (Health) at King’s College London. King’s Health Partners’ executive director, Professor Robert Lechler, said: “I am delighted that we have made further appointments to the positions of clinical academic group leader.”

The Lib Dem health spokes- man, Norman Lamb, also won his seat of Norfolk North with 27,554 votes.

Sir Paul Beresford, a practising dentist who runs a private practice in London, managed to keep his seat as Conservative MP for Mole Valley in Surrey and even increased his share of the vote by 2.8 per cent.

He picked up 51,263 votes out of the 54,524 total, a 57.5 per cent share and more than double the number gained by his nearest rival, Liberal Democrat Alice Humphreys.

Sir Paul said he was ‘pleased and relieved’ at the result. He added: “It shows the support that I have because of the time I have spent working in Mole Valley.”

The results of the survey seem to show that people who smile have a greater chance of being successful.

Dental Tribune
© Dental Tribune International 2010
www.dental-tribune.co.uk