BOS Radiology Guidelines ‘highly commended’

The British Orthodontic Society’s Radiology Guidelines has been highly commended by the BMA Medical Book Awards.

The BMA (British Medical Association) Medical Book Awards are presented annually and this year there were more than 600 entries in a variety of categories.

Each section is judged and awarded Winner, Highly Com- mended and Commended certifica- tives.

In the radiology section the BOS Radiology Guidelines was one of only four Highly Com- mended books out of 27 en- tries.

The BMA called it an “excell- lent, well written and concise write-up on the background of clinical dental radiographs and indication for radiographs in clinical orthodontics. It is a must read for all clinical den- tists especially those treating children”.

The guidelines were de- signed to assist the hospital practitioner, orthodontic spe- cialist and the general dental practitioner on the choice and timing of radiographs in clini- cal orthodontic practice and reflect current best practice and selection criteria to com- ply with the IRMER (Ionomising Radiations (Medical Expos- sures) Regulations) require- ments.

To emphasise the impor- tance of the legislative require- ments and to strengthen the sections of radiation safety, the guidelines were co-authored by experts in dental and max- illofacial radiology.

The guide contains inva- luable step-by-step informa- tion to help with assessment and treatment planning in- cluding four ‘at a glance’ charts which graphically il- lustrate the indications of when patients should or should not be subjected to radi- ographs.

Copies of the guide can be ob- tained for £15.00 (inc p&p) online from the BOS – www.bos.org.uk or by calling 020 7555 8868.

Wales gets its first state of the art dental training unit

A new state of the art dental teaching unit has been officially opened in Wales.

First Minister Rhodri Mor- gian announced the Dental Teaching Unit in Porth, the first of its kind to open in Wales.

Patients will be able to ben- efit from some of the best tech- nology available in dentistry with treatment provided by foundation dentists based at the multi-purpose unit.

The Dental Teaching Unit, has been funded as a joint initiative by the Welsh Assembly Government, Rhondda Cynon Taff Teaching Local Health Board and the School of Post- graduate Medical and Dental Education at Cardiff Univer- sity.

It will be home to 10 re- cently qualified dentists while they complete a two-year lon- gitudinal Dental Foundation Training Scheme.

A Central Decontamination Unit has been installed in the building to improve infection control, while cutting edge technology has been imported from America and used to fully equip eight dental surgeries.

The newly qualified den- tists will work under the guid- ance of experienced dental surgeons and will benefit from versatile working stations, which allows the dentist to work ambidextrously with their equipment.

Electronic charting and digital imaging systems will also save valuable time for both dentists and patients, enabling more patients to receive comprehensive care in all aspects of NHS dentistry.

The Dental Teaching Unit also features an air-condi- tioned conference centre with 120 seating capacity.

A large screen linked to video-cameras located in one of the surgeries will allow members of the dental team to watch live procedures.

After viewing the proce- dures they can enhance and develop their own skills in a specialised dental training room fully equipped with 18 in- dividual work stations.

First Minister Rhodri Mor- gian said: “This Dental Training Unit will be the first of its kind in Wales and it will make a sig- nificant difference to the qual- ity of our dentistry.

Not only will it provide in- valuable training for our future and current dentists it will im- prove access to dentistry in the area, so that every patient will have access to a dentist.

This is a real red letter day for dental patients and trainee dentists in Wales.”

The surgery is also equipped with a surgical operating mi-croscope.

Jeremy Hayes, senior dental surgeon, will use the micro- scope to provide specialist en- dodontic treatment for pa- tients of the Dental Teaching Unit along with referrals from local practitioners under the terms of the NHS Dental Ser- vices.

The Dental Postgraduate Section within the School of Postgraduate Medical and Den- tal Education has been instru- mental in bringing these ambi- tious plans for dentistry in Wales to fruition.

Alan Griffiths, dental pro- gramme director, said: “This Dental Teaching Unit will pro- vide our newly qualified den- tists with an invaluable oppor- tunity to begin their careers in dentistry. This is the start of a promising career path- way in an environment where they can gain practical experi- ence and benefit from high- tech operating and learning tools.”

More and more adults opt for braces

More and more adults are choosing braces to fix their wonky teeth, according to prosthodontist, Dr Farid Monibi.

The growing popularity of smile beauty procedures has seen cosmetic dentistry sales rise by 76 per cent between 2006 and 2008.

Despite the economic down- turn, the industry continues to grow and Britons now spend around £550m a year on treatments with many parents seeking treatment at the same time as their children. The number of Britons who opted for braces to fix their crooked teeth was up by 345 per cent to 1,164 in 2008.

He added: “Parents are seeing the benefits braces are bringing their children, and are asking themselves why they aren’t doing it as well. A beautiful smile is good for everyone’s self-confidence, young or old.”

Research from the industry’s governing body, the British Acad- emy of Cosmetic Dentistry, found that a third of the population were concerned by the look of their teeth whilst only one in five would always smile in photographs.

