Smoking ban to be revised

A recent report has stated that three MPs have joined forces with campaigners to call for the smoking ban in UK pubs and clubs to be relaxed. The ban on smoking came into effect in 2007 to protect pub staff and non-smokers and according to Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that

Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter spoke out against any relaxation of the ban, saying: “The repercussions of a relaxation of the smoking ban would clearly have a detrimental effect on oral health and increase the risk of oral cancer.”

“After some intensive questioning by the House of Commons Health Select Committee, Conservative MP David Tredinnick (Bosworth) reminded the British Dental Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that Conservative MP David Tredinnick, the registration of dental practitioners had been “sham-tal Association’s view that that

Other supporters of the campaign include the think tanks Progressive Vision and the Adam Smith Institute, and the campaign group Forest, which fights for greater freedom for smokers.

Supporters of the campaign include the think tanks Progressive Vision and the Adam Smith Institute, and the campaign group Forest, which fights for greater freedom for smokers.

Continuing with the smoking debate, Alex Cunningham, MP for Stockton North, recently proposed a smoking ban in private vehicles when there are children present.

According to one report, Stockton North ranks fifteenth in the UK according to British Lung Foundation research, meaning the children in Mr Cunningham’s constituency are at high risk from the dangers of passive smoking.

Mr Cunningham should be applauded for his concern on this serious health issue confronting children in Britain today. A study by Aberdeen University showed that smoking in a car exposes children to levels of smoke comparable to levels in a smoke filled pub, meaning that children can be exposed to seriously dangerous concentrations of passive smoke.

Antimicrobial surgical masks gain clearance

According to a recent report, Filigent has received US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) marketing clearance for the BioFriend BioMask for sale in the US as a class II medical device.

The surgical facemask is both antimicrobial and antiviral and incorporates a hydrophilic plastic band along with an antimicrobial inner layer; according to the company the coating and inner layer does not restrict air-flow and is totally safe.

The white outer white shield is reportedly formulated from a mixture of food additives and the inner blue layer uses ingredients for biomedical use that are supported by the FDA.

The masks are reportedly effective against 18 strains of human, avian, and animal influenza. Filigent noted how they are also effective against tuberculosis, resistent Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and other dangerous diseases.

Masks are currently used for any dental procedure by members of the dental team.
Grant awarded for first oral bacteria database

A team of researchers at King’s College London and the Forsyth Institute have been awarded a large grant by the US National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) to continue their work on compiling the first comprehensive list of oral bacterial species. The Human Oral Microbiome Database provides descriptions of each species together with tools for analysis of their DNA.

Most bacteria living in the mouth are thought to be important for maintaining the health of teeth and gums, as well as for general human health. A smaller number are potentially disease causing. The database helps scientists studying the role of specific bacteria in human health and disease, and paves the way to constructing similar databases for other body sites such as the skin and the large intestine.

The NIDCR grant will enable the researchers to continue cataloging the Human Oral Microbiome and describing the 1,000 different bacterial species found in the human mouth. The information is available on the Human Oral Microbiome Database website (www.homd.org) and has been a valuable resource for the dental and medical research communities since 2008.

William Wade, Professor of Oral Microbiology at King's College London, comments: "The new work will focus on extending the database to include newly described oral bacteria, many of which are being discovered at King's and the Forsyth Institute."

In addition, new methods developed at King's to cultivate bacteria that have not been grown in the laboratory before will be used to obtain cultures of these organisms to deposit in culture collections for the benefit of other researchers. DNA purified from these cultures will be submitted to the National Institutes of Health Human Microbiome Project for genome sequencing.

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Queen’s dentistry school could lose teaching status

It has been revealed that Queen’s University in Belfast, is currently being inquired regarding concerns about the level of resources and teaching. The university, which is the only dental school in Northern Island, has not only found itself at risk of losing its teaching accreditation which it requires from the GDC, but also having to make £11m in efficiency savings and absorb 200 job losses.

The Belfast Telegraph revealed the GDC’s chief executive and registrar, Elywine Gilvary, wrote to the vice chancellor at Queen’s following concerns about the level of resources being dedicated to teaching dentistry. The letter was followed with an inspection and the report is due to be published.

