Dentist escapes being struck off

A dentist who failed to properly treat a woman’s chronic gum disease and had to repeatedly fix his own work, has escaped being struck off the dental register.

Glaswegian dentist, Stephen Reid, formerly of The Station Clinic, Shotts in Lanarkshire saw the patient 90 times in seven years between November 1999 and 2006.

However the General Dental Council (GDC) heard that even after all this work, the woman still needed dentures.

Dr Reid did not give the woman advice on oral hygiene and had to cut some of the woman’s gum after crowns he had fitted caused an infection.

‘Hard sell’ dentist allowed to practise again

A dentist accused of adopting a ‘hard sell’ approach in getting a patient to pay for unnecessary orthodontic treatment has been allowed to practise again.

The General Dental Council found that Davinder Singh Jamus, had made it a requirement for a patient to view a promotional DVD of cosmetic treatments available at his clinic, and had adopted a ‘hard sell’ approach towards the provision of unnecessary orthodontic treatment, both of which are contrary to best professional practice.

The Committee met to review the four-month suspension of Mr Jamus following the earlier hearing, in which his fitness to practise was found to be impaired.

At the hearing, the chairman said: “This Committee has been encouraged by your demonstration of improved insight as well as your recognition that a change of attitude was necessary. You have satisfied us that you fully understand that your rehabilitation has started, but is an on-going process.”

“The Committee also is satisfied that the progress you have made, and your commitment to continue with your professional development, are sufficient for it not to impose conditions on your registration.”

The Committee stopped the suspension and decided he could resume unrestricted practice.

Call for dental nurses to take part in salary survey

The British Association of Dental Nurses (BAND) is calling for all dental nurses to take part in its confidential salary survey.

The information gathered from the survey (no personal details such as name and email address) will be used in discussions with the General Dental Council (GDC) regarding the need to lower the Annual Retention Fee (ARF).

A spokeswoman for the BAND said: “In order to prove that the £96 ARF is too high for dental nurses, we need to gather information on salary levels and other working conditions.”

The £96 fee has been set at the same rate as hygienists and therapists.

The BAN believes that as dental nurses earn less than hygienists and therapists, the ARF should reflect this.

The BAND is also upset that the GDC did not consult with the association when it decided to charge the registration fees were set.

To take part in the survey, go to www.band.org.uk.

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.

However the GDC heard that Dr Reid was under too much pressure to sell by the practice in 2006.

Dr Reid said he had expressed ‘regret and remorse’ and recently been accepted onto an MSc course.

In light of this, the GDC decided that his continued practise did not present a risk to the public and that his fitness to practise was not impaired.

Members of the Denplan team payment plan team took part in the National 5-Points 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.

The Denplan team climbed Snowdon (1063m/3500ft), Scafell Pike (978m/3209ft) and Ben Nevis (1344m/4408ft) and covered approximately 27 miles during the 24-hour period.

All the money raised will go to help raise 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 5-Points 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, Gilli- ham, said: “The Yorkshire 5-Points challenge was fantastic fun and we raised hundreds 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.”

Denplan takes on climbing challenge for oral health charity

Members of the Denplan team took part in the Yorkshire 5-Points challenge also raising money for Dentaid.

This event consisted of a hik- ing route climbing the three high est peaks in Yorkshire - Pen-y- ghent (918m), Whernside (722m), and Ingleborough (725m).
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.

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 0207 400 8800 or email info@smile-on.com.