Fake dentist kisses patient

A fake dentist from Florida has been arrested for kissing his female patient’s buttock. John Collazos had been practising dentistry without a licence, directing his services towards migrants. A woman complained to police about Collazos after attending an appointment with him for toothache. According to the patient, Collazos gave her an injection in her buttock to relieve the pain, and subsequently kissed the wound. Collazos has been charged with four counts of practising without a licence, another four for using equipment without a licence, and one count of battery.

Dallas star dies of mouth cancer

TV star Larry Hagman, best known for his role as JR Ewing in the hit series Dallas, died of tongue cancer on Friday 23rd November, having been diagnosed with the disease in October last year. Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter OBE, hopes this latest high-profile case will help to spread the message and raise awareness about mouth cancer. Dr Carter said: “Larry’s passing is a reminder of how deadly mouth cancer can be. Latest figures show more than 6,000 cases have been diagnosed in the UK. Without early detection, half of those will die.”

Oral HIV test

According to Time magazine, OraQuick, the first in-home HIV test kit that received FDA approval for over-the-counter sale directly to U.S. consumers in July, is one of the best inventions of 2012. “With just a swab of saliva, OraQuick can identify the antibodies that signal HIV infection within 20 minutes. It’s the first do-it-yourself test for HIV—the same one that health professionals use—but without the trip to a doctor’s office or the need to wait days for results,” the magazine reported. Douglas Michaels, president and CEO of OraSure Technologies, manufacturer of the kit, said: “The OraQuick In-Home HIV Test is a breakthrough product in the fight against HIV and AIDS because it empowers more people to learn their HIV status in the comfort and privacy of their own homes,” he said.

GDC suspension

Council member suspended from office

Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer for England, said: “Giving patients good information is key to a high quality service. We are delighted to support the Office of Fair Trading’s campaign. This material will help patients make informed choices about their dental care.”

OFT campaign gives patients ‘Right to Smile’

Consumer and competition authority initiatives drive to encourage patients to know their rights before visiting their dentist

The Office of Fair Trading has launched a new campaign to help patients understand more about their rights when visiting the dentist.

The ‘Right to Smile’ campaign has come off the back of the report from the OFT earlier in the year, where it was claimed that patients do not always have the information to allow them to make informed decisions about their choice of dentist and treatments.

As part of the campaign the OFT is advising NHS patients:
• They are entitled to a wide range of treatment that is needed to get their mouth, teeth and gums as healthy and pain free as possible.
• If the dentist discusses a particular type of treatment, patients shouldn’t be required to pay for it privately. Private options may be discussed, such as cosmetic alternatives or specialist treatments such as dental implants - which is up to the patient to decide if they want them.
• Even if treatment involves a number of visits, patients will only pay one charge for each complete course of NHS treatment, unless there was an emergency visit to the dentist first.
• Should NHS treatment fail within 12 months, the dentist should repair or redo most treatment free of charge, unless the patient was advised that treatment was unlikely to be a long-term solution. Advice for private patients includes:
• Ask what guarantees the dentist provides. In addition to any rights patients may have under guarantee, they will also have rights under the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982.

“The Right to Smile campaign is supported by organisations such as the BDA, Oasis, IDH, Which?, NHS Choices, the Department of Health, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and Citizens Advice.

Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer for England, said: “Giving patients good information is key to a high quality service. We are delighted to support the Office of Fair Trading’s campaign. This material will help patients make informed choices about their dental care.”

A Which? spokesperson said: “We support the ‘Right to Smile’ campaign to help consumers understand their rights when visiting the dentist. It’s vital patients are given clear, timely and transparent information on the proposed treatment and the costs and how to complain if something goes wrong.”

Hand hygiene

Study looks at behavioural trial

Dr Martin Fallowfield, Chair of the BDA’s Principal Executive Committee, said: “As the OFT acknowledges, and research by the BDA and other organisations con-
Earthquakes responsible for teeth grinding

The stress of Canterbury’s earthquakes could be damaging people’s teeth, a Christchurch dentist says.

New Zealand Dental Association (NZDA) Canterbury president Donna Batchelor said the region’s dentists had noticed a growing number of people seeking treatment for teeth grinding, with stress believed to be the cause of the problem.

