The British Orthodontic Society is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this September and delegates who attend its conference this year can expect a sterling programme in Harrogate between 25-27th September 2011.

The annual conference is organised by the British Orthodontic Society, the largest specialist dental society in the UK and will include national and international dental delegates, predominately drawn from more than 1,800 members as well as its associated groups of orthodontic nurses, therapists and technicians. Since the first joint meeting of the BOS founding societies, the BAOD and BSSO, held in Bournemouth in 1986, the conference has become the largest and most prestigious specialist meeting in the UK dental calendar.

Moving forward together
Apart from lectures delivered by established orthodontic researchers, invited international speakers and presentations from younger rising stars, two particularly prestigious events make the BOS conference a real draw; the Northcroft lecture delivered as the climax of the event and the political session held on the first day which in the past has been addressed by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley and Barry Cockcroft, the Chief Dental Officer.

This year the key note address will be given by the Deputy Chief Dental Officer Sue Gregory who will be giving an update in orthodontics with the DoH perspective. Also presenting at this session will be Dr Richard Jones who will give the BOS perspective with HalilOLL of the FURO who is a Senior Business Advisor at the BDA and will be speaking on contract tendering.

The 2011 Conference agenda will feature keynote speaker Professor Junji Sugawara, who will present the much anticipated Chapman Lecture. The presentation question 'Cleft Lip and Palate: Who cares?' exploring the challenges facing patient centered care. This will be followed by the prestigious Chapman Lecture, which Dr Junji Sugawara, who will be speaking on Surgical orthodontic treatment.

Other international speakers include Dr Peter Miles who will be speaking on evidence against anecdote, Dr Tiziano Baccetti, on a patient centred approach to improving efficiency of Class II Treatment and Dr Lucia Cevidanes from the University of Michigan, School of Dentistry on 3D Dental Imaging. Dr Timo Peltonaki from Finland will take a leap into the future of orthodontics to help those attending consider individualised variability and clinical studies vs experimental controversy. Dr Peltonaki is currently Head Orthodontist at the University of Tampere, Finland and he has a particular research interest in craniofacial growth and development which will no doubt fascinate the assembled delegates.

Jonathan Sandy, Professor in Orthodontics and Head of the School of Oral and Dental Sciences in Bristol will discuss the UK cleft research programme and future directions for craniofacial research. Whilst Jeff Lewis will talk on new strides in the delivery of continual professional development (CPD) to remote learners and the controversial topic of Orthodontic retention is sure to start debate as Dr Simon Littledore presents Re-tenion- what you need to know.

One of the rising stars from last year's conference Dr Badri Thiruvvunkalchtiri, who sparked debate with findings from his innovative research into the effectiveness of Dynamax and twin block appliances, will present the prestigious Chapman Lecture.

Now a keenly contested feature of the conference, the annual prize session will be eagerly anticipated and Dr. Rye Mattick, Chair of the British Orthodontic Society's Foundation will present an array of awards for the first time since taking on this role. In addition she will pose the presentation question 'Cleft Lip and Palate: Who cares?' exploring the challenges facing patient centered care. This will be followed by the prestigious Chapman Lecture, which Dr Junji Sugawara, who will be speaking on Surgical orthodontic treatment.

Facing forward
For general dentists and dental care professionals the conference will provide an opportunity to gain insight and guidance into patient referral and recommended clinical procedures, so that they will be able to consider how to best address their patients' interests.

The conference also provides an opportunity for general dentists with an interest in orthodontics to obtain advice on finding a niche in a growing and competitive market.

For the first time in 2011 the conference will include a programme specifically for orthodontic therapists in recognition of their growing importance to the profession. Alongside this will feature an educational programme for orthodontic nurses and another for technicians organised by their associated professional bodies.

If these were not enough to stimulate interest in attending, other highlights of the conference programme include:
- A core CPD pre-conference full day course on cross infection from Dr Mike Martin
- Young researchers' presentations alongside the parallel political session
- 15 hours CPD plus 1.5 extra for attendance at the cross infection masterclass
- A conference banquet with dancing as well as a drinks reception with a jazz band
- A keenly contested post conference golf tournament

As you can see the conference covers a broad spectrum of the latest subjects in the field of orthodontics and offers an opportunity for people working in the profession to gather and share diverse views, reflecting BOS standing as a leading provider of education and training in the field of orthodontics. For more information including details about how to attend the 2011 Conference please visit www.bos.org.uk. 