Glucose study
According to a new study in the *Journal of Nutrition* (April 4, 2012), blood glucose levels following starch ingestion are influenced by genetically determined differences in salivary amylase. The study was carried out by scientists from the Monell Center. The researchers studied amylase activity by measuring saliva samples obtained from 48 healthy adults. Based on extremes of salivary amylase activity, two groups of seven were formed: high amylase (HA) and low amylase (LA). According to reports, the participants each drank a simplified corn starch solution; blood samples were then obtained from the participants over a two-hour period. The samples were analysed to determine blood glucose levels and insulin concentrations. The study identified that after ingesting the starch, the individuals in group HA had lower blood glucose levels compared to those in the LA group.

Could cigarette packaging go up in smoke?

A UK-wide consultation on whether tobacco should be sold in standardised, or plain packaging, has been launched

The recent consultation concerning the future branding of cigarette packaging has come about in an effort to impact on people’s health and reduce the uptake of smoking.

The consultation suggests for the first time what requirements for standardised packaging could consist of, including no branding, a uniform colour and a standard font and text for any writing on the pack.

There has however already been mixed opinions on health forums and news sites regarding the consultation.

There are some that believe that the plain packaging could have an effect on steering people away from starting the habit, many people believe that the plain packaging policy will have little to no affect whatsoever on younger people; some even believe it will encourage them to start smoking because cigarettes will have that “forbidden factor”.

However, there are some that hope that if the policy does come into effect it will reduce the attraction of cigarettes; but many people remain sceptical. One concern that non-smokers, ex-smokers and smokers alike are embracing is the issue of harmful substances. Further worries, such as a substantial loss in Tax from cigarette purchases are also concerning members of the public, whilst others believe that the consultation is a waste of Taxpayers’ money. People are even asking why plain packaging would be needed if the cigarettes are hidden from view.

The consultation will be open for responses from 16 April to 10 July. Any person, business or organisation with an interest is encouraged to respond.

To take part in the consultation visit http://consultations.dh.gov.uk.
King’s dental alumni awards announced

Health and Social Care Bill gains royal assent

World Health Day

of life and brought credit to the profession, directly or indirectly, with particular emphasis on the last three years.

Prof John and Deborah Greenspan are internationally recognised for their contributions and achievements in the field of oral manifestations of HIV/AIDS.

Prof Deborah Greenspan commented: “This award was completely unexpected and is deeply appreciated. From the merger of the Royal Dental Hospital with Guy’s, then United Medical Dental Schools, the Guy’s, King’s and St Thomas’, now King’s College London, we have felt part of a growing and supportive alumni group that can be proud of being part of an outstanding dental school and university. The heritage of the Royal lives on in King’s College London Dental Institute.”

Prof John Greenspan added: “We did not know we were getting the award, so to hear about it while sitting among four tables of my classmates and their guests at the reunion marking the 50 year since our graduation was particularly poignant. Memories of 50 plus years ago, mingled with news of colleagues’ families and careers, flooded the mind with a mixture of emotions; nostalgia, pride, yes some sadness forthose no longer with us, plus a deep sense of gratitude for the education we received at the Royal all those many years ago.”

The Alumnus Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr Clive Debenham. “Martin Kelleher is a teacher whose idiosyncratic, didactic but sympathetic style will always be remembered by those lucky enough to fall under his tutelage.”

Commenting on the award, Mr Kelleher said: “I was equally surprised and delighted to receive this prestigious award from the Dental Alumni Association. During my many years as postgraduate dental tutor at both the King’s College Hospital, Denmark Hill site and the Guy’s Hospital site I tried to be as inclusive as possible of the various graduates, each with their different histories, in running Clinical Day in conjunction with the dental alumni.

“I am delighted to note that the alumni and the Dental Institute generally continue to be highly successful and they are to be heartily congratulated on this. In expressing my deep gratitude for this honour I would like to take this opportunity not just to thank all those involved, but also to wish them all the best for their future activities.”

Health and Social Care Bill gains royal assent

World Health Day was celebrated on the 7th April, marking the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organisation in 1948. World Health Day is a global campaign, inviting everyone – from global leaders to the public in all countries – to focus on a single health challenge with global impact – the focus this year being Aging and Health.

