Fake booze surge
The Local Government Ass ociation has warned that if plans to introduce a mini mum price on alcohol go ahead there could be a surge in counterfeit wine and spr i ts. The proposal is to have a 40p minimum price per alcohol unit in England and Wales; however, it’s feared if the government’s plan goes ahead then cheap fake brands could contain dan gerous chemicals such as anti-freeze. Experts from the Health Select Committee say the lever of price can change behaviour. In response to concern over whether mini mum pricing will encour age responsible drinking. The proposal is one of the many ideas in the new al cohol strategy, which has been designed to encourage re sponsible drinking and help local areas tackle alcohol related problems.

Fresh tips
Nova Southeastern University (NSU) fourth-year Dental Medicine student Deborah Luis has created and patented a sin gle use, on-the-go miniature toothbrush and breath freshener. The idea for the new product, which is called Fresh-Tips, was devised after Deborah saw a lack with rubber extensions. Fresh-Tips has soft rubber bristles that clean the user’s teeth, gums and tongue and contains anti-cavity xylitol to freshen breath. It has also been described as “dis creet”, with the toothpick end resembling a lollipop. Luis entered the product in Wal-Mart’s “Get on the Shelf” contest. For more information, please visit www. freshtips.com.

A double take
Dental Protection (DPL) continues its long history of providing innovative educational material with the pub lication of Annual Review 2012. Called “Double Take”, this year’s publication is in spired by the approach taken in the successful British film “Sliding Doors” (1998) by providing the reader with two different visions of how the same scenario might unfold. Hind sight is a wonderful thing and most professionals have experienced something in their car eer which could easily have turned out very differently, if only they had been able to anticipate the likely conse quences of some seemingly insignificant decision or external event.

Out of the frying pan...

F ollowing recent events surrounding the ‘merger’ of CODE and DPA, a new twist in the association’s future development has oc curred. According to state ments released by CODE and the DPA, the proposed CODE DPA ‘merger’ has been can celled.

In a statement released by CODE, the ‘rescue plan’, which had been offered by GDPA Ltd with CODE’s support as a long term solution for the financial stability of DPA, has been turned down by DPA members: “The members decided to keep the DPA as a mutual, primarily because in their opinion CODE wasn’t political enough.”

Paul Mendlesohn, CODE CE said: “I found the concept of successfully developing a sister association, as I have done with CODE, very exciting. I am not politically in clined myself, but it would have been fascinating to build a new political team that could continue to make an impact in dentistry, and to be the alter na tive choice for dental professionals.”

Following the wishes of DPA members the DPA Coun cil cancelled the Association Management Agreement (AMA) and further withdrew the Transfer Agreement, two days before the Special Gen eral Meeting in April.

Although the AMA had been cancelled, acting Chairman Reginald Short went ahead with the Special General Meet ing that had previously been arranged to discuss the CODE transfer. In a DPA statement, Mr Short explained that this was: “to enable members to air their views and the Council to explain their decisions.”

During the meeting mem bers accepted that despite the draft figures showing losses in 2011 and the current balance sheet deficit, “they still wanted the association to continue to be independent”.

In an email to members, Mr Short stated: “Members have indicated in a survey and by other means that they would not approve the rescue pro posal from GDPA Ltd and that they would like the Association Management Agreement (AMA) to be cancelled. As we are rep resenting members’ wishes I have arranged to cancel the AMA, but this still leaves us in the situation that we need a way to rescue the DPA. One expression of interest from a new party has already been received, and I look forward to receiving more.”

Dental Tribune spoke to Mr Short shortly after the an nouncement. He added: “The position in relation to the transfer of DPA to CODE is that, as of today, the association management agreement is terminated and a new manage ment arrangement is cur rently being discussed.”

Speaking on the recent de velopment, Mr Mendlesohn said: “I accept the DPA mem bers’ choice, and whilst I have enjoyed the challenges of run ning the DPA for eight weeks under the management agree ment, it is the members’ wishes that come first. My personal wish is to see the DPA thrive in the coming years and watch its story unfold.”

The DPA Council has invit ed alternative rescue bids and one has already been received. The deadline for this is the 14th June. A new date for the AGM has also been arranged, and will be held July 7th. Inter ested parties should send their proposals to Reg Short by email before the 14th June. Members will be able to vote on their chosen rescue solu tion at the AGM.