Some people were seeking treatment for fractured cusps, where the pointed chewing surface of the tooth was broken off from grinding.

“There’s significantly more patients coming through with that,” Batchelor said. “You can’t stop it if it’s something that’s coming from an internal thing.”

Dentists were working more closely with counsellors and family doctors to support stressed patients, she said.

The earthquakes had also seen dental work become less of a priority for some families.

“There’s so many other things to worry about. A lot of people are possibly leaving things more until there’s an issue,” she said.

For elderly people, getting across town to their dentist had become a challenge, and more dentists were now taking the time to go to them, such as visiting rest homes to check on patients with dentures.

Batchelor said the region’s dentists had been stressed since the quakes, with many losing their premises in the February 2011 quake.

Many were still working out of temporary premises or sharing space with other practitioners.

Others were worried about losing the premises they had. A Rangiora dental clinic was forced to move at short notice in March because its building was deemed to be quake-prone, she said.

World-renowned dentistry expert Professor Ray Bertolotti will speak to a group of Canterbury dentists today about alternative treatments.

Bertolotti, a clinical professor of biomaterial science at the University of California, is donating all proceeds, more than $18,000, to the Canterbury Dental Research (CDDR) Trust, a charitable trust set up to support research into improving the health of the teeth, mouth and jaw.

The GDC has announced that they have suspended David Smith, a dental technician, from office as a Council Member.

This follows David Smith’s referral to the Privy Council as a result of non-going fitness to practise proceedings.

The suspension was imposed at a meeting of the Council on 15 November 2012 in accordance with the GDC’s procedures. The Privy Council has been notified of this decision and the suspension will remain until the Privy Council reaches a decision on whether or not to suspend or remove him under the General Dental Council (Constitution) Order 2009.

The GDC will not be making any further comment at this stage.

Check your faulty defibrillators warns MHRA

The manufacturer, HeartSine Technologies Ltd, has issued a global correction notice for samaritan® PAD 500/500P defibrillators distributed from August 2004 to December 2010. Serial numbers for devices affected by these issues are below:

- 0400000501 to 0700052917 inclusive
- 08A00055000 to 10A00070753 inclusive
- 10C00200000 to 10C00201038 inclusive

“Defibrillators are the essential kit for cardiac arrest response,” said MHRA’s Director of Medical Devices, John Wilkinson. “So it’s great news for consumers. The earthquakes had also affected the usability of a tooth whitener. The jury found unanimously that Mr Thorpe was guilty of misleading consumers as to the legality of a tooth whitening product and 10 charges for breaches of the Cosmetic Product Regulations 2008 for supplying a tooth whitening product that contained or released excessive levels of hydrogen peroxide.

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Teeth Whitening Salesman Jailed

A trader who was found to be selling illegal teeth whitening products over the internet was sentenced to prison at Chelmsford Crown Court.

Mr Barrington Charles Armstrong Thorpe was sentenced to eight months in prison followed by an additional eight months under license under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPUTRs) for misleading consumers as to the legality of a tooth whitening product and 10 charges for breaches of the Cosmetic Product Regulations 2008 for supplying a tooth whitening product that contained or released excessive levels of hydrogen peroxide.

Mr Thorpe has been involved in the sale of a tooth whitening product since at least 2005 through a company called Smile Brighter Ltd. After the company was liquidated, Mr Thorpe continued to sell the product as a sole trader. He used several websites to sell this product including: www.smile-brighter.co.uk; www.brighterSmile.co.uk; and www.smilebrighternow.com.

It is understood that Mr Thorpe first became involved in selling this product on return from the USA after making an acquaintance with a supplier. In 2007 Mr Thorpe was informed by Bath Trading Standards that the tooth whitener he was selling was not compliant with the regulations. Nevertheless, Mr Thorpe continued to trade. In 2009 he was contacted by Essex Trading Standards, and an investigation into his business was undertaken.

Mr Thorpe accepted a caution in 2010, acknowledging that the tooth whitener was illegal. Still, Mr Thorpe failed to cease trading and Essex Trading Standards launched a prosecution.

