Dentist knocks down dog walker
Kay Nolan, a dentist at Pa- dham Dental Practice near Burnley, knocked down Stuart Mather whilst texting at the wheel. She had pulled into a layby to write the mes- sage, but only sent it once she had set off again. The collision occurred on June 6 in Higham, Lancashire. Mr. Mather was taken to hos- pital but later died, as did his dog. Nolan has admitted the charge of causing death by careless or inconsider- ate driving. She will be sen- tenced at Preston Crown Court on December 17.

NHS dental portal
NHS Dental Services is roll- ing out the NHS dental portal to all providers and per- formers. The new dental portal, allowing dentists in England and Wales secure access to both contractual information and the details of their NHS activity, is now live. Performers working in primary care will be able to view and download their monthly pay statements the moment they are pro- duced rather than waiting for them to arrive by post, and check their superann- uation contributions.

The portal also allows providers to give staff and performers full and partial access to con- tract information via the portal.

Dentistry news programme
ITN Productions have an- nounced it is producing a news programme dedicated to the dentistry profession, which will be available to view at the Dentistry Show and online on ITN’s online Healthcare News Channel.

The programme will fea- ture interviews with indus- try-leading representatives covering topics such as direct access, the CPI cy- cle, and the latest industry changes. “I am really excit- ed to be working with ITN Productions for The Den- tistry Show next year” says Lucy Pitt, Group Marketing Manager for The Den- tistry Show on the map.

X-ray warning of unsafe scanners
Handheld scanners found to be dangerously faulty

Bruce Petrie, of the MHRA’s Medical Devices Enforcement Team, said: “It’s vital that den- tists and dental staff do not buy these dental X-ray machines from eBay or other websites be- cause they are not approved and not safe for dentists or patients.

“We have seized 15 of these X-ray machines from the dis- tributor and we are working with eBay and other govern- ments to ensure dentists and patients are protected. We urge anyone who has bought one of these machines to contact us on the MHRA’s hotline on 020 5808 6701 or at counterfeit@mhra. gsi.gov.uk.”

The Tianjie Dental Falcon Scanner

A cut-price X-ray machine thought to be being used at some dental practices has been found to be ‘potentially lethal’.

This is according to a report splashed across the front page of last Monday’s (5 December) Daily Mirror under the headline ‘Lethal X-ray machine at dentists’, which describes how a series of im- ported hand-held x-ray scanners could be lethal to both users and patients.

The Tianjie Dental Falcon scanners, which are for sale on various websites for as little as £200, were tested at King’s College Hos- pital said: “When we tested the X- ray machine, we found it did not protect users and patients from unnecessary radiation exposure.”

Donald Emerton, Clinical Evaluator at King’s College Hos- pital said: “When we tested the X- ray machine, we found it did not protect users and patients from unnecessary radiation exposure.”

“Over time someone operat- ing this machine, such as a dental assistant, would be exposed to un- acceptable levels of accumulated radiation and this would have an increased risk to their health. I certainly wouldn’t want someone to use this piece of equipment to take an X-ray of me.”

The scanners were found to ‘expose users and patients to 10 times the normal level of radiation – dramatically increasing the risks of cancer and organ damage’, said the report in the Daily Mirror. Investigators also found that the scanners had botched wiring and a lack of lead insulation to protect patients and users against radia- tion leakage.

At least one dentist in the UK is known to have used the device, and many others have said to have been interested in buying one.
Government crackdown on binge drinking

Ministers are proposing a minimum price of 45p per unit of alcohol sold in England and Wales as part of a package of measures aimed at reducing problem drinking and its associated risks for health and society as a whole.

In addition to the introduction of minimum pricing, the Home Office wants a ban on multi-buy promotions, such as two-for-one offers, and a new health-related objective for alcohol licensing.

This latter measure would mean licensing authorities would be able to consider alcohol-related health harms when managing problems relating to the number of premises selling alcohol in their area.

