Quality teachers compete

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

Overall winners in each category will receive £1,000 towards the cost of educational materials for their schools or Vocational Training (VT) schemes.

All the finalists will receive £250, and an award.

The DDU Educational Awards are presented to dentists, dentistry teachers, or other dental professionals who work in the UK.

New links for CIC

S
mile-on is joining forces with the International Dental Association, Alpha Omega, to hold next year's Clinical Innovations Conference.

The conference in 2009 will bring together the Clinical Innovations Conference and the Annenberg Lecture.

Dr. Nitzan Bichacho and Dr. Dahi Schwartz-Arad will present the Annenberg Lecture ‘Success in the area where they have trained.’

Three cancer charities are set to benefit from the conference: the Aberdeen Cancer Trust, the North-east Lib Dem MSP, and the Royal College of Physicians.

The £2.2m Oak House NHS Dental Centre will be a centre of excellence for the north of Scotland and an important asset for the whole country.

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

The centre is part of a project between the Preston-based University of Central Lancashire and the Universities of Liverpool, Lancaster, 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 eight of them go to East Lancashire for their clinical experience.

David Peat, chief executive of East Lancashire PCT, said: ‘We are delighted and proud to have played a part in getting this new dental school up and running.

It’s one of the first new dental schools to be set up in more than a century, which is quite an achievement in itself. All credit to the partnership that has made it possible.

We see this as a major opportunity to train our own NHS dentists of the future, while helping local people as the trainee dentists to their supervised practical work.’

CDO opens new dental school

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 Mobility 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 ensure that, where UK patients choose to travel abroad for care, the NHS retains the ability to decide 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 government is committed to providing 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 December.

The consultation closes on 15 December.

Stripping for charity

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

Riveredge Cosmetic Dentistry 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.

Incentives tempt Scottish graduates

T
he government’s Chief Dental Officer has officially opened a new dental training school in East Lancashire.

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

The £2.2m Oak House NHS Dental Centre will act as a training 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.

Young dentists who train at the school will provide a significant boost to the numbers of trained practitioners in our country, helping to bring NHS dentistry 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 is not the solution to the problem, which is what the government seem to think it is. It is not a fully-fledged school, it is a post-graduate facility.

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

Some of the best practitioners 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 knowledge of the subject, to students and newly qualified dentists.

These qualities are always evident in our finalists, so we look forward to some interesting and inspiring presentations and, as ever, I'm sure it will be tremendously difficult to choose a winner.’

Two finalists have been selected from a shortlist of nominees in three categories.

Overall winners in each category will receive £1,000 towards the cost of educational materials for their schools or Vocational Training (VT) schemes.

All the finalists will receive £250, and an award.

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

This year’s awards are being held at London House, Goodeough College, London on Wednesday 19 November.

The theme for the event is Education, Ethics and Aesthetics and in the afternoon there will be a series of presentations on cosmetic dentistry, from the ethics of cosmetic treatment, to the challenges of defending dental professionals against allegations about their aesthetic practices.

The two finalists in each category 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 Brooks from the Oxford Deanery and Dai Jones from South West Dental Postgraduate Deansery
• DCP Teacher of the Year: Alison Grant of Bristol Dental School and Judy Fraser of University of Portsmouth, School of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry

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Lesley Collard, practice manager, said: ‘We were keen to do something a bit different to support St Oswald’s Hospice, the hospice that looked after Amanda so well. We were all pretty nervous about doing 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 £1.00. It can be bought by calling the Sunderland dental clinic on 0191 567 1020.

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