The jury found unanimously that Mr Thorpe was guilty of misleading consumers as to the legality of the product, and also for not providing information on the website that is required by law.

Mr Thorpe pleaded guilty to the breaches of the Cosmetic Products Regulations. These charges included the supply of a product containing excessive levels of Hydrogen Peroxide and for deficient labelling of the tooth whitener.

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Editorial comment

As you will have seen from the news on the front page (or did you turn straight to this to see what I had to say?) the Office of Fair Trading has backed up its report (first reported in DT Vol.6 No.15, June 4-10, 2012) with patient awareness campaign highlight patient’s rights to treatment at the dentist.

This is being complemented with videos and an information sheet, tailored to each country in the UK. To see the video, go to the OFT’s YouTube channel and take a look – probably worth it as you can bet your patients probably will.

Last week saw the ninth annual BACD conference in Manchester. It was an exceptional conference with some really world class names speaking at the event. I have to say my favourite (and I did go to more than one, I promise) was a lecture by Rafi Romano on Current Innovations in Aesthetic Orthodontics. I am hoping to get a clinical case study from him for an upcoming 2013 issue of Dental Tribune, watch this space!

Dental association launched

Dental Fusion Organisation (DFO), a new association with the mission to support and represent dental professionals working in primary dental care, improve oral health and provide social and clinical training for members, was launched on 9th November.

The association has no governing body as DFO members vote directly on every major issue through Web and postal voting. If the members approve, one of the first campaigns will be to reverse the demise of the small independent family practice. Membership is open to all dental professionals and there is also a tight integration between the association and dental suppliers.

Any company can gain direct access to Dental Fusion members by putting goods or services on their Web site free of charge. The association’s margin is recycled back to the members in the form of Reward Points.

“In addition to dental health and business success, training and assistance with compliance will be a major theme of the new association”, says Chief Executive Derek Watson. “This will be delivered mainly through a series of Webinars which enable dentists to learn at any Web-enabled PC, tablet or smartphone.”

So far fifteen lunchtime Webinars have been organised, including Management Monday, Financial Friday and a course on improving your IT skills. These are open to all, but DFO members are entitled to priority registration and verifiable CPD.

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Effects of tooth whitening under inspection by EU

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is currently conducting a one-year survey on possible negative side-effects of tooth whitening and bleaching products. The committee has called upon dentists in the EU to report their own and their patients’ observations.

The survey includes tooth whitening and bleaching products that are not freely available on the market to consumers, that is, those that contain between 0.1 and 6 per cent hydrogen peroxide. It runs until 31 October 2013. The initial results will be reported to the European Commission by the end of next year.

GDC sets out new guidance for employers

The guidance contains a number of key points, including what defines a student/trainee dental nurse or dental technician:

They are either:
1. Employed and enrolled or waiting to start on a recognised programme that will lead to GDC registration; or
2. Studying on a recognised programme that leads directly to GDC registration.


Polar bear enters dentist’s chair

A team of vets at a Scottish wildlife park have given a polar bear root canal treatment.

The vets were called in after the usually-playful Arktos was feeling subdued, leading staff at the park to discover a problem with his upper left canine tooth.

Arkto, who weighs 75 stones, was sedated and placed on an operating table made up of scaffolding poles and thick planks. His tooth had become damaged at the tip and rotted through, causing the polar bear to need root canal treatment.

After three hours, the treatment was successfully completed.

Mr Anyetei’s registration was immediately suspended and unless he exercises his right of appeal, his name will be erased from the register.

About one year ago, the Council of the European Union passed an amended directive on tooth whitening products, which resolved that tooth whitening or bleaching products containing more than 0.1 per cent and up to 6 per cent hydrogen peroxide will only be sold to dentists. Products with concentrations of up to 0.1 per cent continue to be freely available on the market.

The CED is a non-profit organisation, which represents over 340,000 dentists across Europe. It is aimed at the promotion of high standards of oral health care and effective patient-safety-centred professional practice in Europe.

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Douglas Richardson, animal collection manager at the park, said the vets and park staff were pleased with how the operation went.

He said: “Arkto really is a lucky bear and we were delighted to be able to save his tooth.