GDPA Ltd will respect the wishes of members and not make a new rescue offer.

For further information or to send a DPA rescue proposal email: rwj.short@virgin.net.

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Implant Tribune

Clinical
Vitality Show visitors tell DCS their views on dental professionals

A snapshot survey carried out by the Dental Complaints Service (DCS) at the Vitality Show in London has revealed insights into the way patients view their dental professionals.

Staff from the Service, which helps resolve complaints about private treatment, were at the show to remind patients that the first step if a problem arises is to talk to their dental professional.

Nearly 500 people took part in the short survey over the four days of the show and of that number there was a fairly even split between NHS (49.8 per cent) and private dental patients (40.8 per cent).

Although just under a quarter (25.5 per cent) of the survey’s respondents said they had had problems with their dental treatment, DCS staff were encouraged that the vast majority (84 per cent) said they would feel confident asking their dentist about their treatment.

Head of the DCS, Hazel Adams said: “Good communication between patients and professionals can make problems arise. We always advise patients to speak to their dental professional first to try and resolve any concerns, before seeking our help. I was pleased to see that of the people that took part in our survey, 77.5 per cent said they would feel confident enough to speak to their dentists if they had a problem with their treatment.”

The DCS has a leaflet ‘Making a complaint about private dental treatment – a guide to help people through the complaints process’ and can be ordered online at www.gdc-uk.org

There are four key principles to the work of the DCS, which is funded by the General Dental Council:
- The service is free
- It is independent of the NHS
- It will treat people fairly, whatever their background or circumstances
- It does not take sides

For more details about the service and what it can help with log on to the website www.dentalcomplaints.org.uk

Study warns of killer bugs

In the past studies have highlighted how thin layers of bacteria can cover the surface of dentures, making them potentially harmful. However, a team of scientists have suggested that by putting false teeth in a microwave oven for three minutes can in make them safe.

The research was carried out by a team of scientists from Brazil, who also identified that by soaking dentures in a germicidal mouthwash solution of two per cent chlorhexidine gluconate for 10 minutes could also make them safe.

According to the study led by Karen Tereza Alitiri, a dentist at the Araquara Dental School at the Universidade Estadual Paulista in Sao Paulo, either method is “sufficient to disinfect dentures coated with the toughest MRSA biofilms for up to a week.”

“To our knowledge, we are the first investigators to report the effectiveness of this method in killing MRSA,” she said in a report.

Scientists have suggested that simply leaving dentures in a glass overnight may not be enough to keep them clean.

MRSA, full name Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, is a bacteria resistant to some antibiotics and according to scientists usually found on false teeth, scientists said.

According to reports, the new method of cleaning has already been adopted by experts in the US.

The study has been published in the Journal of the American Dental Association.

Dentists’ confidence dips in Lloyds TSB commercial healthcare confidence index

Business confidence among both NHS and private practice dentists has taken a downward turn as they prepare for the prospects of a new NHS contract and continued economic uncertainties, according to new research.

The latest twice-yearly Lloyds TSB Commercial Healthcare Confidence Index shows that the short term confidence of dentists has fallen 20 points, since the first survey in October 2011.

Once again, the outlook of GPs was the least positive of the three primary health care providers researched, followed by pharmacists and then dentists, whose previously positive score suffered the biggest fall in confidence.

The findings are based on a combined ‘Confidence Index’ drawn from responses to a number of questions, canvassing primary healthcare providers opinions on overall business confidence and outlook for the future profitability of their businesses.

Where any figure greater than zero represents a positive outlook, figures below indicate a negative one (the maximum value achievable is plus 100), GPs registered minus 62, an overall shift of minus 1 to an even less confident position.

This compared to minus 42 for pharmacists - an eight point uplift - and a 12 point fall of minus 58 for dentists, indicating that GPs are still by far the most uncertain of the likely impact of forthcoming NHS reforms, while pharmacists are the only group heading towards a more positive outlook.

Dentists’ collective long term confidence (looking ahead over the next five years) fell three points to minus 67 since the last survey.

