The Dentist, (pictured), by renowned portrait artist, Sir John Lavery, has been purchased by the British Dental Association’s (BDA) Museum, the UK’s only museum dedicated exclusively to dentistry. Painted in 1929, it features dentist Conrad Ackner in situ treating his patient, the artist’s wife, Lady Lavery.

The work is considered to be significant both in dental and art history terms, being the only known accurate depiction of the early 20th century dentist in a surgery, and by one of the leading portrait painters of the time. The painting is set in Ackner’s Welbeck Street practice in London and reveals aspects of the clinical environment including an early X-ray machine and headlamp, examples of which are already held by the BDA Museum.

An appeal for help in raising the £60,000 required for the purchase saw donations flood in from individuals and BDA branches whilst both the MLA/ V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Art Fund, the national fund-raising charity for works of art, awarded grants.

The painting itself will go on permanent display and is expected to be the highlight of guided tours, and will be featured during events and as part of the museum’s programme for schools.

To celebrate the purchase, the museum is staging a temporary exhibition telling the story behind the painting, the artist and the dentist. Featuring examples of objects depicted in the painting, it also includes a scrap book compiled by Ackner’s staff, which records the King of Norway and Marlene Dietrich amongst his patients and gives a fascinating insight into the everyday life of the surgery.

Head of BDA Museum Services, Jason Finch, said: “The opportunity to purchase this unique painting was too good to miss and we are grateful to all our supporters in helping us bring it to its rightful home, particularly in these financially challenging times. Not only is the work historically significant, it also provides us with an unique insight into the practice of dentistry in the 1920s. The portrait depicts a dentist who used the most up-to-date equipment of his time, and who also pioneered the use of X-rays in dentistry.”

Stephen Deuchar, Director of the Art Fund, said: “It is a great pleasure to have been able to assist with the purchase of this painting for the British Dental Association’s museum. It is a wonderful study with some fascinating detail about cutting edge dentistry at the time.”

Is this the cure for dental phobia?

People with severe dental phobia may be able to overcome their anxieties with a single session of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), research published in the latest issue of British Dental Journal (BDJ) suggests.

The authors of the study, based on an initial pool of 60 patients who relied on having intravenous sedation before they could undergo dental treatment, concluded that the benefits were of such significance that they advise dental providers to implement this approach now rather than wait to pursue further research. They point out that patients benefit from not being exposed to the health risks associated with repeated intravenous sedation; and this approach saves money for the NHS.

The initial cohort of 60 patients had all attended a specialist dental clinic in Sheffield for people with severe dental phobia. Half the group were offered CBT, with 21 patients accepting the treatment. Twenty of these went on to have dental treatment without having to be sedated. An audit of these patients a decade later found that of the 19 patients located who had had CBT, none had returned to sedation in the intervening 10-year period.

The benefits of having CBT for severe dental phobia appear to endure over time, the authors of A joint approach to treating dental phobia: A re-evaluation of problems. The latest 10-yearly survey on adult dental health published earlier this year by the NHS Information Centre suggests that as many as 12 per cent of people may experience extreme dental anxiety.

Professor Damien Walmsley, the BDAs scientific adviser, said: “Dental phobia is a serious problem because it deters some people from ever going to the dentist, except when they are in severe pain. At this stage, they may require more invasive treatment than might be the case if they went to the dentist regularly. Sadly, this cycle of anxiety, non-attendance and pain is often repeated in the children of those with dental phobia, perpetuating the problem and feeding another generation of oral health problems.

“CBT is one of a range of techniques than can be used to make the experience comfortable for patients who feel exceptionally anxious about having dental treatment, and the results of this study look promising for those who experience severe dental phobia. “All dentists are highly-skilled, caring health professionals who are trained to put patients at ease. Many also undertake additional training in techniques, such as hypnosis, and acupuncture, and of course, CBT.”

Tony carries the torch for BDA

The BDA Benevolent Fund, a charity dedicated to helping dentists and their families in times of need, has an extra reason to be proud this year. 62 years after winning a bronze medal in the Empire Games, 91 year old Vice President Tony Chivers, (pictured), hopes to take part in the 2012 Olympic Games!

The Benevolent Fund has nominated Tony, who was its Chairman from 1988-95, as a Torchbearer for next year’s Olympics. He has been successful in making it through to the regional selection stage.

After serving his country as an RAF pilot during the War, he went on to have his own practice in Hampshire. In 1996 he was awarded the MBE for his services to dentistry. He is still actively involved in local athletics and continues to raise money for charity.