World Health Day 2012 focused on how good health can add life to years, enabling older men and women to not only live longer, but also to extend their active involvement in all levels of society. Ageing concerns each and every one of us – whether young or old, male or female, rich or poor – no matter where we live.

Before the end of this century, the world will have more older people than children. People are living longer and life expectancy continues to improve around the globe, but living longer in just one part of the equation - living well is the key to ensuring that older people remain healthy, energetic and involved in their communities and society as a whole.

As the world’s population continues to age, social and economic implications of an ageing population will need to be addressed. Evidence suggests that moderate physical activity can help to improve and prolong mobility in the elderly, yet as age increases, physical activity often decreases. This sort of decline in activity levels is more pronounced in women, low-income groups and in persons with low education levels.

Education and awareness are therefore key as well as adequate provision of age-friendly, community-based exercise and recreation facilities as well as improved access to basic primary health care. But perhaps the most important role for government and community leadership bodies lies in acknowledging the value of older people and the contributions they make to family and community life.

Although it is never too late to adopt a healthy lifestyle, starting early will make sure that your later years are not only long, but also healthy. Studies show that children’s arteries start showing atherosclerosis from as early as two years of age, which means the effects begin in utero. Whatever your age, regular exercise is crucial, so don’t delay.
Editorial comment

Today I spent most of the day at the GDC CPD Review Conference. It was a very interesting day, looking at the delivery of CPD and the barriers to accessing quality courses.

Denplan withdraws from ROI

Following its launch in the Republic of Ireland in August 2010, Denplan’s Executive Board has taken the difficult decision to withdraw its presence from this region.

Denplan has been working with a range of member dentists over the last 19 months in order to increase the level of support it can offer to both the dental professionals and their patients - following the Government’s decision to remove state-funded dental provision and reduce the Medical Card provision to children and exempt patients.

However, ongoing interest by the insurance regulators in this region has necessitated a growing investment in legal services to explain Denplan’s product design and cover, which has, in turn, made this market financially unviable. This has been compounded by Denplan’s recent sale to Simplyhealth, which is not yet registered to trade in the Irish Republic.

Denplan’s Managing Director, Steve Gates, commented: “We’re disappointed to be withdrawing from the Republic of Ireland, but I would personally like to thank all of our contacts in the area for the support and business they placed with Denplan and wish them every success in the future.”

“This decision in no way affects our substantial presence in Northern Ireland, which still offers strong opportunities for growth over the coming years. I would also like to reiterate that there will be no job losses as a result of this decision.”

The delegate list was filled with practitioners, under- and post-graduate dental Deans, educators, academics, GDC members and commercial providers. Chaired by GDC Chief Executive and Registrar Evelyn Gilvarry, the day took in many aspects of CPD and its relevance to revalidation; both allowing course providers to gain an insight into the potential direction for CPD in the future, and for the GDC to get feedback from stakeholders.

One of the buzzwords from the day was ‘blended learning’ - the use of different teaching modalities to allow for a rounded learning experience. This can use both online and face-to-face methods, with interactivity at the heart of it.

If CPD and revalidation are here to stay, then so is blended learning.

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ALSO AVAILABLE:
Colgate® Sensitive Pro-Relief™ Toothpaste and
Colgate® Sensitive Pro-Relief™ Desensitising Polishing Paste
For clinically proven relief from dentine hypersensitivity, at home and in the dental chair
Centres selected to host cutting-edge cancer services

The Department of Health plans to introduce PBT services at The Christie and UCLH. The Department’s announcement shows this to be affordable and deliverable in the short term. The development of the service will be closely monitored and should further capacity be needed in the future, the preferred third site is University Hospitals Birmingham, subject to normal business cases processes and the views of the NHS Commissioning Board.

Surgeons perform full-face transplant

Surgeons at the University of Maryland in Baltimore have reported the transplantation of an entire face onto a 37-year-old man.

According to a report, the surgeons successfully transplanted face tissue, including teeth, and upper and lower jaw. The procedure is considered to be the world’s most extensive full-face transplant. The patient Richard Lee Norris from Hillsville, Virginia, had the face transplant after a gun incident 15 years ago left him severely disfigured. Richard lost his lips and his nose, and his jawline was almost completely destroyed. As a result, he was left with limited movement of the mouth.