Dentists were split on whether NHS practices would remain the most profitable with 26 per cent saying they would, 55 per cent saying not and 41 per cent unsure. A surprising 47 per cent of those undertaking NHS work said they had experienced some ‘claw back’ in the last year and over half (53 per cent) expressed doubt that the new contract will be adequately funded. Only 29 per cent of those undertaking NHS work said they had a positive outlook about the short term future of the profession.

“The Health & Social Bill may now have passed but the debate has clearly unsettled NHS dentists who are facing their own contract changes in 2014 and private dentists are still feeling the impact of the economic downturn.”

Ian Crompton, head of healthcare banking services for Lloyds TSB Commercial, said: “Pharmacist confidence has improved to a degree, GPs have maintained the most uncertain but dentists really seem to have lost confidence since our first survey in October 2011.

‘Back then, they stood out as the only group among their healthcare peers who had any positivity about the short term future of the profession.

“More than 50 per cent of private dentists who responded to the survey admitted that they may be encouraged to take on NHS work, having had an increasing number of requests from their private patients. Despite this, when asked outright if they would take on NHS work, 69 per cent said that they would not.”
Editorial comment

Last week saw this year’s BDA conference and Exhibition occur in Manchester. From a networking perspective, it was a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues across the profession and catch up with the latest happenings in dentistry; in addition to some great speakers. My favourite lecture was the presentation entitled Fighting the Tide of Communicable Disease and Avoiding Infection – Experiences from the Cruise Industry by Medical Director for Carnival UK (Cunard and P&O) Kate Bunyan. Anyone who was there I’m sure will never forget the thought of people counting how many toilet rolls are used in cabins to keep an eye out for spikes in usage!

One ‘highlight’ was the speech by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality (Department of Health) Earl Howe, outlining the changes in dentistry and what is to come over the next few years. He discussed many issues surrounding piloting and the analysis of the first tranche of data from the pilots as well as the commitment to reducing the inequalities in child oral health across the country. It was very much the kind of thing we have heard before, but I’ll tell you what he was a lot easier to listen to than Mr Lansley!!

Small change = big change

Just knowing that 70 per cent of the world’s population has no access to the simplest of relief from oral pain; leaving millions of people to suffer daily from preventable pain; leaves many of us feeling we want to do something about it – but what? How can we make a difference to such a terrifying statistic?

Bridge2Aid believe that together everyone can make a difference – just £1 at a time. They are asking practices to offer their patients a chance to add £1 to their bill. For every £120 you raise, you will have given access to emergency dental care to a whole village – allowing people to live pain-free, and, for many, giving them the chance to return to work to support their families. As the money will be put towards training local East African health workers, you know that your fundraising is making a long-term difference, and is not just a quick-fix.

Bridge2Aid will send you all of the information you need to get started, and the posters and reception information stand that will help you tell your patients what you are doing. These should be enough to get your patients on board, without the need for your receptionists to take time out of their busy day to explain the scheme.

It really is as easy as that. Your practice will get the opportunity to make a sustainable difference to thousands of people, and your patients will see that as a team you have decided to support such a great cause – bringing you real business benefits.

For more information visit www.bridge2aid.org/2012
Expert calls for tax on unhealthy foods

D irector of the University of Oxford’s health promotion research group, Dr Mike Rayner, is urging the government to introduce a tax on unhealthy foods and drinks to encourage people to eat more healthily.

Dr Rayner believes that a “fat tax” (as it has been referred to), could help tackle obesity and help raise funds. He told the BBC that obesity costs the UK’s health service billions of pounds every year and that a 12p tax on soft drinks could prevent several thousand deaths each year.

“There’s evidence to show that manipulating food prices can encourage healthy eating. So why are we so reluctant to change the way we tax food?” Dr Rayner was quoted in one report. “I don’t care whether it’s hot or cold, whether you got it from a take-away or a shop - I’d like us to tax all unhealthy foodstuff, like crisps and biscuits. And in doing so we can tackle a problem that will only keep expanding.”

A film produced by Dr Rayner was shown to MPs Steve Webb and Angela Eagle to see what their thoughts were on the subject.

According to a report, Mr Webb said that the idea of a tax was “worth looking at”, while Ms Eagle claimed that although tax could have a role in tackling obesity, it was not the only answer. It was important to cut down on people’s consumption of unhealthy foods.