The Benevolent Fund believes that he embodies the positive spirit of the Olympics and wishes Tony every success in his Olympic bid.
Players kick prostate cancer

As the rugby season kicks off, premiership rugby players including Ugo Monye, Danny Care and Tim Payne are backing a new campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer this season.

Prostate cancer will be one cause that’s close to the player’s mouths, as well as their hearts, when they don ‘The Blue’ – a custom fit mouthguard, which for the first time will display The Prostate Cancer Charity’s distinctive blue man logo, instead of the traditional white club mouth guards.

The initiative, launched in association with mouthguard manufacturer OPRO, was unveiled on 3 September, when the 2011/12 AVIVA Premiership season officially kicked off at Twickenham. The London double header saw Saracens take on Wasps and London Irish up against Harlequins.

Ugo Monye, who plays for Harlequins said: “Blokes spend so much time on going to the gym and looking good but we don’t always pay such close attention to our health. With an issue like prostate cancer, which if caught early can be treated successfully, it is really important that we do keep an eye on things.”

Ugo added: “I didn’t know that African Caribbean men are three times more likely to develop the disease than white men – it really is something that we need to think about.”

Custom fit and OPROshield self-fit versions are available for pre-order from http://www.prostate-cancer.org.uk/theblue The custom fit mouthguard will retail at between £51.45 and £59.95, the self-fit version costs £19.99, with £1 from every OPROshield and £6 from every custom fit mouthguard donated to The Prostate Cancer Charity.

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Opportunity

This innovative programme establishes the academic and clinical parameters and standards for restorative and aesthetic dentistry. Students will leave with a world recognised MSc.
**Bolton dentist to climb Kilimanjaro for charity**

Bolton dentist Jatin Gupta, 32, (pictured) who works at In-sure Dental’s Bolton practice is climbing the highest mountain in Africa next month to raise money for charity. Jatin hopes to raise £2,000 for the National Society for Phenylketonuria (PKU) as he climbs the 5,895-metre or 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania over a six-day trek starting on 8th September.

PKU is a rare inherited disorder where sufferers struggle to absorb protein in their bodies and have to follow a special, low protein diet; otherwise they can face serious health issues including brain damage.

Said Jatin: “I was initially undecided about which charity to adopt for the trek, but during a conversation with a friend and colleague Dr Lance Knight, he mentioned that his son, Will aged two, had PKU.

“Af"er looking into PKU, I saw the severity and lifelong implications of the disorder for its sufferers, and coupled with a lack of awareness about PKU amongst the public, I decided to choose the NSPKU for my charity.”

Jatin, who is also currently studying for a master's degree in dental implantology at Salford University, in his spare time, went on: "I have been preparing for the trek over the last few months by climbing the Three Peaks: Scafell, Snowdon and Ben Nevis.

“I am told that the biggest challenge on the trek will be altitude sickness which most people struggle with on day 5 or 4 and then on the final day when we climb the last 1,200 metres to the summit.

“We are scheduled to reach the summit on 12th September and then climb back down to base camp on 15th September. Despite the possibility of altitude sickness, I am viewing the trek as a personal challenge and I hope that I can reach the summit and hit the target I have set for the charity.”

People can donate online at http://www.justgiving.com/Jatin-Gupta/

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**Case presentation success**

Raheel Malik, 2010 graduate dental student and Senior Health Officer in the Department of Oral Surgery and Restorative at the Dental Institute, has won the London Deanery’s Ruby Austin Prize for the best case presentation by a VT student.

The Ruby Austin Prize is a prestigious award given to a graduate dentist completing their vocational training year within the London Deanery. Competitions were held within local schemes and the winners of these were entered into the final. This year’s final was held at Charing Cross Hospital on 1 July and took place in front of more than 160 dentists.

Sona Bavishta, Sally El bodghadi, Nadia Jhubhary, Nick Cooper, Bhandeep Sehra and Sunil Kaura, also former students of the Dental Institute graduating in 2010, were among the nine finalists. Sunil Kaura was awarded the third prize.

The finalists presented a case they had undertaken in their respective practices during the VT year and was followed by a questions and answers session. Judged by Mr Raj Rajahayan OBE, Associate Dean for Primary Care at the Dental Deanship, and Dr Lyndon Gabot, Director of Admissions at the Dental Institute, marks were given for complexity of case, dental knowledge and its clinical application, treatment planning and its application, patient management and presentation skills.

Raheel’s case presentation was titled ‘The rehabilitation and restoration of a dentally naive patient.’ The patient was a 25-year-old male who had neglected his dentition for several years and had little dental awareness and knowledge.

