Dental complaints concerns

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) has appointed a leading dental technician to become chairman of its Dental Care Professional (DCP) advisory board.

A former president of the Dental Technicians Association and founder member of the FGDP(UK) DCP advisory board, Tony Griffin has been active more than 30 years in supporting training opportunities for clinical dental technology. He was also an assessor for the DCP’s, Key Skills Assessment. Both Mr Griffin and Mr Stanley are also members of the editorial board for the FGDP(UK)’s DCP journal, Team in Practice.

Mr Griffin commented: “Along with John as vice chairman and the DCP advisory board as a whole, I am looking forward to supporting the DCP(UK)’s initiatives to support the career development and training of DCPs.

“I am keen to explore opportunities for demand-led educational programmes enabling individual DCPs to choose specific training areas for their own personal development and also to meet the requirements for eventual GDP examination.”

The post of vice-chairman of the DCP advisory board has been given to John Stanfield, who has represented dental hygienists on the board since 2006 and is also an assessor for the DCPs, Key Skills Assessment. Both Mr Griffin and Mr Stanfield are also members of the editorial board for the FGDP(UK)’s DCP journal, Team in Practice.

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“I am keen to explore opportunities for demand-led educational programmes enabling individual DCPs to choose specific training areas for their own personal development and also to meet the requirements for eventual GDP examination.”

The GDC has recently consulted on revised guidance for dentists, which it anticipated will be introduced for DCPS at some point in the future. The FGDP(UK) plans to provide a professional development framework to allow DCPS to transfer educational credits from their learning. It is intended that such a framework will not only support DCPS in meeting their revalidation requirements, but will also lead to an award by the faculty.

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FGDP(UK) Dean, Russ Ladwa, said: “I am very much looking forward to working with Tony, John and members of the board to expand the FGDP(UK)’s educational and training opportunities for DCPS. I also hope to see the board develop beyond its ‘advisory’ status to become a more integral part of the faculty.”

BDA dentistry honours

T he Peterborough Dental Access Centre was named as the third winner of the British Dental Association (BDA) Good Practice Scheme Practice of-the-Year Award.

The 20-strong team received the award at the fourth annual BDA Honours and Awards Dinner in London, which is supported by the British Dental Trade Association (BTTA). The evening also featured presentations to individuals by the BDA in recognition of service to dentistry, the BDA, along with a range of awards presented by the BDTA and dental care professional associations.

The President of the British Dental Association John Drummond said: “This event has become a true celebration of the dental team, giving recognition to the commitment and talent of so many very special individuals. We were privileged to be joined by so many friends and colleagues from across dentistry to mark these achievements.

“The Good Practice Scheme is recognised as a benchmark for excellence with 1,250 members who have supported the programme, with a further 2,000 practices working towards membership.”

The honours and awards presented were as follows:


■ The 2009 British Association of Dental Nurses’ Award for outstanding contribution to dental nursing: Janet van Noort and Geoff Craig

■ The Orthodontic National Group award (ONG) for outstanding contribution to orthodontic nursing and distinguished service to the ONG: Fiona Grist

■ BDA Fellowship for outstanding service to the Association and the dental profession: David Lester

■ The Dental Technologists Association fellowship award for outstanding contribution to dental technology: Brian Gordon

■ The BDA Certificate of Merit for Services to the Association: Mike Hill

■ The BDTA Award for outstanding contribution to the dental industry: Martin Mills

■ The BDA Certificate of Merit for Services to the Profession: Jacqueline Armitage, Bridget Ashion, Glenys Bridges, Jo Eisenberg, Ashiq Ghauria, Eric Nash, Malcolm Prideaux and Kenneth in the newly awarded and received by his wife)

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120 540. It gets its funding from the GDC which means all registered dental professionals pay for the service through their Annual Retention Fee.

The service can look into complaints about private dental services provided by dental practices in the UK. It can’t look at complaints about NHS treatment. It also can’t look at staff matters – such as recruitment, pay and discipline – or at commercial or contractual issues.

Until recently the service had been under the General Dental Council’s advisory board but this organisation was made up of GDC council members – both registrant and lay members – as well as a number of independent individuals. However, since the restructuring of the Council of the GDC this year, the role of the Advisory Board is under review.

Full details of the DCS and what it can offer can be found on its website www.dentalcomplaints.org.uk.

The Dental Care Professional (DCS) and its relationship with the Dental Law and Ethics Access Centre has been under review by a Committee chaired by a leading dental healthcare barrister has pointed a leading dental professional as ‘independent’ on its website, as “independent” on its website, and serves as a referral for the GDC’s Fitness to Practice, procedures.

At the recent meeting, which had a live link-up with members and cardiff and Leeds, Mc McCulloch acknowledged that the DCS had successfully resolved minor complaints about private dental treatment and reduced the load of the council’s private dental treatment and resolved minor complaints about private dental treatment and responded to a survey, of both dentists and patients, who had experienced the service, reported that nine out of 10 panelists from across the UK. When a panel is convened it is made up of two members of the public and one dental professional. The decision making process regarding complaints is therefore completely impartial and this is considered an important part of the service – which the staff takes seriously.

The service is open to the public and registrants and doesn’t charge for its services. It has a local rate helpline, which is 08436 755 400. It gets its funding from the GDC which means all registered dental professionals pay for the service through their Annual Retention Fee.