“In the wild the infection would have tracked through his system, causing him a great deal of pain and discomfort and, over the longer term, it could eventually kill him.”
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13/12/12  19:30  ‘Modern Treatment Options for Periodontal Disease’ Ian Peace

19/12/12  18:00  ‘Medical Emergencies’ Joe Omar

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Parents responsible for dental fears

A new study conducted by scientists at the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid highlights the important role that parents play in the transmission of dentist fear in their family.

Previous studies had already identified the association between the fear levels of parents and their children, but they never explored the different roles that the father and the mother play in this phenomenon.

América Lara Sacido, one of the authors of the study explains that “along with the presence of emotional transmission of dentist fear amongst family members, we have identified the relevant role that fathers play in transmission of this phobia in comparison to the mother.”

Published in the Inter-national Journal of Pediatric Dentistry, the study analysed 185 children between seven and 12 years and their parents in the Autonomous Community of Madrid. The results were in line with previous studies which found that fear levels amongst fathers, mothers and children are inter-linked.

The authors confirmed that the higher the level of dentist fear or anxiety in one family member, the higher the level in the rest of the family. The study also reveals that fathers play a key role in the transmission of dentist fear from mothers to their children as they act as a mediating variable.

“Although the results should be interpreted with due caution, children seem to mainly pay attention to the emotional reactions of the fathers when deciding if situations at the dentist are potentially stressful,” states Lara Sacido.

Consequently, transmission of fear from the mother to the child, whether it be an increase or reduction of anxiety, could be influenced by the reactions that the father displays in the dentist.

Amongst the possible implications of these results, the authors outline the two most salient: the need to involve mothers and especially fathers in dentist fear prevention campaigns; and to make fathers to attend the dentist and display no signs of fear or anxiety.

“With regard to assistance in the dental clinic, the work with parents is key. They should appear relaxed as a way of directly ensuring that the child is also relaxed too,” notes the author.

Dental practice wins at MyFaceMyBody Awards

Businesses pledge for more fruit and veg

More fruit and veg will be added to ready-meals, and supermarket fruit and veg sections will be expanded as part of a new drive to encourage everyone to get their 5-a-day, Public Health Minister Anna Soubry announced today.

The move comes as part of the latest Responsibility Deal pledge, aiming to encourage action across the food industry to help people eat more fruit and vegetables. This includes foods ready across the board - fresh, frozen, canned, dried and juiced products, as well as fruit and vegetables in pre-prepared food, such as ready-meals.

Eating five portions of fruit and veg a day helps to lower the risk of serious health problems, such as heart disease and some cancers, but figures show that two thirds of people still don’t eat enough.

The new pledges include:

- ALDI will increase the amount of store space dedicated to fresh produce and feature their Super 6 fruit and vegetable lines in their promotional activities including TV advertising.
- Iceland will offer coupon deals on fruit and vegetables, increase their promotion to its customers using new website and social media features, as well as introduce new fruit and vegetable products.
- LIDL will rebrand its frozen and prepared food, such as ready-prepared meals, frozen soups and juices, as well as introduce new fruit and vegetable products.
- Co-operative Food, Morrisons, Sainsbury’s, Tesco, Waitrose, General Mills, Mars, caterers 5055, Brakes, CIH & Co Catering, and the British Frozen Food Federation have also signed up to the pledge.

Tooth whitening company prosecuted

The General Dental Council (GDC) has prosecuted illegal teeth whitening company Pearl National pleaded guilty at Bury Magistrates’ Court on Friday 23rd November.

During sentencing, District Judge Bennett said: “It is clear from their website that Pearl National operated from a large number of locations and from the facts of the case presented to me, that they employed unqualified people to provide teeth whitening to their customers.”

He added that it occurred to him that the company “must have received a lot of money and had never filed accounts at Companies House.”

The court has fined the firm £5,500 and ordered them to pay £4,000 towards the GDC costs.
The General Dental Council (GDC) has launched more accessible versions of its patient information.

The ‘Smile EasyRead’ patient information leaflet explains the role of the GDC; what patients can expect at their visit to a dental professional; and what they can do if they’re unhappy with their experience.

It features larger font, pictures to support and help explain the text, shorter sentences and language that sounds natural when spoken.

