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. They 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 fuelling 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 Visby Mahadevan, as well as lectures from Bob Khamma 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.

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.

BioHorizons rolls out the programmes

BioHorizons is to offer an extensive array of dental educational programmes in London this coming November led by expert lecturers, backing up its belief that education is the key to business success.

Specially topics will include surgical, regenerative and restorative techniques as well as how to build a successful practice. BioHorizons is supporting the Sinus Grafting & Posterior Maxilla Implant Dentistry, course on November 19/20 with Dr Michael McCracken and Dr Eugene Marais. The six-day course, Surgical Placement & Restoration of Dental Implants, also led by Dr Michael McCracken, takes place over two consecutive weekends: November 14-16 and 21-23.

For more information and to reserve a place on a course in November, please call 08700 620 550, email infouk@biohorizons.com, or visit the website at www.biohorizons.com.

Easy come, easy go

Here at Dental Services Direct we thrive on keeping our customers happy. It’s a rewarding job but can be hard work too. So this year we have decided not to exhibit at BDTA Dental Showcase but take a well earned rest instead.

But that gave us a problem, what would we do with the money we saved by staying home? After a good deal of thought someone had the idea of giving it to our customers - simple but brilliant. So we have come up with some great savings on equipment and technologies purchases for the entire month of October and beyond - so you’ve plenty of time to decide what to buy.

Here are just some examples of the superb offers, for more information simply call your local sales team or visit our website www.dentalservicesdirect.com.

*Prices and conditions: All prices excluding VAT please contact your local sales office for details. Offer applies until 31.12.08.
Dental Fees Freeze

The price of fuel, food and life’s other basic necessities may be rising, but at least one thing is staying the same in 2009, which is the cost of registration renewal with the General Dental Council (GDC).

The council agreed at its meeting in Belfast earlier this month not to increase its registration fees next year.

GDC President Hew Mathewson reminded us that we are in the grip of a credit crunch and life is getting tougher for people. Costs may be increasing elsewhere, but I’m pleased to say that the GDC has, after a period of time, built up its reserves and we can manage the budget effectively for the coming year without increasing fee levels.

The fees freeze means that the cost of annual registration renewal remains at £438 for dentists and £96 for dental care professionals. The cost of being on a GDC’s specialist list stays at £52.

The GDC also agreed to change the registration renewal date for four groups of dental professionals - dental therapists, orthodontic therapists, clinical dental technicians and orthodontic therapists - to July every year rather than December, to bring them into line with dental nurses and technicians.

The four groups will be required to pay £56 for seven months registration, in December 2008 to take them through to the end of July next year. They will then pay a full year’s registration through to the end of July 2010. This will synchronise all Dental Care Professionals (DCPs) onto the same annual renewal cycle.

The annual fees payable are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registrant</th>
<th>Annual retention fee (ARF)</th>
<th>Application fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>£438 due in December 2008</td>
<td>£438 if registering in January. From February, £57 per month until December 2009 when ARF is due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialists</td>
<td>£52 due in December 2008</td>
<td>£250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental nurses and dental technicians</td>
<td>Dental nurses and dental technicians have paid for their first year of registration already. Their first ARF of £96 is due in July 2009.</td>
<td>£8 per month until July 2009 when ARF is due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygienists, dental therapists, clinical dental technicians and orthodontic therapists</td>
<td>£56 due in December 2008 for the seven months ending July 2009, to synchronise all DCPs onto same cycle. The ARF of £96 will then be due in July 2009.</td>
<td>£8 per month until July 2009 when ARF is due</td>
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Dental Centre for 3,000 patients

A £9m state-of-the-art dental centre in Portsmouth is set to treat up to 3,000 NHS patients annually.

The Dental Outreach Centre, due to open in 2010, will train 80 students a year as dentists, dental therapists, hygienists and dental nurses.

A partnership between the University of Portsmouth and King’s College London Dental Institute, the centre will provide treatment to people from across south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Final-year dental students from King’s College will conduct 16-week supervised clinical placements at the new centre, which is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the NHS, the University of Portsmouth and King’s College London’s Dental Institute.

Professor John Craven, vice-chancellor of the University of Portsmouth, said: ‘We are very proud to be involved in a project which brings such tangible benefits to people, both to students, learning and to oral health in the community.’

Current forecasts predict that two-thirds of Portsmouth adults will not be registered with an NHS dentist by 2010. The new dental partnership is designed to remedy that situation, by providing high-quality NHS dental treatment in an area of generally very poor dental health and oral hygiene, particularly in some inner-city areas.

The centre will be housed in a brand new building linked to the University of Portsmouth’s, School of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry, in Hampshire

Popular NHS dentist dies

A popular NHS dentist from Wiltshire has died at the age of 50.

Dr Michael Frain was born in Bristol and attended St Ben dan’s College and Bristol University, where he studied dental surgery.

His company owned and ran dental practices across the south-west of England, including practices in Chippenham, Melksham, Calne and Swindon, with more than 40,000 NHS patients on its books.

Dr Frain built up a dental practice which included 17 dentists before opening the Bell Barn practice in Stuke Bishop in Bristol in 2004.