Just three years ago Queen’s University was named as having the top dental course in the UK by the Times Good University Guide. At the time, Professor Paddy Johnston, Dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry at Queen’s, was quoted as saying: “This is a wonderful achievement by my dental colleagues, especially as we drove towards the development of an international research-led dental school in the next few years.”

One report stated how Jim Wells, deputy chair of the Stormont health committee, was disappointed to learn about the inspection, and was quoted saying: “We don’t know what the findings of the inspection will be but it is extremely worrying that professionals felt the need to raise concerns in the first place.”

“This is a blow for the university and hopefully will not result in the closure of the dental school, which would be an absolute disaster.”

A spokesperson from Queen’s said: “We can confirm that the GDC undertook an inspection as is normal every four or five years. We are awaiting the report.”

However, a GDC spokes- woman said: “From time to time the GDC is contacted by dental professionals who are concerned about the level of resources usual for the GDC to the university or education provider in question for further information and a response.”

“The GDC’s chief executive and registrar, Elywine Gilvary, has written to the vice chancellor at Queen’s University Belfast following concerns about the level of resources being dedicated to teaching dentistry. An inspection was carried out earlier this month and a report from the inspectors will be available in due course.”

Could vitamin D lower susceptibility to gum disease

Recent research in the United States has revealed that vitamin D could lower susceptibility to gum disease and other oral infections.

The research – instigated by Gill Diamond, of the New Jersey Dental School in Newark – shows that Vitamin D can help prevent gingivitis, which affects more than a quarter of adults.

Diamond’s earlier research has shown that Vitamin D – absorbed by the body through exposure to sunlight and foods such as fish and egg – stimulates lung cells to produce natural antibiotics that kill bacteria. The immune diseases, as well as tar- geting infections and gingivitis.

A recent study has highlighted that specific genes – previously thought not be in part of the Vitamin D pathway – are now also likely to play a vital role in fighting infections and killing bacteria. This discovery is likely to lead to new Vitamin D treat- ments, which will help those suffer- ing from gingivitis and other medical illnesses, possibly cyc- lic ly.

The study has also suggested that cells within the body – such as lung cells and the epithelial cells in the gums – can activate in- active forms of Vitamin D. Upon discovering this, Diamond stated “this means that we may even be able to use vitamin D ther- apy today, if that proves true.”

The Food and Nutrition Board in the United States has established guidelines, recom- mending that children and adults need 700 International Units (IU) of Vitamin D, with the elderly recommended a high 800 IU. However, other experts have recommended a much high in- take is needed, with 5,000 IU be- ing recommended for adults and teenagers. Those with health issues may be recommended a high Vitamin D intake.

Vitamin D has been a research area of interest recently; recent studies suggest that Vitamin D can could also help protect us some forms of cancer and atu- immune diseases, as well as tar- geting infections and gingivitis.

First graduates to help fill North West dental gap

It’s smiles all round for the first 50 dental students who have completed their studies at the University of Central Lancashire’s (UCLan) £5.25million School of Den- tistry.

During their training the students have seen over 5,000 patients, undertaken nearly 9,500 fillings and provid- ing treatment ranging from preventative advice up to quite advanced procedures. The stu- dents are the first to complete their course in an entirely new model of dental education based on training in community.

UCLan’s School of Dentist- ry came about as a result of a close cooperation between the University and the NHS who were keen to support the train- ing of dentists in the local area. Not only would the stu- dents provide dental treatment during their training; but it was envisaged that many of them would stay and work in the locality after qualification.

21 of the 50 graduates have secured their mandatory train- ing places in the North West and hope to remain in the re- gion to enhance local NHS den- tal services. When it opened its doors in September 2007, it was one of two new schools to be created in England for over 100 years.

To help mark their achieve- ments the graduates were joined recently by Barry Cock- croft, Chief Dental Officer from the Department of Health, at a celebration dinner, held at UCLan’s Westleigh Conference Centre.

Professor Lawrence Mair, Head of the School of Dentistry at UCLan, said the University’s reputation has been a huge success: “Clinical expe- rience has been at the root of our approach because dentis- try is a skill and skills develop- through practice.

We have, of course, also provided an excellent aca- demic foundation for our stu- dents and I’m very grateful to all the teachers, specialists and consultants who have helped established the school. We are all very grateful to all our dental- nurses, receptionists and technicans who have support- ed the students through what can sometimes be a challeng- ing experience.”

