A positive change

General Dental Council changes again

The Department of Health has announced changes to the constitutions of the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council. The changes mean reducing the size of both the Councils to 12 members and moving towards an appointed (rather than elected) Chair. The move, which was announced recently, aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the two councils.

According to the report, a move will now also be made away from election to a system of appointing the two chairs, which will increase the openness and transparency of the recruitment process, enable the regulators to seek applicants from a much broader field and help ensure that people with the specific qualities needed to be the chair can be appointed.

Initially the proposal had been for a reduction from 24 to eight members, and that both chairs should be appointed rather than elected by the governing councils from within their membership.

The Chairman will cease to be elected from among the members and will in future be appointed by the Privy Council for an indeterminate term. The amended Orders have now been laid in parliament.

General Dental Council Chair Kevin O'Brien said: “The changes to its established process, as well as its new process, enable the regulators to respond effectively and in a timely way to a rapidly changing regulatory environment. A key priority for me as Chair of the Council will be to oversee a smooth transition so that important work already underway at the GDC and aimed at improving our performance is not interrupted.”

The report, which investigates the ways in which the GDC has been actively trying to improve, noted the GDC’s “changes to its established processes, as well as its new processes, policies and systems to enable the GDC to become a more effective regulator”.

Although the CHRE added that “the GDC has demonstrated that it meets most of the Standards of Good Regulation for fitness to practise”, there was also a list of measures to be taken to improve the function of the GDC.

In relation to the GDC’s other functions, the report commended the GDC for reviewing its continuing professional development scheme and developing a new ‘outcomes-focused’ regime for dental education and training.

The CHRE noted that further work is needed to improve the timeliness of progression of Fitness to Practise cases and quality of decisions.

Chief Executive Evlynne Gildavary said: “We welcome this report and the acknowledgement of the progress we have made over the past year. We agree with the CHRE on the further measures necessary to increase the rate of progression of fitness to practise cases and to bring about further necessary improvements in the handling of cases.”
Cross-generational orthodontic treatments on the rise

Lingual Orthodontic Society (BLOS). Members of the society are reporting more instances of parents and children embarking on treatment together and sharing advice on their braces, their hygiene and their diet, as well as going to the practice together for shared appointments.

Tania O'Dowd and her daughter Hannah, who have been a classic example of the new trend. They have lent their brace-free smiles to a new leaflet produced by the British Lingual Orthodontic Society (BLOS). The leaflet highlights why lingual braces are such an attractive method of teeth straightening, for both patients and professionals.

Angela Auluck is a member of the BLOS committee and she is currently treating a mother, father and daughter from the same family. “The mother brought the daughter for an appointment and decided she would opt for lingual braces while her daughter had conventional braces. Then when the father and mother have treatment without anyone knowing, he decided to have lingual braces too!”

Lingual braces have all the advantages of fixed braces but are conveniently placed behind the teeth to remove any potential for embarrassment.

Research carried out over the last few years also shows that lingual braces are more caries prone than lingual surfaces. Furthermore, lingual brackets are shaped to fit the morphology of the teeth and seal almost the entire surface. One study completed in 2012 on groups of young people shows that lingual treatment is less damaging to the health of the teeth.

The researchers analysed for white spot lesions (WSL) and the number of WSL that developed or progressed on buccal surfaces was 4.8 times higher than the number of WSL that developed or progressed on lingual surfaces. In short, decalcification was nearly five times more likely and over 10 times worse with a labial appliance than a lingual one.

The other significant difference is in what is achievable with lingual appliances compared to clear aligner systems. Research published last year showed the difference between what was planned and what was achieved with lingual appliances was minimal.

Raz Parmar, Chairman of BLOS, commented: “Many of our members are seeing the same trend of parents and children going into treatment together.”

The vital funds brought in by Keith's Herculean effort will make a significant contribution to future orthodontic research. There is still time to applaud Keith's motives - and his stamina, by donating to The BOS President's Fund. Please visit www.justgiving.com/KeithPearsonWalk. Alternatively cheques can be made payable to BOSF and sent in an envelope marked for 'The President's Fund' BOS Head Office, 12 Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AP.

