A busy year ahead

124th BDA President Amarjit Gill speaks to Dental Tribune about his role and the coming 12 months

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Effect on oral health
As well as being involved with the BDA and practising in Nottingham, Amarjit is involved in other entrepreneurial activities, including acting as the spokesman for Dental Xpress (the mobile dental unit currently deployed in the Leicestershire area) and more recently as Clinical Dental Director for Philips Oral Healthcare.

"What really impressed me was that Philips want to make an impact on the nation’s oral health and as our knowledge about the links between oral and systemic health grow, so the company has the potential to impact on the nation’s overall health too."

Amarjit clearly relishes the wider challenges that participating in more than just life in the practice brings. ‘Being involved in an association such as the BDA lets you develop parts of yourself that you just can’t working as a general dental practitioner. It allows you to get out of your comfort zone.’

"I am a firm believer in the team approach. I have always found that we are able to do things better together for the good of both patients and the practice. Teamworking is one of the ideals I will be pushing very hard in my role as President this year."

He who rejects change is the architect of decay

"I believe that change will be a constant during the next decade. Harold Wilson said, ‘He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery’. The challenge for the Association and the profession for the next ten years is to respond effectively to these changes. The next 10 years, however, do offer a real opportunity to shape the future of dentistry in the UK if and only if we positively embrace change and stop creating reasons why there is no need to do so."

Let me say that whilst we are training more dentists than ever before, but we will need to look at opportunities for career advancement and Continuing Professional Development. Now that Dental Care Professionals are registered, how do they fit into the delivery of care by the whole dental team? A recent BDA article found that patients attending a dental therapist had significantly higher levels of satisfaction compared to those who attended a dentist. The authors were from the Dental School in this very city. Be in the UK have it been the true ambassadors of our responsibilities. The world famous Indian sage, Mahatma Gandhi, encapsulated this with ‘Be the change you want to see in the world.’

Impact on oral health
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