Parents are biggest providers of alcohol to kids, reveals Drinkaware

C hildren as young as 10 say their parents are who they turn to first for advice about alcohol, and the most common source of alcohol itself, according to new research published by alcohol education charity Drinkaware. Unique research, which polled parents (who were social grades ABCD) of 10-17 year olds and their children, highlights that 72 per cent of the 10-17 year olds questioned say their parents are the first people they would approach with questions about alcohol, while half (50 per cent) of those who have had a drink report it was their parents who supplied them with the alcohol the last time they drank.

The publication of these findings coincides with the launch of Drinkaware’s new ‘Mumtank’ - a team of mums with expertise ranging from health and child psychology, to education and parenting. The Mumtank will provide parents with practical advice on how to tackle the thorny issues around kids and alcohol. Members include Mumnet co-founder Carrie Longton, TV’s Dr Sarah Jarvis and Superdrug co-founder Carrie Longton, TV’s Dr Sarah Jarvis and Superdrug co-founder Carrie Longton.

The research also shows that while 85 per cent of parents agree it is important to talk to their kids about alcohol, a third (52 per cent) admit that there are many things they do not know about the effects of alcohol on children. Many parents allow their children to drink from an early age - with data showing that three quarters of the 10-17 year olds who had drunk alcohol, the average age at which parents first allowed their child to have a drink was 11.8 years old. Of the 10-17 year olds polled who had drunk an alcoholic drink, the majority (55 per cent) had been with their parents the last time they drank alcohol.

Additional findings from the research include:

• 45 per cent of parents worry that their child’s friends have a greater influence on their child’s drinking behaviour than they do
• More than two thirds (67 per cent) of 10-17 year olds say they have never felt encouraged to drink alcohol
• More than two thirds (67 per cent) of 10-17 year olds say they agree it is important to talk to their children about alcohol

Based on the outcomes of this new research, and drawing on their collective expertise and experience, this summer the Mumtank will produce a practical and thought-provoking set of resources for parents, which will seek to involve them in the debate and offer advice and guidance on children and alcohol.

This resource will form the centrepiece of Drinkaware’s parenting campaign this year, which offers advice and tips to parents on how and when to talk to their children about alcohol, in an appropriate way, between the ages of 8 -17.

Chris Sorek, Chief Executive of Drinkaware, said: “These findings will help to reassure parents that their children are more likely to go to them for advice about alcohol than their peers. So it’s really important that they have the right advice, information and support to talk to their kids. Evidence shows that the earlier children start drinking, the more likely they are to drink more and more frequently as they grow up.

* When asked about the last time they were drinking, 30 per cent of 10-17 year olds who had had a drink say their parents gave them the alcohol.

Outstanding achievement award for BADN Chief Exec

BADN is proud to announce that the Dental Awards 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Chief Executive Pam Swain at the black tie Dental Awards dinner held at the Lancaster London Hotel in May 2012, hosted by comedian Mitch Benn.

The Dental Awards, now in its 14th year, is organised by Purple Media Solutions Ltd and is sponsored by The Dental Web, Dentistry Software of Excellence, Waterpik, Wrigley, Beverley Hills Formula and Practice Plan. Each of the winners of the 18 awards received a beautiful, specially designed glass trophy.

Pam was born in Fleetwood in 1958 and later attended Fleetwood Grammar School and Blackpool & Fylde College. In 1976 she spent one year in Vienna, as an au pair and part time student at Vienna University studying “Deutsch fur Auslander”. She worked briefly for the Home Office Research Unit in London and moved to Brussels in 1979, working for CPE Europe Ltd and at Hilton International’s European Office, in Personnel and then in Marketing. From 1981 to 1987 she worked at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, both for the International Staff in the Electronic Warfare section and for the International Military Staff in the Operations Division.

In 1987 she moved to Bermuda where she worked in the Investment Department of the Bank of Bermuda, completing three quarters of the American Institute of Banking exams and evening courses in investment banking, effectiveness training and small business management. In 1990 she took a year’s sabbatical in the US, training as a holistic therapist at the Massage Institute of New England in Boston, and obtaining the American Massage Therapy Association’s qualification. Upon her return to the UK in 1991, Pam ran her own part time therapy business until her Association workload made that no longer possible.