Anyone who would like to contact Keith about the walk, or the President's Fund can do so by emailing to pearsonkj@aol.com. He will report back about his walk and the amount of money raised at the end of June.
Editorial comment

As you read this issue of Dental Tribune, the biggest event on earth will be in full swing in London and other places across the country. Oh yes – the Olympics are here! And while we cheer on our respective countries we all get to involve ourselves in the highs and lows of competitive sport, as well as become world experts in sports that two weeks ago we had never even heard of! Let’s hope for a fantastic Games and the chance to show the world how great we are! (Come on Team GB! – Ed)

Moving back to matters closer to the surgery – congratulations to Anna Bradley, who has been confirmed as the Chair of Healthwatch England.

The role, which also comes with the honour of being a non-executive Director of the Care Quality Commission, was taken up by Ms Bradley on the 16th July.

Healthwatch is the new consumer champion for health and social care in England. It will exist in two distinct forms: Healthwatch England, at national level, and local Healthwatch, at local level.

Healthwatch England will be a national body representing the views of service users and the public. It will use these views to influence national policy and provide advice to Monitor, the NHS Commissioning Board, the Secretary of State and English local authorities, as well as providing leadership and support to local Healthwatch organisations.

BADN dental nursing conference

The 2012 National Dental Nursing Conference – the last before the end of the five-year CPD cycle for those dental nurses who registered before August 2008 – will be held at the Blackpool Hilton on 24 November 2012.

The new one day format is being trialled in accordance with dental nurses’ responses to the BADN’s recent survey. “Holding a one day Conference allows us to keep the cost down” said BADN President Nicola Docherty. “This year, with generous sponsorship from the BDTA, the Conference registration fee is less than £50 for BADN members, and offers 4.5 hours of verifiable CPD.”

“Topics include the core subjects of decontamination, medical emergencies and radiography, as well as oral cancer, hypodontics, communication skills, special care, the end of the cpd cycle and, of course, the keynote address by GDC Chair Kevin O’Brien.”

The Conference registration fee also includes lunch, refreshments and a pre-lunch Zumba session.

Also in accordance with the survey results, there will be no Presidential Dinner this year. Instead, delegates can join Nicola and other BADN Council members at an informal dinner at iconic fish and chips restaurant Harry Ramsdale down the evening before Conference.

For more information, visit www.badn.org.uk/conference where there is a link to the online registration.

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News 3
The DLA awarded for their initiative

This year the Dental Laboratories Association were shortlisted finalists for the CBI’s Trade Association Forum in the categories; Magazine of the Year for the DLJ and Commercial Initiative of the Year for their Medical Devices Directive implementation folder.

The British Society for Dental Hygiene and Therapy are pleased to announce that registration for their flagship Annual Oral Health Conference & Exhibition is now open.

BSDHT 2012 Oral Health Conference opens for registration

The DLA were awarded winners of the Trade Association Forum Commercial Initiative of the Year Award 2012, for the MDJ Folder; the DLA were awarded the prize because of the quality of the product and its importance subject area to the membership.

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New dental clinic to open at University of Central Lancashire

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is launching a new dental clinic on its Preston campus – and dental professionals are invited to visit the new facility on a special open day on 9 August.

Putting patients first, Dr Martin Fallowfield, has pledged that the British Dental Association (BDA) will champion high-quality care, promote professional values and speak forcefully on behalf of the profession.

Speaking in his first interview since being elected Chair of the BDA’s Principal Executive Committee (PEC) Dr Fallowfield asserts his belief in the importance of all dentists being able to provide patient care in an environment where they are able to put patients’ interests first, free of concern about whether the system that is funding the care provides adequate resources for the treatment that is needed.

Dr Fallowfield also argues that the significant contribution non-NHS dentistry makes to improving oral health in the UK deserves greater recognition, stressing the evolving aspira-
tions and values of patients as a driving force for the different expectations many patients have of their dental care today.

The interview also sees Dr Fallowfield discuss a range of other issues including the importance of the BDA’s trade union function, the findings of the recent Office of Fair Trading report into the UK dental market and the long-term nature of the challenge facing the PEC. The interview is available to read or listen to at http://bit.ly/LEr4tH

BDA PEC Chair calls for high-quality care and professionalism

The recently-elected leader of the UK’s dentists, Dr Martin Fallowfield, has pledged that the British Dental Association (BDA) will champion high-quality care, promote professional values and speak forcefully on behalf of the profession.