Damian Green, the government's policing minister, commented: ‘The evidence is clear that the availability of cheap alcohol contributes to harmful levels of drinking.

‘It can’t be right that it is possible to purchase a can of beer for as little as 20p.

Figures suggest irresponsible drinking costs the taxpayer £21 billion per year, with hospitals admitting 1.2 million patients with alcohol-related problems last year alone.

Australian example should be followed, charity urges

On Saturday 1 December, Australia became the first country to strip all tobacco products of branding and replace them with graphic health warnings of the consequences of smoking.

The new law means all cigarettes will now be sold in olive green packets containing graphic images warning of smoking, legislation that organisers of Mouth Cancer Action Month believe should be enforced in the UK.

The news comes on the final day of the campaign, and is welcomed by Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter OBE.

Dr Carter said: “Any legislation designed to put people off smoking, particularly young people taking up the habit, is one the Foundation fully supports.

“These particular images are extremely graphic. If people continue to turn a blind eye to the dangers posed by smoking, they are putting themselves at real risk from a number of diseases and should see what damage smoking does.”

Examples of the new packaging

Aspire Academy shapes ‘leaders of tomorrow’ at The Dentistry Show

The all new ‘Aspire Academy’ will be running its first conference for newly qualified dentists on Friday 1st March at the 2013 Dentistry Show.

Hosted by Raj Bhatt, the free to attend conference will offer clinical and professional insight into being a modern dentist and a future practice owner, with presentations from Nilesh Parmar and Prem-Pal Selhmi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh.

Five sessions, each with a mini-ipad up for grabs, together with a host of online content and offers from Smile On will be available for delegates who attend, followed by networking drinks and access to a discounted after dinner ticket for the “The Big Heart Party” in aid of Heart Your Smile.

Dentists who qualified between 2007 and 2011 can register to access a free delegate place at www.thedentistry-show.co.uk/aspire.

Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board announced

Professor David Heymann has been confirmed as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board.

He is currently Chairman of the Health Protection Agency and in his new role will Chair the Advisory Board that supports the Chief Executive of Public Health England in delivering its mission to protect and improve the nation’s health, address inequalities and improve the health of the poorest fastest.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said: “I am delighted to confirm Professor David Heymann as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board. He brings a wealth of experience to the role as a public health scientist and doctor at both national and international level.”

Professor David Heymann said: “I feel very privileged to be appointed as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board. Public Health England offers an unrivalled opportunity to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of the nation.

“I am looking forward to continuing to work with Duncan and his team and am confident that we have the expertise to support local government as they take on their new responsibility for improving and protecting the public’s health, as well as working in partnership with the NHS and other stakeholders locally and nationally.”

Chief Executive of Public Health England Duncan Selbie said: “I am greatly looking forward to working with David in pursuit of our mission and ambition.”

Professor Heymann will take up post formally as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board on 1 April 2013, when Public Health England becomes fully operational.

David Heymann
Following an open and rigorous recruitment exercise, David Prior has emerged as the Government’s preferred candidate for the post of Chair of the Care Quality Commission.

The Secretary of State for Health has today invited the Health Select Committee to hold a public pre-appointment scrutiny hearing and report on the candidate’s suitability for the post, in line with proposals for scrutiny of key positions in which Parliament has an interest.

After a hearing, the Committee will set out its views on the candidate’s suitability for this post. The Secretary of State will then consider the conclusions of the Committee’s report carefully before deciding whether or not to proceed with the appointment.

David Prior is Chairman of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Foundation Trust and Chair of an Academy School. David qualified as a barrister and spent ten years in the Steel Industry. Between 1995-2002 he served in a number of political roles, including as MP for North Norfolk, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Conservative Party and a member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee. He has been Chair of a wide range of private companies.
**Microcracks in jawbone can lead to stronger bones**

A recent article in the *Journal of Oral Implantology* suggests that introducing microcracks in the jawbone can stimulate bone growth.

