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.

However the GDC heard that Dr Reid was under a lot of pressure during this time and was seeing more than 40 patients a day.

The chairman of the panel, told Dr Reid that the committee was satisfied that these circumstances played a part in failing to treat and properly manage the patient.

Dr Reid had acknowledged that he had been under too much pressure by selling the practice in 2006.

He had also 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.

‘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 Janjua, 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 Janjua 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 rehabilitative process has started, but is an ongoing process.”

“The light of evidence put before us today the Committee feels that to order a further period of suspension would be disproportionate, punitive and would not be in the public interest.”

“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 (BADN) 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 spokesperson for the BADN 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 BADN believes that as dental nurses earn less than hygienists and therapists, the ARF should reflect this.

The BADN is also upset that the GDC did not consult with the associated dental therapists when the registration fees were set.

To take part in the survey, go to www.badn.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.

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 British Association of Periodontal Therapists (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 and 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 Parkinson’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 5-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.

The Denplan team climbed Snowdon (1063m/3500ft), Scadfell Pike (978m/3200ft) and Ben Nevis (1544m/4488ft) and covered approximately 27 miles during the 24-hour period.

All the money raised will go toward 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 5-peaks Challenge, especially all after 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!”

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

This event consisted of a hiking route climbing the three highest peaks in Yorkshire - Pen-y-ghent (893m), Whernside (723m) and Ingleborough (725m).

One of the volunteers, Gilliamore Hurn, said: “The Yorkshire 5-peak 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.”
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 Endontology 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, Cheltenham
• British Dental Trade Association Dental Showcase Exhibition – 12-14 November, Birmingham
• British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry – 19-21 November, Edinburgh

I am looking forwards 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.

Smile-on at this year’s FDI Annual World Dental Congress

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.