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Located on Liverpool’s waterfront, adjacent to the iconic Albert Dock, Tate Gallery, and one of Liverpool’s historic buildings, including the Liver Building - all within a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Sally Simpson, BSDHT President, said: “This year’s Conference will be our first in the ACC at Liverpool and I’m sure everyone who visits this fantastic location will be very impressed by this exciting, historical setting. The national and international speakers that we have on offer will give you the opportunity to take the latest in dental developments and clinical skills from some of the leading experts in the region. An on-campus clinic will give students and staff access to first class dental services and allow our dental students an amazing opportunity to develop their clinical skills without leaving the university.

“I hope as many of our colleagues across the dental profession take the opportunity to come and visit this special site before our official launch in September.”

Paul Valsah, Clinical Director of the UCLan Dental Clinic said: “Our clinic will provide the full range of dental services one would expect from a first class dental surgery. We hope that once our colleagues from local clinics see the levels of expertise, service and patient care we can provide, they will be keen to refer patients to UDC. We are as committed to providing a service to the local community as we are to improving dental education in the northwest region.”

Barbara Hibbert, the DLA’s recently elected President said: "I’m only in my second week and I’m collecting awards on behalf of the DLA! It is absolutely wonderful, this award is a reflection of how well the Exce Board and the office staff work together – I’m very proud!" Whilst the DLA didn’t have the Magazine of the Year, they did come second with a Highly Commended award, which was also a fantastic achievement given the fact that they were up against some huge organisations some of which are based in the publications and media profession.

To register for the event go to wwwbsdht.org.uk.
Smile-on and Tempdent understand the need for flexible learning to fit around the busy lifestyles of dental nurses and practices.

This blended learning website provides everything you need from the start of your dental career through to your postgraduate qualifications and even helps you find the right job:

• Primary Qualifications
• Online Registration for the National Diploma in Dental Nursing
• Postgraduate Qualifications
• eRecord of Experience
• Online Extended Duties
• Specialist Career Advice & Job Search
• CPD
• Latest News & Information

One simple place...

Contact us for more details on 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com
Giving a smile on Facebook

A man from Hove has reason to smile after a dentist in Brighton fitted him with new teeth for free, following their search for a worthy patient on Facebook.

David Bryant, a member of the charity Blind Veterans UK, was nominated for a new set of teeth, after the Brighton Implant Clinic decided to search for somebody who deserved a new smile.

After filtering through hundreds of applications, the dental practice decided on David, who was nominated by two colleagues and a patient. David’s hard work and commitment to ex-servicemen who have lost their sight in conflict earned him the opportunity to smile with confidence again.

“At the beginning of the year we ran a competition via Facebook for one lucky winner to win a brand new set of teeth, in the form of an all-on-4 procedure, a treatment that ranges in cost from £6,500 to £15,000. After sorting through hundreds of stories, one man caught our eye.”

David started to lose his teeth 15 years ago because of an accident and bad experiences with dentists. Before his treatment he only had a few top teeth left, and friends and family felt that David had low self-esteem due to his appearance.

David’s treatment consisted of extractions and All-on-4 implants. After a straightforward procedure and pain controllable with paracetamol, David left the clinic with new teeth, and above all, a new lease of confidence.

“I used to always avoid smiling,” said David. “My teeth were in a really poor state before my treatment, which meant I didn’t smile like I wanted to.”

“I’m overwhelmed to have been nominated for implants and I can’t stop looking in the mirror at my new teeth,” he added.

Dental fillings cause “anxiety, depression, and social stress” in children

A New England Research Institutes study has discovered that composite dental fillings could be associated with impaired social behaviours in children.

The paper found that dental fillings that may release bisphenol-A (BPA) were associated with impaired social behaviours in children. According to various news sources, scientists have discovered a molecule that can eliminate tooth decay bacteria in seconds.

“Dental Composite Restorations and Psychosocial Function in Children” was published in Pediatrics on July 16 2012.

BPA is used to create bisGMA – traditionally the main source monomer for composite dental fillings. Either a combination of BisGMA and other materials, or amalgam (silver coloured fillings containing mercury) are commonly used for dental fillings.

Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health and New England Research Institutes studied dental fillings in 554 children aged six or older as part of a randomised trial of amalgam. They found that with increasing amount and duration of exposure to bisGMA fillings over five years follow-up, children reported more anxiety, depression, social stress, and interpersonal relation problems. The researchers say this finding is consistent with laboratory research showing social problems related to early life exposures to small amounts of BPA, but they add that additional studies are needed to confirm these findings.

A sonnet full of smiles

A dentist from Austin, Texas, has put together a selection of poems about lips and smiles of patients that visit his dental surgery.

The collection of short poems, which is called Reflections On A Smile, Poems To Passion, is by Lester Sawicki.

According to report, the poems offer interesting thoughts and ideas of lips and smiles and the many moods that they present.

Having worked with mouths for more than 50 years, dentist Lester Sawicki started to look at his patients’ mouths and their smiles in a humorous and mystical way, rather than simply a month from a dentist’s point of view.

According to one report, Sawicki now sees the dental world in more ‘complex terms’ thanks to seeing smiles in his dental surgery in a new light. The book is now available from Amazon.

Scientists ‘find’ anti-cavity molecule

According to various news sources, scientists have discovered a molecule that can eliminate tooth decay bacteria in seconds.

The molecule, which is believed to be able to help protect teeth for several hours, was reportedly discovered by researchers at the University of Chile.

Several reports have suggested that the molecule could be added to oral care products, such as toothpastes and even sugar free chewing gum to help prevent dental cavities.

The molecule, named Keep 52, is reportedly able to destroy Streptococcus mutants, the bacterium which is instrumental in the development of dental caries.

However, even though the molecule is a potential breakthrough in preventing dental cavities, it has yet to undergo human testing.
Dentists get Olympic fever!

Overseas athletes competing at London 2012 will receive free dental care at a specially constructed Polyclinic at the Olympic Park.

The move may come as a welcome relief for some of the athletes taking part, as the clinic will aim to carry out and complete work they may not have access to in their own country.

Top athletes may be putting their oral health at risk though frequent consumption of energy drinks, leading to the possibility of tooth decay and dental erosion. However, if they are receiving dental treatment while at the Olympic village, The National Dental Plan, run by the British Dental Health Foundation, believe it could help them to maintain a high level of performance.

Karen Coates, a Dental Advisor at the British Dental Health Foundation said: “Looking after your oral health not only has great benefits for your mouth, but also for your overall health too.

"Athletes are in a great position to begin with, as people who exercise are less likely to develop tooth-threatening problems that could lead to gum disease. Many other links between good oral health and good overall health have also been made, including diabetes, lung diseases and heart problems. However, too many sports and energy drinks, athletes are at risk of dental erosion.”

One dentist at the heart of the Olympics fully understands the pressure an athlete’s teeth are under. Dr Kaz Dattani will be the leading practitioner for athletes at the Rowing and Canoe Sprint Village at the London 2012 Olympics, after volunteering to be involved. He said in the Chesham and Buckinghamshire Examiner: “I thought he would be a once in a lifetime thing and it will be an amazing journey. It’s incredible and I will see the Games from a different angle.”

Dr Dattani told the Examiner about 40 per cent of the athletes followed dental treatment over the course of the Games. He said: “Tooth-ache is one of the worst pains you go through so I’ve got to make sure I treat them as soon as possible and relieve them of their pain. They’ve got to be on their game.”

However, with the participating athletes representing the height of fitness you may have presumed the Olympic organis-ers might have taken advantage of the country’s excitement by promoting a healthy lifestyle. Therefore it is a little surprising that the chief sponsor of the games is McDonald’s, the world’s leading fast food outlet.

It is not just the effect fast food has on our bodies that is concerning. Less healthy eating choices can also have detrimental consequences for oral health-periodontal disease affects 19 out of 20 people. In a study by

A positive investment in driving down infections

Almost £8m is being invested in driving down HIV infections and providing information to improve people’s sexual health, Public Health Minister Anne Milton recently announced.

The money will go to the Terrence Higgins Trust and FPA (Family Planning Association) over three years and builds on previous work funded by the Department.

The latest figures show that the largest increases in STIs were seen in men who have sex with men.