The GDC established a register of Special Care Dentistry specialists in 2008. Special Care Dentistry is concerned with improving the oral health of individuals and groups in society who have a physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability or, more often, a combination of these factors.

Sukina Mosaicjee, the most recent registrant on the GDC’s Special Care Dentistry specialist list and a Locum Consultant in Special Care Dentistry at King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, said: “Smile EasyRead” is comprehensive and easy to understand. It will help raise awareness among vulnerable patients and their carers about the standards of care they should be receiving from the dental team.”

Alison Keens, Head of Nursing and Therapies - Adults with Learning Disabilities at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust said: “People with learning disabilities need information to be provided in an accessible format. This excellent document will enable more people with learning disabilities to have a better understanding of and make more decisions about their own dental care.”

As well as EasyRead, Smile is available in print in Plain English, online in Welsh, Bengali, Chinese, Punjabi and Urdu, and as online audio files in English.

Dental professionals can also access audio and Large Print versions of the GDC’s ‘Standards for dental professionals’, as well as accessible continuing professional development and employment advice.

GDC Chief Executive and Registrar Evlynne Gilvarry said: “We are committed to providing accessible information and services. We want all patients to be aware of what they should expect from their dental professional and how we can help if something goes wrong.”

Free copies of Smile and Smile EasyRead, and download translations and audio files can be downloaded from the GDC website: www.gdc-uk.org.

Is your dental partnership legal?

NASDAL are advising all dentists to think twice before going into a dental partnership with a family member.

Some smaller practices comprise a partnership between a dentist and their spouse, but if the spouse is not a General Dental Council (GDC) registrant, this may be illegal.

Nick Hancock is a Chartered Accountant and a NASDAL member who was recently asked for advice by a dentist in partnership with his wife who was the practice manager. “Regrettably, I had to inform the dentist that he should dissolve the partnership. Under The Dentists Act 1984 it states ‘... an individual who is not a registered dentist or a registered medical practitioner shall not carry on the business of dentistry ...’”

Damien Charlton, a member of the NASDAL Lawyers Group says there is one exception. “When the practice holds a General Dental Services (GDS) contract, the National Health Service Act 2006 permits certain non-GDC registrants - including a GDS practice employee - to enter a GDS contract. The Dentists Act specifically states that receiving income under a GDS contract is not deemed, for the purposes of that Act, to be carrying on the business of dentistry.”

He added: “It’s essential that the partnership formed for the purposes of the GDS contract is kept separate from any private work carried out by the practice because it is only receipt of income under a GDS contract that falls within the exception to the definition of ‘the business of dentistry’. This means (amongst other things) keeping separate sets of accounts and ensuring that the non-GDC registrant does not receive any income from the non-GDS parts of the practice.”

Dentists in an ‘illegal partnership’ are strongly advised to dissolve it. Once the partnership has dissolved, the registered dentist can continue to trade in a different format. This could be as a sole trader, a limited liability partnership or as a limited company. It is essential that you seek expert financial and legal advice to ensure that the structure you choose complies with the complex rules and regulations which govern the practice of dentistry.

BDA Scotland welcomes new director

Pat Kilpatrick has been appointed as the new Director of the British Dental Association (BDA) for Scotland. She will take up her post in January 2015 and bring the post extensive experience in the healthcare sector including operational and strategic management, policy development, and postgraduate teaching and research.

Graduating from the University of Dundee, Pat joined the Graduate Training Scheme for NHS management before going on to senior roles within NHS Scotland including Director of Clinical Development at NHS Argyll and Clyde and Director of Planning at North Glasgow University Hospitals Trust. She led the National Task Force on the development of Primary Care Trusts in Scotland in 1997.

As Academic Director in the School of Management at the University of Stirling, she developed the first MBA postgraduate degree programme designed to develop the management skills of both doctors and dentists.

Latterly her career has been in consulting. She joined Tribal Consulting in 2006 as a Director within their national advisory team, before going on to launch her own business in 2010.

Pat said: “Dentistry in Scotland faces a complex set of challenges. I look forward to playing my part in helping the profession overcome them and advancing the cause of oral health in Scotland.”