Shreena Mistry, 24, trained at the Morecambe DEC working in Ormskirk said: “I feel ecstatic to have graduated from the course. I wanted a profession that was practical, science based and gave me the opportunity to interact with people.

The course has been ideal preparation, we were drill- ing on practice teeth from the first day and advising patients from the end of year one. In fact our lab equipment is state-of- the-art and the student/staff ratio is excellent.

In the future I plan to continue my studies and may look for a postgraduate course in implants or root canal treatment.”

Artificial nose could smell out cancer

Scientists at the Israel In- stitute of Technology have created an artificial nose that could hold the key in detecting head-and-neck can- cer (HNC).

The artificial nose, which was built by Professor Hossam Haick and his team, can detect molecules in human breath that are present in the breath of people with head, neck or lung cancer.

Although NA-NOSE produced remarkable results, the device is capable of de- tecting patterns of molecules that are found in the breath of people with head, neck or lung cancer.

The study was published in the American Society for Micro- biology. The study is available here.

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Convenience
The majority of the learning resources on this programme will be online. The masters will combine interactive distance learning, webinars, live learning and print.

Ownership
The programme is designed to encourage the student to take responsibility for his/her own learning. The emphasis is on a self-directed learning approach.

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Students will be able to communicate with a diverse multi-ethnic global community of peers, with who they will also share residential get-togethers in fantastic settings around the world.

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Lingual Accreditation launch by BLOS

A n accreditation scheme has been launched by the British Lingual Orthodontic Society (BLOS), as a demonstration of an orthodontist’s skill and ability and their commitment to specialist post-graduate education. BLOS members can now apply to become BLOS accredited.

The UK is one of the countries where lingual practice is most advanced and the aim of BLOS and its dedicated members is to achieve equivalence with other leading linguistic organisations. Both the World and European Societies of Lingual Orthodontics already run accreditation schemes. The standard of BLOS accreditation is designed to be as high, in order to celebrate the achievements of its members.

In order to apply for accreditation, the orthodontist must be a member of BLOS. Three cases are required for the examination, with a treatment need of IOTN 4 or 5. At least one must be an extraction case, to demonstrate complex, sliding mechanics and arch-form control. Cases will be submitted electronically using atemplate designed in conjunction with the European and World Lingual Orthodontic Societies.

There will be two independent judges and a Chief Examiner, all internationally recognised lingual orthodontists. The examination documents and models will be presented for viewing at the BLOS annual meeting. The deadline for application is October 14th 2011 and cases will be on display at the BLOS study group meeting on November 5th. The Chief Examiner for 2011 will be Dr Dirk Wiechmann.

Several orthodontists have already expressed an interest in applying for accredited status. Paul Ward, BLOS chairman, said: “We are designing the accreditation process so that it is an achievable and worthy challenge; a clear demonstration of the clinician’s commitment to excellence in lingual orthodontics.

The case submission templates have been designed in conjunction with the other International Societies of Lingual Orthodontics and the examination standards are of an equally high level to ensure parity between the groups.”

Small increase in clinical academic staffing numbers

Data published by the Dental Schools Council revealed a 4 per cent increase in the number of clinical professors, senior lecturers and lecturers in dentistry during the 2009-10 academic year, to a total of 590 Full Time Equivalents (FTE), and a 20 per cent increase in the number of senior clinical teachers and clinical teachers to a total of 155 FTE.

Whilst dental schools are positive about the increase in total number of clinical academic staff for the fourth consecutive year, the number of research-active clinical academic dentists (Professors, Senior Lecturers, Readers and Lecturers) remain 28 per cent lower than in 2000. Since 2005, with the smallest number of dental clinical academics (455 FTE) in the decade, there has been a 25 per cent expansion in student numbers and the creation of three new dental schools (Peninsula, Aberdeen, UCLan); the number of clinical academics has increased by 21 per cent in this time, but the number of research-active clinical academic dentists has shrunk by a further 10 per cent (590 FTE).

The recent survey of Oral Health in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Health & Social Care Information Centre 2011) highlighted the importance of oral health to the health of the population. Although oral health has improved overall, dental care is becoming much more complex as older populations retain teeth, whilst severe periodontal (gum) disease has increased slightly in the last decade. Dental schools and the dental clinical academic staff therein are responsible for training and preparing future generations of dentists to provide care in this changing and increasingly complicated world. They are also responsible for most of the research, innovation and technological development that will help improve health and reduce costs in the long term.

