BADN president Sue Bruckel has thanked all the sponsors of the 2009 National Dental Nursing Conference for helping to make it such a resounding success.

Ms Bruckel said that delegates would have had to pay up to three times the current conference fee without sponsorship, which paid for speakers’ fees and travel costs for the majority of the presentations, while the remaining speakers were local experts who gave their time for free.

The actual conference delegate rate charged by the venue was sponsored by the British Dental Trade Association (BDTA) with conference handbooks sponsored by Philips Sonicare, which also sponsored additional costs along with NHS Direct. In addition, the BDTA provided delegate bags, supplemented by washbags and USB pens from Colgate and the British Cheese Board provided the luncheon cheeseboard.

Ms Bruckel said: “Our chief executive, Pam Swain, has calculated that without the direct financial contributions from the BDTA, NHS Direct and Philips Sonicare, the provision of speakers by the British Chiropractic Association, Colgate, the General Dental Council, Nobel Biocare, Philips Sonicare, Schuelke, the University of Kent, WR Berkley Insurance (Europe) Ltd, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Gloucestershire; and the generous donation of their time and expertise by the remaining speakers, conference registration fees would have had to start at over £200 each for BADN members and consequently £270 for non-members to cover the cost of staging the conference. And this doesn’t even take into account the administrative costs or the many hundreds of hours which the chief executive and staff put into the organization of the event.

“Our on behalf of the BADN council, members and the delegates to and the National Dental Nursing Conference, I should therefore like to thank all the sponsors, and speakers, for their generous support of dental nurses in the U.K.”

The registration fee for the 2009 National Dental Nursing Conference was £120 for BADN members and £190 for non-members. The current annual BADN full membership fee is £70.

Premier Award Winners 2009

This year’s Premier Symposium, organised by Dental Protection and Schülke, saw the winners of the Premier Awards 2009 announced. The annual risk management competition has a total prize fund of £6,000 and accepts entries from projects which recognise the importance of patient safety.

Congratulations to this year’s winners:

Undergraduate prize
1st Richard Beckwith
Difficulties in obtaining valid consent in clinical dentistry.
2nd Rachel Ingle
A comparison of ITM01-05 guidance with the sterilisation of reusable instruments in the Dental Practice Unit, University of Sheffield.
Postgraduate prize
1st James Roberts
An audit to assess the cleanliness and storage of decontaminated dental instruments.
2nd Richard Holliday
Dental record keeping and the role of oral cancer screening in the dental access centre.
DCP prize
1st Michelle Mitchell
Ethical considerations in 21st century dental hygiene.
2nd Amy Wilkins
Extending the role of the dental nurse in the orthodontic practice: the patients’ perspective.

This year’s winners were of a very high calibre, and even though Sheffield Dental School was predominant amongst the winning entries, Kathy Harley, Chair of Dental Protection, who presented the awards took time to encourage dentists and DCPS from all regions of the UK to participate again next year.

Thank you also to the sponsors of the Premier Symposium, Smile-on and Henry Schein, who helped to make the day possible.

If you would like to receive details of next year’s Awards you can register your interest by emailing sarah.garry@mps.org.uk.

An oral health improvement programme for very young children in Wales is to be extended.

Designed to Smile is being expanded, following two successful pilot schemes in north and south Wales.

In the scheme, which is delivered by the community dental service, dental health support workers deliver a supervised tooth-brushing programme in schools and provide toothbrushes and toothpaste to schoolchildren along with oral health advice. Part of the service is carried out via mobile dental health units, which provide specialist preventive care and treatment to schools.

Funding for the scheme is doubling to £5.1 million for 2009/10 and rising to more than £5.8 million for 2010/11. As well as rolling out the scheme beyond the existing pilot areas to specifically targeted, ‘communities first’ schools in the rest of Wales, the additional funding will allow the scheme to be extended within the existing pilot areas. This means that six and seven year olds as well as three to five year olds will be included, as well as a nursery-based programme for very young children under the age of three.

Compared to the rest of the UK, the dental health of children in Wales is poor, with a direct correlation between poor oral health and social/economic deprivation.

Health Minister, Edwin Hart said: “The rates of tooth decay in parts of Wales are too high and are something which needs to be tackled. This additional funding will allow for the, Designed to Smile, scheme to carry on and enhance the good work done in the pilot areas to extend it across the whole of Wales. There is a significant role for parents to play, but we know that for many children at the greatest risk of dental decay, cleaning their teeth or having their teeth cleaned does not form part of their daily routine.

“It is clear that more direct and also more innovative methods of delivering preventive care are necessary if advances in child oral health are to be made.

“By teaching children the importance of good oral health at an early age, they will develop good habits which they can carry on into adulthood.”

A new-look General Dental Council will be introduced in April 2010 or on the date on which the current Chair resigns, by agreement, whichever is earlier.

Alison commented: “I would like to thank Hew for his excellent Presidency, he will be a hard act to follow, but has been an excellent example of how to Chair. I am really looking forward to leading this multi-skilled and talented Council in public protection.”

New GDC chair

D entist Alison Lockyer (picture left) has been elected as chair of the new-look General Dental Council. Alison was born in Leeds and is now based in Leicestershire, but also works in Oxfordshire.

Alison was a returning Registrant member to the Council of the GDC which she has been involved with for more than eight years.

She qualified in Edinburgh in 1980 and works full-time as a primary care dentist with five private and NHS practices in Oxfordshire and Leicestershire. She’s also provided dentistry within prisons and in an industrial setting (BMW factory).

The current Chair Hew Mathewson and the Chair Elect Alison Lockyer will discuss and agree the detailed handover timetable. The Chair Elect will take office as Chair on either 1 January 2010 or on the date on which the current Chair resigns, by agreement.