It wasn’t until 2005 when Richard first approached doctors at the university to discuss surgical options. After a face was donated by the family of a deceased anonymous donor, the extensive and difficult surgery could commence, and was conducted in late March by a multidisciplinary team of more than 150 medical professionals and lasted 56 hours. According to the university, this is the first time in history that a full-face transplant has been completed by a team of plastic and reconstructive surgeons experienced in both trauma and dental and facial reconstruction.

The project was financially supported by the US Navy, which hopes to gain better insights into the reconstruction of the wounded faces of returning soldiers.

Clarification on licensing for dental surgeries

If you’re a dentist performing copyright music in your surgery, it has been announced that you need a PRS for Music licence.

According to PRS, clarification on the requirement for a PRS for Music licence when playing music in a dental surgery following the decision of European Court of Justice (“the Court”) on 15 March 2012 in the case of Società Consortile Fonografici (SCF) v Marco Del Corso (“the Decision”).

The Decision concerns the liability of dentists to pay equivalent remuneration for what under Italian law is a statutory right to use sound recordings by communicating them to the public. In its Decision, the Court held that such use by dentists to patients in public waiting rooms did not amount to a “communication to the public” with regard to this liability.

The Decision does not affect the requirement for a business to hold the correct PRS for Music licence where they play or perform PRS for Music repertoire in public.

The Decision specifically dealt with the right of producers and performers to remuneration for certain uses of sound recordings, as provided for under Italian law. PRS for Music does not administer this right.

PRS for Music administers, amongst other rights, the exclusive right conferred on the copyright owners by UK law, to perform and to authorise the performance in public of their copyright musical works.

Therefore if you intend to continue playing such recordings in public, we suggest that you contact PPL to discuss your requirements.

PRS for Music is the trading name for the Performing Right Society (PRS). This information relates to the rights represented by PRS.
Switch on to new ideas

Speakers:
Prof Nasser Barghi
Dr Richard Kahan
Prof Gianluca Gambarini
Dr Wyman Chan
Dr John Moore
Dr Ajay Kakar
Ms Jackie Coventry
Dr Mona Kakar
Basil Mizrahi
Fraser McCord
Mhari Coxon
Amit Patel
Anthony Roberts
**Campaign for CASPER**

Glenns Bridges and Jane Armitage launch the Campaign for Administrative Standards and Professional Education for Receptionists and Practice Managers (CASPER)

In the modern dental profession there is no shortage of Standards and Regulations or authoritative bodies to assess and compliance. The origins of the current legislation date back as far as the Dentist Act 1921, which restricted the practice of dentistry to qualified, registered practitioners, working within ethical standards set by a regulatory body; The Dental Board for the UK, the initial forerunner of the General Dental Council (GDC) establishing how many registrants there is no shortage of clinical dentistry there is a massive black hole in terms of training and ongoing development requirements.

The Health and Social Care Act 2005 sets out clear regulations which in turn have been translated by each constituent country of the United Kingdom to local essential standards of quality and safety. Each has appointed inspectors to visit registered practices to assess compliance. If you look really hard you will find training recommendations for Registered Managers. But not only do you need to look hard, to find any meaningful education requirements, you also need to use a broad span of interpretation because qualification requirements for Registered Managers are not definitive. Worse still the standard for administrators and receptionists are non-existent; or at least I have not been able to find them.

It is undisputable that the quality of UK clinical dentistry is world class. However, nowadays patients demand more that excellent dentistry, they will not settle for less than an excellent dental experience from the moment they decide to make an appointment on until they complete their treatment.

This is recognised in care quality outcomes. To consistently achieve these outcomes requires a range of quality management skills, such as planning services, auditing performance, creating, implementing and evaluating SMART objectives and gathering feedback on clinical and non-clinical aspects of care. Without formal education these skills will be absent from dental teams' skills sets, therefore patients' experiences of quality if their dental experience will suffer.

Clinically dentistry can claim almost 100 years of ongoing development with excellence as its primary objective. However, when it comes to the non clinical aspects of dental care there is a massive black hole in terms of training.

Jane says: “I believe academic training requirements must be introduced on a tiered level in-line with individual managers responsibilities. How can managers be expected to run practices without academic training? It is bizarre. How can you lead a team of committed dental professionals without demonstrating the same level of commitment to your own training and ongoing development? We must begin by establishing educational standards and then establishing non-clinical courses to be the biggest and best exhibition in the dental calendar. Book your ticket now to ensure that you don’t miss out!