The survey can be accessed online at www.dentalschools.council.ac.uk/clinical_academic_staffing_survey.htm.

Three hours of verifiable CPD in the official Showcase Show Guide

Following the success of the initiative since 2009, members of the dental team will be able to gain verifiable CPD hours for reading the Show Guide which accompanies BDTA Dental Showcase.

There will be a total of five articles featuring in a special CPD section of the Guide covering clinical and business topics.

This initiative is exclusive to Showcase visitors, only those who attend the event will be able to participate. Dentists and DCPs will be able to claim a maximum of three hours of verifiable CPD by reading the articles and answering a series of multiple choice questions on three out of the five articles of their choice.

The answers will need to be submitted online after the event.

Achieving a 50 per cent pass mark provides three hours of Verifiable CPD. Reserve your complimentary ticket now!

BDTA Dental Showcase 2011 takes place between 20-22 October 2011 at the NEC, Birmingham. To secure your free of charge entry to the show, register for your ticket at www.dentalshowcase.com, call the registration hotline on +44 (0) 1494 729595 or text your name, address, occupation and GDC number to 07786 206 276. Advance registration closes on 17 October 2011. On-the-day registration: £10 per person.
Oral diseases may be reclassified

Oral diseases may be reclassified into the list of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) after the FDI World Dental Federation called for the change within the United Nations and World Health Organisation (WHO).

During a hearing at the UN headquarters in New York in June this year, Jean-Luc Eiselé, FDI Executive Director, suggested that the current list should be extended. At present the list comprises of cancer, diabetes and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Alongside the four major NCDs, including unhealthy diet (particularly high sugar consumption), tobacco, and harmful alcohol use, it has been reported that all oral conditions share common risk factors and it has been stated that oral health professionals play a vital role in the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

During a proposal on behalf of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) campaign on NCDs, Dr Eiselé made a warning call of the global epidemic of NCDs, which were later echoed by Dr Habib Benzian, Director of the NGO ‘Fit for School International’, who stated how: ‘the most common disease worldwide is dental caries, tooth decay. It has large impact on societies, on children, on each and every one of us … don’t forget oral diseases in the context of NCDs.”

Dr Eiselé also stressed the vital role of health professionals, and explained how they play a key part in reducing the global NCD burden through health promotion, disease prevention, patient care and rehabilitation.

Brush baby founder named Entrepreneur of the Year

Child oral health company Brush-Baby is celebrating success after its founder Dominique Tillen was awarded an Entrepreneur of the Year award for her pioneering and innovative work. Brush-Baby launched in 2009. The first of its kind worldwide, it is a combined versatile chewable toothbrush and teether that toddlers can use themselves, satisfying their natural urge to chew. As they do so, it helps to clean teeth, massage gums and soothe tender teething gums.

Commenting on her award win, Brush-Baby founder Dominique Tillen said: “I am really pleased to have won this award and my thanks to the retailers and parents who have put their trust in our products and come on this journey with us. Brush-Baby products fill the gap in the market for appropriate child centred products and are becoming increasingly relevant today as young children’s oral health becomes a real cause for concern with parents, the dental profession and policy makers alike.”

Brush-Baby unveiled its oral care pathway at The Dentistry Show in March 2011 and is now available to order. The complete range includes DentalWipes™, innovative toothbrushes and Xylitol / Fluoride toothpastes for babies and children aged from birth to six years.

Protecting patient confidentiality

A new software which monitors who is accessing a patient’s medical records is being piloted in West Wales as part of a wider information security initiative.

The pilots, which are planned to run for six months, are being run by the NHS Wales central information governance team and the Hywel Dda Health Board.

The software, called the Fair Warning privacy monitoring software, will be used to ensure that only the right health staff are seeing patient information.

It will also monitor who they are treating and check that information is not be accessed when it shouldn’t be.

According to a report, the NHS Wales Informatics Service pilot will evaluate whether this kind of software could be successfully used to ensure that the Individual Health Record, Welsh Clinical Portal and other initiatives are securely and safely used.

The new software will protect patient confidentiality.