More recently, she obtained a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) from the Open University and a Licentiateship in Management from City & Guilds (LGI). She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Association Management (IAM) and a Member of the Chartered Management Institute (MCMI).

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As well as Chief Executive of BADN, Pam is Editor of the ‘British Dental Nurses’ Journal’ and was Registrar of the Voluntary National Register until it closed in 2009. She has worked for the Association for 20 years this summer and has been instrumental in both raising the profile of dental nurses and the Association and in obtaining professional status for dental nurses and recognition of their vital role in the dental team. Pam became President of Blackpool & District Soroptimists in April 2012.

“I am delighted and extremely honoured to receive the Outstanding Achievement award” said Pam. “It has become something of a cliché, at times like this, to accept an award on behalf of a team - but BADN is very much a team. Not just the head office staff, or Council, but also the dental nurses throughout the country who support their profession through BADN membership.

Twenty years ago, when I started working for ABDSA (as the Association was then called), dental surgery assistants were very much the Cinderellas of the dental team; today, dental nurses are registered dental professionals and their vital role in the delivery of dental care is widely recognised. We may still have some way to go, but we’ve come a long way in the last 20 years and I’m looking forward to the next 20!”
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CWRU researchers find joint failures potentially linked to oral bacteria

Dr Nabil Bissada, chair of the Department of Periodontics at the dental school, said the objective of the study, "Identification of Oral Bacterial DNA in Synovial Fluid of Patients with Arthritis with Native and Failed Prosthetic Joints" was to see if the bacteria were present in joint replacements. The pilot study’s findings were reported in the January issue of the Journal of Clinical Rheumatology. These study participants had both natural and artificial joints. Researchers extracted samples of their synovial fluid, which is much like oil that keeps a door from squeaking. These patients also had signs of periodontitis or gum disease and underwent exams where dental plaque was obtained for the study. Plaque build-up from the bacteria, associated with gum disease, breaks down the walls of the pockets around the teeth. The inflammation process from the bacteria acts like a gate that gives bacteria access to the blood stream. Once in the blood, the oral bacteria have induced inflammation in remote sites where the bacteria has been linked to heart, kidney and cancer diseases and premature births and fetal deaths.

"Because these bacteria cannot be found with routine laboratory tests, detection of bacteria in the plaque and fluid was done through a process called polymerase chain reactions and DNA sequence analysis of specific genes (16S-23S rRNA). This is a sophisticated DNA tracking procedure."

Five of the 36 patients (14 per cent) showed direct DNA links between the bacteria in the fluid and plaque from the mouth. The breakdown in patients was: one from a rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patient with a failed natural joint and one RA patient with a failed replacement joint; two osteoarthritis (OA) patients with failed artificial joints and one OA patient with a failed natural joint.

"This study is one of many that demonstrates the need to invest appropriately in the health of the population to prevent these devastating diseases," Professor Bissada said. "We now need to pursue similar studies in other groups and develop diagnostic tests, as the ability to detect these bacteria will be crucial as we attempt to prevent these infections from spreading to the joints.”

BDA welcomes funding reminder in Wales

The British Dental Association (BDA) has welcomed a reminder from the Welsh Government to Local Health Boards (LHBs) that funding allocated for dentistry must not be diverted to fund any other type of healthcare.

"The letter’s confirmation that many LHBs are not maintaining improvements to dental services and that access for patients remains problematic in some areas. Members are appalled at the lack of investment in GDS services in deprived areas and the responsibility LHBs hold providing or securing services for society’s most vulnerable groups. Stuart Geddes, BDA Director for Wales, said: “We welcome the Minister’s clear statement that dental budgets must be maintained. The letter notes the lack of investment in GDS services in deprived areas and the responsibility LHBs hold providing or securing services for society’s most vulnerable groups. We are concerned for some time that some health boards appear to be using their budgets to fund other services. The letter was clear that dental boards must invest appropriately in Community Dental Services in Wales to help with the aim of ensuring vulnerable patients have access to appropriate care. The letter notes the lack of investment in GDS services in deprived areas and the responsibility LHBs hold providing or securing services for society’s most vulnerable groups.

"In a country where some people are struggling to access dental care and we are fighting oral health inequalities, it is simply unacceptable that money intended to improve dental services should be diverted. Local boards are being reminded of their duty to invest appropriately in the care of these patients.”