The funding will mean:

• the Terrence Higgins Trust and their partners receive £6.7 million to prevent HIV in men who have sex with men and people from African communities, the groups most affected by HIV in England; and
• FPA will receive £1.13 million for their comprehensive specialist sexual health information service for the public and healthcare workers.

There are nearly 100,000 people living with HIV in the UK yet a quarter of them don’t know they have it - meaning they’re more likely to pass it on and are also less likely to seek treatment.

In 2010, there were around 5,000 new diagnoses in men who have sex with men - the highest number ever reported in a year.

Public Health Minister Anne Milton said: “Sexually transmitted infections can lead to serious health problems.

“One in twenty gay men and women in England are HIV positive and in London this rises to one in every seven gay men.

“This money will help the Terrence Higgins Trust and FPA reach out to these communities. They will use a range of approaches including social media to encourage more people to come forward for testing.”

Sir Nick Partridge, Chief Executive of Terrence Higgins Trust said: “England has a strong record in HIV prevention and we are proud of the part we have played in this, but the stakes – and potential gains – have never been higher. It’s within our grasp to significantly reduce the rates of new infections by working together with local authorities, clinical services and most importantly the communities most at risk of HIV.

“Our plans are exciting, ambitious, but achievable, and we’re proud to have been entrusted with this work.”

Julie Bentley, Chief Executive, FPA said: “FPA has delivered factual, accessible, and high quality sexual health information to the public and healthcare professionals for more than 60 years. We are delighted to have won this contract which is evidence of how respected and trusted our sexual health information continues to be.”

Titanium implants may corrode

Titanium medical implants used in bone-anchored hearing aids and dental prostheses, may not be as robust as is commonly believed, according to new evidence from scientists at the University of Birmingham.

Collaborative research led by Dr Owen Addison in the Biomaterials unit of the School of Dentistry has found evidence to suggest that in environments where there is no significant wear process, microscopic particles of Ti can be found in the surrounding tissue.

This can potentially be pro-inflamatory and affect the performance of the device scientists say in a research paper published today (Wednesday July 25) in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface.

Globally, more than 1,000 tonnes of titanium (Ti) is implanted into patients in the form of biomedical devices every year. Metallic prostheses, fixation and anchoring devices are used extensively for orthopaedic, craniofacial and dental rehabilitation and their effects on the body are widely perceived to be predicta-ble following initial implantation.

For this study, tissue was obtained from patients undergoing scheduled revision surgery associated with bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA) at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust. Soft tissues surrounding commercially pure titanium anchorage devices were investigated using microfocus synchrotron X-ray spectroscopy at the Diamond Light Source (Oxford, UK).

The results showed, for the first time, a scattered and heterogenous distribution of Ti in inflamed tissues taken from around failing skin-penetrating Ti implants,’ the authors report. Wear processes and implant debris were unlikely to be major contributors to the problem, they concluded. "In the absence of obvious macroscopic wear or loading processes, we propose that the Ti in the tissue results from micro-motion and localised corrosion in surface crevices.”

The development of peri-implant inflammation may result in the premature loss of the implanted device or the require-ment for time-consuming and arduous surgery and are scenarios which can ‘impact on patients’ well-being and economically on the health service provider,’ the authors conclude.

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DCP taster day

This is a taster day designed as an introduction to a nation-al training and recognition day for DCP’s who are interested in mentoring. The first one is in Leicester on 11 August 9am - 4pm at the Peprell Centre, Or-chardson Avenue, Leicester. This is designed as a taster day for a nationally recognised qualification in mentorship and is a real bargain for £40.

Case Western Reserve University, 12, 000 Americans were examined to discover how lifestyle can affect oral health. Researchers found that regular exercise and healthy eating re-duced the prevalence of gum disease, highlighting the impor-tance of a healthy lifestyle.

Dr Nigel Carter, chief executive of The British Dental Health Foundation commented: “It has been shown that sports stars move more rapidly in people whose nutrition is lacking.”

A similar study was carried out earlier this year in Japan, looking at the relationships between eating habits and periodontal condition in university students. The analysis found that overweight students who frequently consumed unhealthy foods and seldom ate vegetables were at a higher risk of developing gum disease. Carter noted: “One of the key ingredients to good oral health is a balanced diet.”

To put it simply, the more you eat unhealthy foods, the more oral damage is produced.