Latest thinking in risk management
Shaun Howe reviews this year’s Dental Protection Premier Symposium

I

consider myself very lucky to receive an invite to
Dental Protection’s Pre-
mi er Symposium most years. This outstanding event takes
place around late November, early December each year and
brings together some of the latest thinking in risk manage-
ment as well as supporting the
work of dental professionals in
practice and research by offer-
ing the Premier Awards which encourages the improvement
of patient care in six key areas: ethics and professionalism, re-
cord keeping, infection control, team working and skill mix,
consent and communication and health and safety.

The line-up is invariably impressive and this year again
provided great education, rea-
sions why we should reflect and
also extremely entertaining.

Professor Trevor Burke gave a
presentation titled “Fools rush in...” the main thrust of his di-
cussion was regarding the evi-
dence base that we should use.

A tough act to follow but Dr
Lloyd Searson of Kings College
certainly rose to the occasion
with his presentation “...where
angels fear to tread” where he
discussed how poor planning of
implants, their placement and
surrounding tissues can lead to
difficulties. He highlighted
issues in a complex world. The first
day ended on a high following
Professor Trevor Burke’s
entertainment and informative
presentation. The second day
began with Professor Mark
McGurk who examined “Medical Risks in a complex world”, the first portion concentrated on look-
ing at and identifying lesions
in and around the oral cavity
and the second part was on medical therapies that we as
medical practitioners should really be paying at-
tention to especially when our
patients have a history of smok-
ing, alcohol use and their very
delicate medical histories. He
demonstrated that the inequalities of
patient journey is also improved.
He also highlighted the very new
risks presented to us by new
medical therapies that we as
practitioners may not be paying
enough attention too.

A thoroughly entertain-
ing day which any team
could have attended; you
should perhaps consider it next
year and I hope I get invited
again.

About the author

Shaun trained and qualified in the
Royal Army Dental Corps in 1993. He
works in the NHS and privately on
full time in Dorset. He is currently a
FGDP trained practice appraiser. He
is currently on the Editorial Board
of DENTAL TRIBUNE and con-
tributes to these on-line. He has spoken
to groups across the UK drawing on his experiences on NI and his work with Dental Protection.