For more information, or to register for your free ticket to BDTRA Dental Showcase please visit www.dentalshowcase.com.
Research to target threat caused by sepsis

Twelve new research and development projects that aim to improve the future diagnosis, detection and management of sepsis, a life-threatening illness caused by the body over-reacting to an infection, are to receive government funding totalling £8 million.

The grant funding – from the Technology Strategy Board, the Department of Health, Ministry of Defence, Home Office, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and Medical Research Council – will be matched by funding from the UK companies involved in the projects, bringing the total value of the R&D to more than £15 million.

Iain Gray, Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board, said: “There is universal recognition of the need for new and improved diagnostic tools to help in the management of sepsis. The products that will emerge from this important research and development will help to reduce the economic burden, death and illness from sepsis and infectious diseases and create opportunities for UK companies in the huge global market for diagnostic devices.”

The 12 business-led R&D projects will see more than 20 UK companies working collaboratively with more than 12 universities, research organisations and NHS Foundation Trusts. The funding awards follow successful applications by the consortia to two competitions managed by the Technology Strategy Board.

The Multi-pathogen detection and/or simple discrimination competition sought proposals for projects to develop point-of-care diagnostic tools to assist clinicians and health workers in the management of sepsis, while the Advancing biomarker use in sepsis competition looked for R&D projects that would advance the effective use of biomarkers in the management of the condition.

The projects will be led by BD Biosciences (Oxford) (2 projects), BioGene (Kimbolton, Cambs), HPA Microbiological Services Porton (Salisbury), Innovate UK Ltd (Birmingham), Magna Parva (Leicester), MAST Group Ltd (Bootle), MicroLab Devices Ltd (Leeds), Mologic Ltd (Sharnbrook, Beds), Random Laboratories Ltd (Crumlin, Co Antrim), Sepsis Ltd (Liverpool) and Smiths Detection Watford Ltd (Watford). Taking into account the other organisations that make up the twelve consortia, companies and experts from every part of the UK will take part in the research and development activity.

The projects include work that will lead to the development of:

• Point-of-care devices to detect multiple pathogens and antibiotic resistance profiles
• A rapid test (less than three minutes) to detect the presence of bacteria in blood
• Devices capable of detecting pathogens and the host response in a single system in less than 15 minutes
• Biomarker based cellular assays to predict stages of infection and sepsis
• Tests incorporating physical and biological measurements that can be used in multiple settings to detect the early signs of infection and sepsis.

The Technology Strategy Board used the Multi-pathogen detection and/or simple discrimination competition to pilot a planned initiative called Design Option, which aims to help businesses think more about design at the start of their research and development project. Through the Design Option initiative, applicants to this competition were offered free access to design mentors while they were in the early stages of developing their project proposals. Five requests for Design Option assistance were received and approved. Three of these were invited to submit full applications and two were ultimately successful in securing offers of grant funding.

The funding programme is part of the Technology Strategy Board-managed Detection and Identification of Infectious Agents (DIIA) Innovation Platform, which is managing a range of government investment in innovative research and development into diagnostic tests and devices that will help to cut the number of deaths and cases of illness caused by infectious agents in humans and animals, while reducing the economic burden.

Celebrate with the AOG

Come and celebrate the AOG’s 30th anniversary this summer, at the Haberdasher’s Aske’s Girls School in Herts. Enjoy the sun with superb Indian cuisine, wine, beer, soft drinks and plenty of entertainment for the kids including a bouncy castle and an interactive animal zoo!

The event will take place on 8th July 2012 and tickets are available online. Non-AOG members can purchase tickets from the website for £55 an adult and £5 for under-16s, while the special members’ rates are £3 per adult and £1 for under-16s.

The AOG began as a source of social networking for dental professionals, and over the years has become a place for people of all ages to come together and give back to those within dentistry. Open to everyone, the AOG organises events, educational support and charitable trips with the aim of working ‘towards the greater good’.

Help us celebrate our 30 years of success, and enjoy great company and fun for all the family at our BBQ this summer.

For further details on forthcoming trips and events, or to join, visit www.aoguk.org