**Clawback payments reach £120m**

**Social network site launch**

A trio of inspiring and innovative teachers won awards at this year’s Dental Defence Union Educational Awards.

Alison Grant at Bristol Dental School won the award for DCP (dental care professional) Teacher of the Year. Ms Grant said: ‘It’s great to receive this recognition. I was first inspired to go into dentistry by the enthusiasm of a hygienist who treated me as a teenager and I want to thank her. DCP teachers are not just teaching students to pass an exam; we are teaching them to become dental hygienists and I believe that communicating our enthusiasm is an essential part of this.’

The award for Dental Teacher of the Year was won by Professor Dayananda Samarawickrama at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Professor Samarawickrama dedicated the award to his students, colleagues and school and said: ‘I have been humbled by this experience and I’m obviously very pleased to have won. My late father first inspired to go into dentistry by the enthusiasm of a hygienist who treated me as a teenager and I want to thank her. DCP teachers are not just teaching students to pass an exam; we are teaching them to become dental hygienists and I believe that communicating our enthusiasm is an essential part of this.’

The theme of the day was ‘Education, Ethics and Aesthetics’ and after the finalists’ presentations, Derrick Willmott, professor of orthodontics at Sheffield University and dean of the faculty of dental surgery and Richard Ashcroft, professor of bioethics at Queen Mary University of London addressed the issue of whether there are purely cosmetic dental procedures and where aesthetic treatments may have a therapeutical outcome.

**DDU awards the innovative teachers**

Around half of dental practices have fallen short of the targets and will have to pay back money back to their local health authorities.

The British Dental Association fears these clawbacks may put some practices out of business and could lead to more dentists quitting the NHS.

Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by DPM, provider of dental insurance that supports practices in of the year), Professor Dayananda Samarawickrama (winner dentist teacher) and Dean Hallows, marketing director, Dentally.

**‘Botched’ reforms fail 1.2m people**

In Leicester, for example, more than a quarter of UDDAs (units of dental activity) have not been delivered and 21 dental practices face repaid money of over £50,000 or more. Across the country, 89 per cent of primary care trusts responded to a survey that found a total of 41 UDDAs where practices were targeted by more than £50,000 or more.

Peter Ward, the chief executive of the BDA, said that dentists who failed to meet their targets in the first year were likely have to face a roll-over effect.

He said: ‘Once again this highlights problems with a target-driven contract that contains one crude measure of performance, which has long been critised by the profession and patient representative groups.’

Quentin Skinner, the chairman of DPM, said: ‘For those dentists who fell rather short of the mark, the future for them in the NHS certainly looks bleak.’

Mike Penning, Shadow Health Minister, said: ‘These figures show, yet again, why we need to rip up Labour’s botched contract and move towards a registration system based on clinical need, one that incentivises dentists treating dental ill health rather than reacting to it.’ The BDA requested an amnesty for dentists who had completed a significant amount – but not all – of their units of dental activity (UDA) for 2006/07.

However the Department of Health has said it will not consider waiving financial clawbacks for dentists.