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Editorial comment
Farewell from 2009

Well, doesn’t time fly when you’re having fun! It doesn’t seem five minutes ago since I was penning my first comment back in August, and here we are at the end of the year – thanks Dental Tribune – for taking a break now until January 2010, but don’t think it will all be mulled wine and Christmas shopping (that should only take up four days of the week);

GDC on Vetting and Barring

Following the introduction of the Government’s new Vetting and Barring Scheme, the General Dental Council (GDC) would like to clarify its current stance and obligations in relation to the change in the law.

Within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the delivery of dental care is a ‘regulated activity’, therefore all those delivering care must be registered with the ISA in the long term. Registries already employed and not changing jobs will be included in the scheme over time, with everyone needing to be included by 2013.

As of 12 October 2009, it became a criminal offence for people的危害 by the ISA to work or apply to work with children or vulnerable adults in a wide range of posts. It is also now a criminal offence for an employer to knowingly employ a barred person in a regulated activity.

The Council now has a legal obligation to share information about GDC registrants with the ISA. It is waiting to be advised as to exactly what information it will have to share, but it is likely to be anything which could indicate that a registrant poses a risk to children or vulnerable adults. The GDC may also receive information about its registrants from the ISA. It has already been decided by Council that such information should not result in automatic erasure from the scheme over time, with everyone needing to be included by 2013.

The GDC is looking carefully at how the Vetting and Barring Scheme will affect registrants and what role the Council will play. It is liaising with other regulators and working out how best to share relevant information alongside existing guidance on protecting patients.

The team here will be looking forward to 2010 and planning to make DT even better for the New Year!

With that in mind, here is a call to readers to get involved. For 2010 we are looking for case presentations from dental professionals covering all aspects of dental treatment. E-mail Lisa@dentalttribunecom if you’re interested in seeing one of your cases in print!

Just one thing remains for me to say – thanks to all our editorial partners for all of your support over 2009 and in particular since I’ve been editing DT – you have made it a very easy transition for me. Hope you all have a peaceful Christmas, a prosperous New Year and see you on January 18 for Issue 1, 2010.

Dr. David Fairclough explains how DIO make implants more accessible for UK patients

A company selling dental implants for almost half the price of other suppliers are giving dentists the opportunity to pass this saving on to their patients, potentially dropping the price of dental implants in Britain.

DIO Implant of South Korea is now operating in the UK after recently identifying a gap in the UK market. DIO UK is offering dental implants at prices less than half of that of the most established UK brands (e.g. DIO titanium R&M fixtures for under £99.00). The company has been around for over 25 years and is one of the largest implant manufacturers in Asia.

One dentist who has been able to drop his prices by 50% after switching to DIO implants is Dr. David Fairclough, who’s prime interests are dental implants and cosmetic dentistry. He believes that using implants of this kind could lead to them becoming cheaper for patients across Britain, currently one of the most expensive places in Europe for dental implants.

“One of my big criticisms of implant companies is that they sell you the implants and then you get very little from them again. There’s poor back-up. This hasn’t been the case with DIO!”

In a recent interview Dr. Fairclough said, “There is no reason why it can’t be as cheap here as it is abroad, when you factor in travel and accommodation expenses. The savings I am making here mean that I’ve been able to reduce my prices by 50%, so it has made a huge difference. It means that those people who are thinking about going abroad for implants may consider staying in Britain and those who thought they couldn’t afford implants can now consider it an option.”

Dr. Fairclough was initially drawn to DIO because he thought they couldn’t afford implants can now consider it an option. “I was penning my first DT article five minutes ago since I was penning my first comment back in August, and here we are at the end of the year – thanks Dental Tribune – for taking a break now until January 2010, but don’t think it will all be mulled wine and Christmas shopping (that should only take up four days of the week);

The Back-up service I have been given has been invaluable” said Dr Fairclough, “One of my big criticisms of implant companies is that they sell you the implants and then you get very little from them again. There’s poor back-up. This hasn’t been the case with DIO.”

Dr David Fairclough BDS(Lond.) LDS RCS (Eng.) qualified at University College Hospital, London in 1975 and has since received post graduate training in the UK, France, USA, and the Arabian Gulf. He has been involved in implants since 1977 and is a founder member of the Association of Dental Implantology. He has also lectured and run courses both in England and abroad on implant procedures.

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Or email: Lisa@dentalttribunecom

Do you have an opinion or something to say on any Dental Tribune UK article? Or would you like to write your own opinion for our guest comment page?

Dentists drop the price of dental implants

Do you have an opinion or something to say on any Dental Tribune UK article? Or would you like to write your own opinion for our guest comment page?
A new dental trial in Northern Ireland aimed at reducing tooth decay in the under fives has been launched.

Health Minister Michael McGimpsey, who launched, The Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice, trial in November, said the trial would investigate the effectiveness of preventing tooth decay in young-sters by applying fluoride varnish to their teeth, as well as using fluoride toothpaste.

Nearly 2,500 children will be involved in the trial, with each child monitored over a period of three years.

Mr McGimpsey said: “It is vitally important that we look at new approaches to tackling tooth decay as, unfortunately, young people in Northern Ireland have some of the worst oral health in western Europe.

“The last year, for example, 26,500 teeth were extracted from children who underwent a general anaesthetic in hospital for dental extraction. While this figure is a marked improvement over previous years, it is still way too high and unacceptable.

“Investing in preventive care now will provide dividends for the next generation.”

The trial has been developed through a partnership with bodies including Manchester University, the Department of Health and the British Dental Association.