The letter’s language also provides a timely reminder to the Boards of the need to invest appropriately in Community Dental Services. As the BDA has consistently pointed out, vulnerable patients in Wales need to be afforded some political priority to ensure that they are getting the care they need. We are delighted to see that our message has been heard and that boards are being reminded of their duty to invest appropriately in the care of these patients.”

The group will take a broad approach to tackling the issue of dementia services, with a focus on how social care services, the NHS and local government organisations can work together to effect real change. In addition to the specific actions set out in the Prime Minister's challenge, the group's approach will also include:

- Reducing the inappropriate use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia.
- Improving end of life care for people with dementia.
- Improving housing and social care accommodation - supporting innovative solutions to support people with dementia to continue to live at home.
- Promoting partnership working between primary and secondary health services and local government.
- Reducing the inappropriate use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia.

In England 670,000 people have dementia and the number of people developing the disease is increasing. One in three people will develop dementia and it costs society an estimated £19 billion a year.

Sir Ian Carruthers OBE, Chief Executive of NHS South of England, said: “It is important that the pace of improvement is accelerated and progress made towards delivering top quality services for all who require care.”

The three champion groups will report on progress to the Prime Minister, through Department of Health Ministers in September 2012 and again in March 2015.

Transforming care for people with dementia

Health and care leaders have come together to drive improvements in dementia services and deliver on key ambitions set out in the Prime Minister’s dementia challenge.

The Champion Group brings together representatives from the health sector, social care, local government and charities. They will be tasked with driving work on the ground to ensure that health and social care services get to grips with improving services for both people with dementia and their carers.

Last month the Prime Minister announced plans to make the UK a world leader on dementia. The programme aims to deliver major improvements in dementia care, dementia awareness and dementia research by 2015. Three ‘Champion Groups’ are being established to lead the work on each strand.

Actions set out for improving dementia care include increasing diagnosis, rewarding best practice, and ensuring memory services are both established and accredited, giving people with dementia access to high quality services.

The Dementia Health and Care Champion Group, co-chaired by Sarah Pickup, President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and Sir Ian Carruthers OBE, Chief Executive of NHS South of England, held its first meeting today.

"The Care Services Minister Paul Burstow said: “We are determined to go further and faster in bringing real improvements to the care and support people with dementia and their carers receive in all settings.

"Early diagnosis is key as it allows people to plan for their future, preventing the need for crisis intervention, premature admission to hospital care, and this delivers better outcomes for people with dementia, enabling them to live well.

"But we must also ensure that, once they receive a diagnosis, people have access to the right information and high quality services wherever they live.”"
Frank Holloway, (pictured), a retired army dentist based in Surrey, was installed as the 126th President of the British Dental Association (BDA). Dr Holloway, the first armed forces dentist to receive this honour since 2005, was presented with his chain of office and made his inaugural speech as BDA President at the opening of the 2012 British Dental Congress and Exhibition at the Manchester Central Convention Complex.

Dr Holloway gained his Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from Bristol University in 1969 and his Licence in Dental Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons in the same year.

After five years in general practice in the UK, he worked for the US Army in Bavaria as a civilian dentist. Three years later he joined the British Army, subsequently working in Germany, Texas, Cyprus, the Outer Hebrides and occasionally in England. Frank achieved the rank of Colonel and completed his regular army service as Commandant of the Royal Army Dental Corps, Commanding Officer of the Defence Dental Services Training Centre and Principal Dental Officer of the Home Counties region. He spent the last five years of his career treating new recruits and recently retired after 53 years in the army.

In 1986/87 he did an MSc in conservative dentistry at Eastman Dental Institute London, after which he taught and ran a referral service for six years. He was then selected for command posts but maintained his clinical involvement and started a long association of activities with the BDA. Frank has been a member of the BDA’s Armed Forces Committee since 1998 and was elected its chair in 2007, a post he held to 2011.

He has represented the BDA nationally on the British Medical Association’s (BMA) Armed Forces Committee since 1998, and is also on the BMA’s Co-ordinating Group.

Dr Holloway said: “It is a great honour to become President of the BDA and I look forward to serving my fellow professionals in this capacity.

“I look forward to bringing an ambassador for the profession, both in the UK and abroad, during my term of office.”