Over a quarter of the popula- tion believe that cosmetic den- tistry could improve their quality of life.
Editorial comment

A professional image

There seems to have been a recent spate of dental professionals behaving badly. From dealing Class A drugs (see news pg8) to coping a feel of pretty patients or rude nurses (pg4), it seems to be the season for these stories to be getting the public’s attention.

Whilst we may have a secret desire to read about a fellow professional colleagues’ misdeeds, there is a concern that these types of stories, especially when they all seem to arrive at once, can damage the image and integrity of the profession. I would really like to know Dental Tribune readers’ opinion on this – do you think that cases such as those recently seen in the news harm the reputation of the dental profession in the eyes of patients, or does the old adage of “Today’s news, tomorrow’s fish wrap” apply? Email me (lisa@dentaltribuneuk.com) and give me your views.

On an unrelated note – whilst walking to work today I glanced, as I do, at a certain well known corporate chain dental practice situated in the grounds of an 18th Century ruined church. Musing on the fact that the ground is reputedly haunted, I wondered if the team there had had any strange experiences. This led me to wondering if there were practices around the country who had residents who simply refused to leave, even in death? As a fan of all things paranormal I would love to hear your tales of ghostly patients, strange noises or anything which would make the hair stand up on the back of your neck! The best ones will have a chance to be printed in the October 26th-November 1st issue of Dental Tribune. 

If so don’t hesitate to write to: The Editor, Dental Tribune UK Ltd, 4th Floor, Treasure House, 19-21 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8BA.
Or email: lisa@dentaltribuneuk.com

NEW

Instant & lasting sensitivity relief with Pro-Argin™ Technology

Pro-Argin™ Technology, comprised of arginine and an insoluble calcium compound in the form of calcium carbonate, is based on a natural process of tubeule occlusion. It plugs open tubules to help block the pain sensations.

Colgate® Sensitive Pro-Relief™ with Pro-Argin™ Technology is the first toothpaste that is clinically proven to provide instant & lasting sensitivity relief:1-4:

- Instant relief when applied directly to the sensitive tooth with the fingertip and gently massaged for one minute1
- Clinical studies demonstrated significantly greater sensitivity reduction with twice daily brushing compared to control toothpaste with potassium ions4
- 1450 ppm fluoride for caries prevention
- Contains the Pro-Argin™ Technology as in the Colgate® Sensitive Pro-Relief™ Desensitising Polishing Paste

Colgate® Sensitive Pro-Relief™ Toothpaste for the daily oral care of sensitive teeth

5 Aypad F et al J Clin Dent 2009; 20 (Spec Iss): 10-16
6 Dicernio R et al J Clin Dent 2009; 20 (Spec Iss): 137-143

Adequate indemnity

A growing number of dental professionals are forming corporate chains to bid for contracts from PCTs and other bodies and the Dental Defence Union is urging them to ensure their company has adequate indemnity in place.

Dental professionals’ individual indemnity will not cover their company if they are sued because of a failure in company procedure or the actions of a staff member for whom the company has vicarious liability.

For example, if there is inadequate provision of infection control facilities by a dental corporate which leads to a patient acquiring a blood borne infection.

Consequently, the Medical Defence Union (the DDU’s parent organisation), has introduced an insurance policy for companies which dovetails with the policy that individual members receive to ensure all their clinical negligence claims are covered.

Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, head of the DDU, said: “While an individual dental professional may be sued for a delay in diagnosing an oral cancer, the company could also be sued if, for example, errors in the company’s system for following up referral letters were found to have contributed to the delay.”

For more information on the MDU’s corporate indemnity solution visit www.the-mdu.com/corporate, email corporate@the-mdu.com or telephone 0800 716 576.
Gum disease linked to mouth cancer

Mouth cancer campaigners are urging people to get checked out by their dentist for gum disease - after researchers linked periodontitis with mouth cancer.

Research published in the American Association for Cancer Research journal ‘Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention’ revealed that chronic gum disease may present a high risk for mouth cancer.

Chronic gum disease, or periodontitis – caused by a build-up of plaque in the mouth and characterised by long-standing inflammation of the gums and eventual tooth loss – was linked to mouth cancers in both smokers and non-smokers.

The news could provide a clue to the rise in mouth cancers where none of the traditional risk factors – tobacco, excessive alcohol and the human papillomavirus (HPV) – were present.

The British Dental Health Foundation’s (BDHF) chief executive Dr Nigel Carter said: ‘This fascinating study underlines the importance of a good dental routine.’

Preventing gum disease is as simple as brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and cleaning between the teeth with an interdental brush or floss.

Dental visits are absolutely vital. Check-ups look for potential problems, screen for mouth cancer and professionally clean to help control gum disease. As our campaign tagline goes – ‘if in doubt, get checked out.’

Gum disease may present a high risk factor for mouth cancer.