As Raheel explained: ‘He attended with poor oral hygiene, several broken down teeth and caries affecting most of his dentition. The causation of caries was four litres of Coca-Cola daily as well as four cans of red bull. The challenge was to increase his dental awareness and motivate him to change his oral hygiene and dietary habits. The treatment was phased and initially the aim was to address the acute symptoms, followed by a strict preventative regime. The aim was then to control primary disease within a stabilisation phase. Once stabilisation had been achieved, oral hygiene and diet improved the definitive stage was undertaken. This involved extensive composite work especially in the anterior regions and eventually replacement of his missing teeth.

“The overall quality of life for this young patient was improved. He is now able to eat comfortably and no longer embarrassed to smile thus achieving, preventatively, functional and aesthetic outcomes.”

Last year Raheel won first prize in the Dental Tribune UK Case Contest 2009/10 for the U.K.
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Query your clawback!

Some dentists may be tempted to return the exact amount of clawback demanded by their Primary Care Trust (PCT). Clawback is the process undertaken by PCTs when dentists have not performed the number of Units of Dental Activity in their contract. But NASDAL member Johnny Minford strongly advises all dentists to check before they pay.

Johnny estimates that clawback will have affected many dentists who have underperformed against their NHS contracts over the last few years, often for reasons outside their control. Very often, he explains, amounts of money owed will accumulate from one year to another, the running balance being carried forward over several years.

He said: “We are experiencing a number of cases where these rolling clawbacks are being miscalculated this year – and not generally in the dentist’s favour.

“It seems that the problems are arising due to the re-forming of the PCT areas, and occur when individual files are not transferred in their entirety from one location to another. Clawback payments which you may already have made, or not claimed, might therefore be being left out of the equation, with the result that the total clawback now being requested may be more than it should be.”

He continued: “Many dentists still have blind faith in the data produced by the PCT and pay up, but in some cases such as this, this faith is not always well-founded. There’s nothing sinister going on – just incomplete information – but it will be you, the dentist, who will pay!”

Bizarre stripping case

A bizarre case that had mystified has finally been uncovered by a group of specialists and faculty members from the New York University (NYU) College of Dentistry.

The case concerned a 52-year-old male patient, who, during the course of five months had lost nearly all the enamel on his teeth. According to reports the patient rapidly had lost the enamel on his teeth, and had dark staining and severe tooth sensitivity.

In 2010, after consultations with dentists and physicians had failed to bring answers, he was referred to the faculty practice at NYU. After being seen by an oral pathologist, the patient was seen by Dr Leila Jahangiri, who along with her team, not only observed the lack of enamel, but also the loss of tooth structure, which had resulted in diastema. However, what baffled the specialists was that the patient was not suffering from any form of dental decay, and there were no changes in the periodontal ligament.

The source of the erosion reportedly sparked a series of debates; dentists pointed to the idea that the patient was half way through veneer treatment, whilst some suggested he was suffering from bulimia. Every possible angle was investigated, however the cause could not be found.

Dr Leila Jahangiri and her team were baffled, and eventually she recorded the patient's history to try and find a cause. Eventually, the source of the problem was uncovered; the cause of the enamel erosion was due to an improperly maintained swimming pool!

After a series of questions and testing, it was discovered that the patient's pool was the problem; the lack of professional maintenance had resulted in the pool’s acidity level reading at well below the recommended pH level of between 7.2 and 7.8. The bizarre case is to be published in the September 2011 Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry.

Appy days for toothbrushing

Apps on tooth brushing have been springing up all over the App store; many of them are simply two minute timers, whilst others are more elaborate, with tips on brushing techniques. However, a new app has upped the stakes and seems several steps ahead of the rest.

Ryan Newsome has created the Toothbrush Timer, an app that claims to be an aid in proper teeth brushing practices. Unlike the other tooth brushing apps, which tend to concentrate on the two minute detail of teeth cleaning.

With its friendly to use layout and fun, easy to distinguish graphics, it is a great app it’s not surprising that the app has received a 4+ rating on the App store so far!

Tooth infection kills single dad

The relationship between oral health and the rest of the body was put into perspective recently after 24-year-old single dad Kyle Willis died after developing a tooth infection.

Reports stated that Kyle suffered from an infected wisdom tooth and the course of treatment was to have the tooth extracted; however, for the procedure to be carried out Kyle had to buy antibiotics and pain medication and according to reports he could only afford the pain medication.

After finding himself unable to pay for the antibiotics treatment, the single unemployed father from the US developed a brain infection. After suffering from severe headaches and a swollen face, Kyle reportedly went to an emergency room, where it discovered that he had acquired an infection in his brain. Kyle leaves behind his six-year-old daughter.

The tragic story highlights the vital importance of maintaining oral health. The report, which comes from WMJT, Cincinnati, stated Willis was out of work and had no health insurance.