Married to Carole, he has two daughters. Away from dentistry Frank enjoys hill walking, golfing and gardening.

Genix healthcare to give new smiles for African children

Genix Healthcare has announced that it will be donating considerable support to hundreds of African children this year. Genix is flying one of its top dentists to Durban in a bid to assess the dental hygiene situation at two schools and an orphanage. It will subsequently provide the necessary tools to allow them to begin a long term dental care programme.

As a part of its corporate social responsibility agenda Genix has partnered with Lionsraw, a UK based movement which harnesses the passion of football fans, taking them to World Cup events and European championship whilst doing charitable work during their stay.

In 2010 Lionsraw took more than 150 fans to the World Cup in South Africa and at the same time built an orphanage, sports changing rooms, a pre-school, toilet blocks with more than 50 toilets and ran football schooling for thousands of African children. Since then it has continued the legacy to maintain these facilities and provide critical help for the long term.

This week Genix Healthcare dentist Roberto Gil Marques De Suza will join Lionsraw on its latest mission to Africa. He joins a team of six people on an intensive four-day programme visiting two schools of 200 and 1100 children with an official Zulu chief opening. He will also visit a new orphanage built by Lionsraw and assess the oral care needs of 20 orphans.

During the trip Roberto intends to formulate a plan of what is needed to facilitate a long term care programme and provide items such as tooth brushes, holders and toothpaste for each child.

Jon Burns, Founder of Lionsraw, said, “This support from Genix Healthcare is truly fantastic and an essential building block in our mission to support a healthy and sustainable community. These children have no understanding about oral hygiene whatsoever and have never even seen a toothbrush. This incredible generosity from Genix Healthcare will help to address vital problems with gum disease in many children who are still growing teeth. Life threatening disease in these areas is very common and so the provision of simple items such as individual holders will help to minimise infection.”

Stan Nelson-Jones, Clinical Director at Genix Healthcare said, “Genix Healthcare is very committed to supporting the fantastic efforts of Lionsraw. It is extremely humbling to learn what these children have to endure, just to have basic schooling and even running water. Genix has a long standing commitment to support education through football so when we were approached by Lionsraw it was a very appropriate extension to our existing corporate social responsibility agenda. We look forward to learning about Roberto’s trip and how we can formulate a successful support plan for the long term.”

Unit supports doctors and dentists to retirement

The London Deanery has launched a new unit to support the professional development of doctors and dentists at all career stages and specialities working in the capital.

The Professional Support Unit, led by London Deanery Dental Services, offers an expert shared service of resources, separate from employing organisations to support the professional development of the medical and dental workforce in London.

It will support clinicians develop as professionals and individuals. It will help doctors and dentists throughout their careers, whether this is enabling to meet the challenges offered by new roles to accessing coaching and personal development planning, to support with clinical placements and return to practice schemes.

London Deanery launched the unit in response to the need for better support for clinicians throughout their careers, to enable them to realise and sustain their potential, manage their talents and maximise their contribution to quality healthcare delivery. It is hoped the unit will be able to give support to responsible officers to meet the medical revalidation challenges that are due to take place later this year.

Conversation on CPD continues

The General Dental Council (GDC) has published a discussion document as part of a big conversation on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in dentistry.

The document, which is called “Maintaining Quality and Impact of CPD in Dentistry”, sets out some key issues being considered as part of the on-going CPD review by the GDC.

These include the potential to:

• introduce a learning outcomes element to future CPD requirements
• embed personal development planning into a future scheme
• introduce mandatory CPD declarations every year

The document was launched at the recent (17 April 2012) National Conference on CPD hosted by the GDC and attended by more than 80 dental stakeholder representatives. The event was addressed by almost 20 key players in the world of dentistry and CPD, including the Chief Dental Officers for England and Northern Ireland and representatives from various Postgraduate Dental Deanseries and professional associations.

Registrants and other key stakeholders are invited to enter into the conversation on the future of CPD through discussing the issues contained in the document with their teams, peers and colleagues.

These views can then be shared with the GDC via its dedicated CPD Review email inbox CPDReview@gdc-uk.org

The document is for discussion purposes only and does not necessarily represent GDC policy.

The GDC’s current CPD requirements can be found on the website www.gdc-uk.org

The GDC has published a discussion document regarding CPD