New developments for Smile-on continue

Leading integrated dental course provider, Smile-On is adding a series of new training and career development programmes to its award-winning library:

DENTSTART, which includes 10 hours of verifiable CPD, incorporates the essential induction requirements for trainee dental nurses before they can undertake practice duties, which includes confidentiality and health & safety. Developed by Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Deanery and the University of Kent, the course is particularly useful for experienced nurses returning after a career break. Sponsors include leading infection control product suppliers, Schulke, top dental payment plan provider, Denplan and major healthcare product manufacturer, SoCan.

Smile-On is also offering, Monitoring practice progress with Clinical Governance Progress Management, (CGPM) which uploads Smile-on’s Clinical Governance Programme, so Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) can electronically log the progress of local practices and get information on what still needs to be done. It includes a text-message reminder service, a users’ forum to share experiences and offer support to each other and a diary system. The programme assists PCTs in meeting NHS Clinical Governance Agenda requirements using an innovative multimedia combination.

Smile-on understands the importance of risk management and that effective communication can reduce the chances of litigation. Communication in Dentistry: Stories from the Practice, is a three-module programme to implement successful communication techniques with patients and staff, as well as learn the basics of essential communication. The course, which offers three hours of CPD, also looks at ways of reducing stress and developing a positive working environment.

There is also a Clinical Photography course, which offers two hours of CPD, through which team members can discover the best ways of capturing and storing high-quality clinical photographs digitally, for record keeping as well as tracking changes in fields including orthodontics and periodontal treatment.

A Smile-on spokesman said: ‘We are proud to be the UK’s leading provider of integrated learning programmes to the dental industry, developed with subject matter experts, top universities, hospitals and other dental institutions.

‘Our award-winning course portfolio also includes Key Skills in Primary Dental Care, The Bleaching Business and Perfect Posture.’

For more information, call 0207 400 8085, email info@smile-on.com or log onto: www.smile-on.com

Dental earnings figures mis-leading

Figures for dentists’ earnings and expenses for 2006/07 which were published earlier this month do not paint the whole picture, claims the British Dental Association (BDA)

‘The figures don’t tell the whole story’

Responding to the publication of the Dental Earnings and Expenses, England and Wales, 2006/07 report, published by the NHS Information Centre, BDA chief executive Peter Ward said the figures are misleading.

He said: ‘These figures do not tell the full story. They fail to take into account the clavwing back of money from NHS dentists who have failed to meet the treatment targets set for them. We know that nearly half of high street dentists across England and Wales could be subject to such clawback this year and are currently facing an anxious wait to see whether and how they will be penalised.

‘The figures for the first year of the new dental contract may be further distorted because of factors which include the completion of work under the old system and the advance payment for work under the new one.’

The Dental Earnings and Expenses report states that dentists earned £98,155 on average in 2006/07. The report - the first overview of dental earnings under the new contract - covers dentists’ NHS and private work.

Practising dentists who held a contract with a Primary Care Trust (PCT)/Local Health Board (LHB) to provide NHS services earned on average £534,827 before tax with an average gross earnings of £555,869 and expenses of £219,042.

Dentists who held General Dental Services (GDS) contracts earned on average £117,085, while those with Personal Dental Services (PDS) contracts earned on average £172,494.

NHS Information Centre chief executive Tim Straughan said: ‘The report reveals the pay of NHS dentists varies greatly depending on their contractual arrangements.’

The report also looked at earnings and expenses related to the working patterns of dentists, their age and gender, their level of orthodontic activity and their Strategic Health Authority.

Changes in the way figures have been produced mean it is difficult to compare the figures to those in previous years’ reports.

Congratulations to Dr Chan

A leading teeth-whitening expert dentist has received a prestigious award for his research.

Dr. Wyman Chan, whose professional dental work is dedicated to teeth-whitening, received the Procter and Gamble Investigator First Prize Award from Professor Domenica Sweezer, University of Michigan in Toronto, Canada during the 2008 International Association of Dental Research (IADR) meeting in July.

Dr Chan, who is a researcher at the Centre for Materials Research and Innovation (CMRI), at the University of Bolton, won the accolade for his research paper entitled, A Comparative Spectrophotometric Investigation of Selected Professional Tooth-Whitening Products.

His study investigated the in vitro efficacy of several professional teeth-whitening formulations with regard to their bleaching of Melaninidum Browning Products, (MBPs) which are known to contribute to extrinsic teeth discoloration.

The authors compared the bleaching efficacies of three chairside teeth-whitening products which contained hydrogen peroxide, namely Zoom, Zoom2 and wy10, using MBPs as spectrophotometric probes.

Left to right: Professor M Thamman of Newcastle University, Professor D Sweezer of the University of Michigan in Toronto, Dr W Chan of Bolton University and Professor E Lynch of Queen’s University Belfast.
FGDP rolls out masterclasses

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) FGDP is launching a series of five masterclasses in aesthetic dentistry, including tooth-whitening, porcelain veneers, anterior aesthetic direct restorations, soft tissue management in the aesthetic zone and facial aesthetics. These will provide dental professionals with the opportunity to improve the level of aesthetic care delivered to patients.

Students will also be able to prepare and submit a case for assessment, which will carry ten credits on the FGDP (UK) career pathway.

The courses have been developed by programme director and former FGDP (UK) dean, Professor Mike Mulcahy, along with experts including Linda Greenwall, David Alaff and Bob Khanna.

Professor Mulcahy said: ‘There exists a strong commercial imperative for robust educational programmes in the area of aesthetic dentistry, with patient demand fueling a proliferation of dentists and non-dental professionals, offering so-called cosmetic procedures. These masterclasses will set the standards towards which all dentists in the field should aspire.’

The courses, largely held at The Royal College of Surgeons in London, each involve two days of teaching and hands-on sessions, followed by a further study day, amounting to 21 hours of CPD per course, apart from the masterclass in facial aesthetics, which are five-days with 55 hours of CPD and compulsory student assessment. The programme involves anatomical dissection of frozen cadavers with Professor Vishy Mahadevan, as well as lectures from Bob Khanna and Jonathan Britto on aesthetic technique.

- The tooth whitening course is on October 23/24 and December 11, cost: £1,795.
- The anterior aesthetic direct restorations course is on November 14/14 and January 10 2009, cost: £1,795.
- Porcelain veneers (tbc) is on April 24/25 and June 27 2009, cost: £1,795.
- Soft tissue management in the aesthetic zone (tbc) is on September 18/19 and December 5, 2009, cost: £1,795.

Members of FGDP (UK) get a 10 per cent discount when purchasing all five modules.

For more information, please contact the FGDP (UK) Education Department on 020 7869 6772.