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 salivary 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.

Atraumatic extractions

Dr. Simon Jones provides a guide

Fact or fiction?
Dr. Kanaan discusses the Inman Aligner

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.

The consultation will seek views on whether tobacco packaging should remain unchanged, plain packaging should be adopted, a different option should be considered.

Respondents will also be asked to consider what the specific impact of standardised packaging could be, including whether it could reduce the appeal of tobacco products, increase the effectiveness of health warnings, impact on the tobacco industry and retailers or encourage consumers to buy tobacco products abroad for their own consumption.

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

Non-smokers and smokers alike are exclaiming that policies such as this are “incredibly patronising” and some non-smokers are even suggesting that it shows a complete lack of understanding about addictions.

Whilst some people believe that it 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 raising is how the “plain packet policy” will be “an open invitation” for smugglers and counterfeiters to produce fake cigarettes with 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

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 Elynne 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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Clarification on licensing for dental surgeries

Dentists performing copyright music in their surgery do 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 equitable 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 our musical works in your premises regardless of the means of performance, for example by radio, TV, CD, MP3 or live performance, then you will need a PRS for Music licence. Under UK law a performance is regarded as taking place ‘in public’ if the audience comprises individuals outside of the composer’s domestic or home circle.

By not having, or canceling an existing PRS for Music licence, you may be liable for infringement of copyright in PRS for Music’s repertoire.

In the UK, the owners of the copyright in commercial sound recordings enjoy an exclusive right to play sound recordings in public. If you intend to continue playing such recordings in public in your workplace, we suggest that you contact PPL to discuss your requirements. www.ppluk.com

*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

18th and 19th May 2012
Millennium Gloucester Hotel & Conference Centre, London Kensington

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EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT
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 comply. 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 practices are expected to visit the Healthcare Sector.

Over the past 10 years the dental profession has introduced a curricular framework to enable members of the dental team to gain registrable qualifications and this has enabled a range of dental professionals to increase the scope of their contribution to patient care. As a result careers in the dental profession have become more prestigious and attractive to a wider range of people with a vocation to work in a caring profession.

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 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 indisputable 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 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.

Jane Armitage is a high profile multi-award winning practice manager. Over recent months she has helped numerous practice managers who are completely out of their depth with the new quality management regulations. 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 how many practices managers are educated to that level. From a quality standard should this be an issue that needs addressing.

The Campaign for Administrative Standards and Professional Education for Receptionists and Practice Managers (CASPER) has gathered high profile dental professionals who believe that qualifications for practice managers and receptionists are the next logical step in the progression of the dental profession and are urging the GDC and CQC to formalise a non-clinical curricular framework.

Jill Taylor, President of the Association of Dental Administrators and Managers (formerly the BDPMA) has added her support to this campaign with the following Statement “I agree that the dental profession needs definitive non-clinical educational and CPD standards for dental managers and administrators.”

If you would like to add your voice to ours, simply email us your name and:

“I agree that the dental profession needs definitive non-clinical educational and CPD standards for dental managers and administrators”

to: casper.campaign@gmail.com

Registration for Showcase 2012 now live!

Delegates are now able to register online for their ticket to BDTA Dental Showcase, which takes place at ExCel London from 4-6 October 2012. Registration is free and can be completed easily online at www.dentalshowcase.com and you will instantly receive your e-ticket.

Dental Showcase is the UK’s No.1 dental exhibition, with over 10,000 members of the dental team expected to visit the three-day event, and more than 550 companies exhibiting, presenting the latest products and services that the dental industry has to offer.

Each year the BDTA holds an outstanding show, which is why Dental Showcase continues to be the biggest and best exhibition in the dental calendar.

For more information, or to register for your free ticket to BDTA 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 overreacting 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 management 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 Hertford. 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 £5.50 an adult and £5 for under-16s. 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