Graduate dentists at a new dental school in the north east of Scotland are being offered incentives to remain in their area and practice as NHS dentists.

The new Aberdeen Dental School will produce 15 graduates this year and 20 fully-qualified dentists every year after.

Graduates will be offered incentives to remain in the region as NHS dentists.

The dental school, which has received £21m of funding from the Scottish Government and NHS Grampian, will have facilities for radiography and restorative dentistry as well as dental laboratories.

Public Health Minister Shona Robison said: "The Aberdeen Dental School will be a centre of excellence for the north of Scot- land and an important asset for the whole country."

"Young dentists who train at the school will provide a significant boost to the number of trained practitioners in our country, helping to bring NHS dent-istry within reach of more and more people."

North-east Lib Dem MSP Mike Rumbles called it "a step in the right direction" but added "it's not the solution to the problem, which is what the government seems to think it is. It is not a fully- fledged school, it is a post-gradu-ate facility."

"What the government has done is good enough because the school should be producing at least 60 dental students a year, not 15."[

The government is carrying out a consultation on an EU directive that will allow patients to ask the NHS to pay for their dental treatment abroad.

It is asking for the views of healthcare professionals, patient groups, health organisations and the public on the new Patient Mo- bility EU Directive.

The government wants to make sure the directive does not adversely affect the NHS' ability to plan and manage services – and ensure patients can only access services to which they are entitled to on the NHS.

Public health minister Dawn Primarolo said: 'We want to en- sure that, where UK patients choose to travel abroad for care, the NHS retains the ability to de- cide what care it will fund.

Equally, anyone from other member states travelling to the UK specifically for healthcare will have to pay the full NHS cost of treatment upfront.'[

She emphasised that the gov- ernment is 'committed to pro- viding high quality healthcare close to patients' homes.

The consultation will help formulate the UK's negotiating position when discussions on the directive are held by Council of EU health ministers on 15-16 Dec- ember.

The consultation closes on 5 December.[

Quality teachers compete

Some of the best practition- ers in dental education will be battling it out for the title of teacher of the year in the 2009 DDU Educational awards.

Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, head of the Dental Defence Union said: 'The finest teachers are able to communicate their enthusiasm for dentistry, as well as their understanding of the subject, to students and newly qualified dentists.

These qualities are always evi- dent in our finalists, so we look for- ward to some interesting and in- spirational presentations and, as ever, I'm sure it will be tremendously difficult to choose a winner.'[n

Two finalists have been se- lected from a shortlist of nomi-nees in three categories.

Overall winners in each cate- gory will receive £3,000 towards the cost of educational materials for their schools or Vocational Training (VT) schemes.

All the finalists will receive £500, and an award.

The DDU Educational Awards are sponsored by Dentaly and supported by the British Dental Association (BDA).

This year's awards are being held at London House, Goode- nough College, London on Wednesday 19 November.

The theme for the event is Edu- cation, Ethics and Aesthetics and in the afternoon there will be a series of presentations on cos- metic dentistry, from the ethics of factors in dental implantation; a multi-disciplinary approach between the surgeon and the prostho-dodontist', on 15 May 2009.

On 16 May, delegates can take part in a series of lectures and hands-on sessions.

A spokesman for Smile- on said: 'Alpha Omega promotes lectures, seminars and study groups. Its partnership with Smile-on is set to provide dele- gates with a rich educa- tional experience.'[

The 2009 Clinical Innova- tions Confer- ence will be held at the Royal College of Physicians in Regent's Park, London.

For more information, or to make a booking, please call 0207 400 8989 or email info@ smile-on.com.

New links for CIC

Smile-on is joining forces with the international dental as- sociation, Alpha Omega, to hold next year's Clinical Innova- tions Conference.

The conference in 2009 will bring together the Clinical Inno- vations Conference and the An- nenberg Lecture.

Dr Nitzan Bichacho and Dr Dahi Schwartz-Arad will present the Annexen Lecture ‘Success in dental practice: a multi-disciplinary approach between the surgeon and the prostho-dodontist’, on 15 May 2009.

CDO opens new dental school

The government's Chief Dental Officer has officially opened a new dental train- ing school in East Lancashire.

Before unveiling the official plaque, Barry Crockcroft met dental students who are training at the centre.

The £2.2m Oak House NHS Dental Centre will act as a train- ing facility for new dentists and for dental therapy students and is one of the first new dental schools to be opened in nearly 100 years.

The aim is to train ‘home- grown’ dentists for the future, with the hope that they will stay and work in the area where they have trained.

The centre also has four pur- pose-built, NHS dental surgeries which act as a new base for the lo- cal NHS out-of-hours emergency dental service.

The centre is part of a project between the Preston-based Uni- versity of Central Lancashire and the Universities of Liverpool, Lan- caster, and Cumbria, together with East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the North West Strategic Health Authority.

The new four-year, graduate- entry dental course has already recruited its first 52 students, who will spend time at the £5.2m dental school in Preston before going on to work.

It’s one of the first new dental schools to be set up in more than a century, which is quite an achieve- ment in itself. All credit to the part- nership that has made it possible. [n

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Stripping for charity

Dental patients in Sunder- land have agreed to be photographed wearing nothing but a smile for a saucy charity calendar.

Riveredge Cosmetic Den- tistry practice in Sunderland decided it wanted to do a charity calendar after losing its manager, Amanda Fisher, to bowel cancer three years ago.

The calendar features the Riveredge team, Rugby League player Paul Sculthorpe and nine Riveredge patients.

Lesley Collard, practice manager, said: ‘We were keen to do something a bit different to sup- port St Oswald’s, the hospice that looked after Amanda so well. We were all pretty nervous about do- ing the calendar, but it was great fun and for a great cause.’

Three cancer charities are set to benefit from the venture including St Oswald’s Hospice, where the Ms Fisher, was treated before she died.

The 2009 Wearing Nothing but a Smile calendar costs £10. It can be bought by calling the Sunderland- land clinic on 0191 567 1020. [n

Incentives tempt Scottish graduates

Scottish dental students are urged to stay put

Scottish graduate dentists are entitled to practice in their own country, but many are choosing to work abroad.

The Scottish Dental Students’ Association has launched a campaign to encourage them to stay put.

The two finalists in each cat- egory are:

• Dentist teacher of the Year: D Samarawickrama of Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry and Sheila Oliver of Cardiff University Dental School

• VT Teacher of the Year: Stephen Brookes from the Oxford Dean- ery and Dai Jones from South West Dental Postgraduate Deanery

• DCP Teacher of the Year: Alison Grant of Bristol Dental School and Judy Fraser of University of Portsmouth, School of Profes- sionals Complementary to Dentistry

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