Parents pay more than £1K for Britain’s first tooth bank

Parents are paying more than £1,000 to freeze stem cells from their children's milk teeth as an insurance policy against diseases they might develop when they grow up.

BioEden is Britain’s first tooth bank and parents pay £950 for the privilege, plus an annual £30 service charge.

When their child’s tooth falls out, they pack it up into a special container, which is then couriered to the company's lab in Cheshire.

The company has been helped on its way by the Privy Council (UKTI), the joint department run by the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

BioEden was founded in 2007 by dentist David James, after he found research on the internet by Dr Songtai Shi, a cellular biologist at the National Institute of Health in America, who had discovered stem cells in his young daughter's milk teeth.

With the help of a dozen investors, he set up BioEden, which complies with strict European regulations from the Human Tissue Authority.

Dr James said: “We’ve had teeth arriving from Kuwait, India and Italy. As long as we get the tooth within the 48 hours it’s healthy, we can harvest the cells.”

BioEden extracts the stem cells from the teeth and then freezes them. One set of cells is stored in Cheshire, the other in a secret lab in case of an accident such as a fire at the main site.

Stem cell research is still in its infancy, but by the time this generation of BioEden children are grown up, scientists believe it could be possible to use their cells to treat diseases they might develop, ranging from Alzheimer’s to Multiple Sclerosis to Parkinson’s.

Denplan takes on climbing challenge for oral health charity

Members of the Denplan dental payment plan team took part in the National 3-Peaks Challenge to raise vital funds for the oral health charity Dentaid.

The climb, which took place on the 12-15 September, involved scaling the three highest peaks in Britain over a 24-hour period.

All the money raised will go towards helping oral health charity Dentaid supply countries in the developing world with access to dentistry.

Before the event, Romsey dentist, Richard Hurrell, said: “I am really looking forward to the National 3-peaks Challenge, especially after all the preparation and practice we have been doing. I think the real test will be the lack of sleep as we travel to the next location, but although I know it will be tough, I also know all the good our sponsorship will do for Dentaid…can’t wait!”

One of the volunteers, Guil-lamae Hermile, said: “The York- shire 3-peak challenge was fan-tastic fun and we raised hun-dreds of pounds for Dentaid.

“We had great weather and all enjoyed the day very much. It nearly killed us, but we are all still alive and breathing and helping this worthy cause really spurred us on to complete the 25-mile route.”
Editorial comment

Conference calling

This week has seen the great migration of school children and commuters back to their usual routine. The trains are busier, the roads are busier and the cool kids are seeing exactly how far removed from the regimented school uniform they can get away with whilst still wearing a tie and blazer. This time of year signals for me a shift in the mindset as the trade and profession alike look to the busy period between now and the C-word (that’s Christmas for those who thought I was referring to something else!). The next three months sees a flurry of conferences and exhibitions across a variety of dental disciplines and organisations, including:

- European Society of Endodontology Biennial Congress – 24-26 September, Edinburgh
- British Society of Dental Hygienists & Therapists Annual Conference – 16-17 October, Bournemouth
- British Association of Dental Nurses Annual Meeting – 23-24 October, Chesterfield
- British Dental Trade Association Dental Showcase Exhibition – 12-14 November, Birmingham

I am looking forward to attending as many as I can over the coming months to keep readers up to date with the current thinking in these areas of dentistry.

Got something to say? E-mail me at lisa@dentaltribuneuk.com

Dental professionals visiting this year’s FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Singapore were able to explore the latest innovations in dental technologies and education at the Smile-on stand.

The FDI Annual World Dental Congress plays an important role in the advancement of dentistry. At the Congress, Smile-on in association with Dental Protection Ltd (DPL) launched the next three modules of Communication in Dentistry, an outstanding flexible approach to dental training.

The Modules 4 to 6 of Communication in Dentistry consist of:

Module 4: Complaint handling and dealing with difficult patients
Module 5: Consent and communicating choices
Module 6: Recording communications

A spokeswoman for Smile-on said: ‘With a focus on key areas in which effective and reliable lines of communication are absolutely vital, these modules will help the practice to develop working systems that will ensure patients receive the best possible standard of service, and that all relevant information is recorded to protect the practice medico-legally.’

Kevin Lewis, dental director for DPL and John Tierman, DPL’s assistant dental director, introduced the cutting edge technology and visitors enjoyed the many screenings of the exciting new footage from Communication in Dentistry 2 and a glass of champagne with the team.

Professor Raman Bedi, former chief dental officer for England, was also on hand to discuss his exciting new online community Dentalghar, (www.dentalghar.com) offering professionals an invaluable opportunity to join a global network and explore the latest news, case studies, interviews, special offers and charitable events.

For more information on any of Smile-on’s educational resources please call 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com

SMART Control the power

The new, compact ‘Cattani Smart’ suction system combines unique, multi-level power and automatic speed control with the most effective cyclone amalgam separator available.

Advanced technology and a remote use keypad enable you to instantly control vacuum and airflow levels, at the touch of a button, from almost anywhere in your surgery. Optimising control can have the machine’s power usage, significantly reducing running costs and noise output but, without affecting performance.

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