The article describes an approach to oral implant surgery for patients with severely atrophic jaws that stimulates bone activation of the future implant location.

Dental patients with severely atrophic jaws have poor quality and quantity of bone in which to place an implant. Using the Osteotensor, a purpose-designed instrument, a series of microcracks are created in the jawbone. A biological response then takes place: proteins, stem cells, and other growth factors work to regenerate the bone.

After 45 to 90 days, implant surgery can take place. Solid titanium disks are implanted into the bone bed and covered by biomaterial. A rigid, screw-fixed prosthesis can then be immediately loaded and become functional.

The authors of the article report the case of a 74-year-old woman treated with this technique after she declined to undergo a bone grafting procedure. Forty-five days after microcracks induced bone activation, the same Osteotensor instrument could no longer penetrate bone at 25 of 42 impact sites. After 90 days, none of the sites could be penetrated. Softer, type IV bone had been transformed to harder, type II bone, and it was safe to proceed with implant surgery.

Two years later, the patient's implants were osseointegrated, and the regenerated bone had become functional.

**Glasgow Dental School gets £2.5m makeover**

**Patients put off dentist due to cost**

According to a new survey, almost one third of people putting off going to the dentist because of the cost. The survey, carried out on behalf of the Irish Dental Association, found that there has been an increase in the number of patients who wait until they experience pain to visit a dentist.

Three quarters of dentists surveyed said they have seen an increase in the number of patients who arrive at a surgery in pain while 95 per cent of dentists have seen a marked increase in the number of extractions performed. Significantly, 91 per cent of dentists have seen a decrease in patient attendance.

Dr Peter Gannon of the IDA said the results were alarming.

“The simple preventive treatments that were available were key to maintaining good dental health for many people. It is worrying to see such problems so soon and I am concerned that we are returning to the days of extractions and dentures” he said.

**Vitamin D could prevent tooth decay**

A new review shows that vitamin D could help prevent dental carries or tooth decay. The review, published in the December issue of *Nutrition Reviews*, encompassed 24 controlled clinical trials, spanning the 1920s to the 1980s, on approximately 5,000 children in several countries.

“My main goal was to summarise the clinical trial database so that we could take a fresh look at this vitamin D question,” said Dr. Philippe Hujoel of the University of Washington, who conducted the review.

The clinical trials he reviewed were conducted in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Austria, New Zealand and Sweden. Trials were conducted in institutional settings, schools, medical and dental practices, or hospitals. The subjects were children or young adults between the ages of two and 16 years, with a weighted mean age of 10 years.

The vitamin D question takes on greater importance in the light of current public health trends. Vitamin D levels in many populations are decreasing while dental carries levels in young children are increasing.

“Whether this is more than just a coincidence is open to debate,” Hujoel said. “In the meantime, pregnant women or young mothers can do little harm by realising that vitamin D is essential to their offspring’s health. Vitamin D does lead to teeth and bones that are better mineralised.”

Hujoel added a note of caution to his findings: “One has to be careful with the interpretation of this systematic review. The trials had weaknesses which could have biased the result, and most of the trial participants lived in an era that differs profoundly from today’s environment.”

**Glasgow University tower**

A new review shows that vitamin D could help prevent dental carries or tooth decay.
Aspire Academy - for tomorrow’s leaders
Friday 1st March at the Dentistry Show

Free to attend
www.thedentistryshow.co.uk/leaders

Offering newly qualified dentists a clinical and professional insight into being a modern dentist and a future practice owner. If you qualified between 2007 and 2011 then this is for you - it’s what you don’t get taught at dental school.

• Free to attend
• Membership to the Aspire Academy
• A mini-ipad up for grabs in each of the 5 sessions
• A host of online content and special offers from Smile-on
• Networking drinks after the Show
• Discounted party ticket for the Heart Your Smile Ball

Hosted by Raj Rattan with presentations from Nilesh Parmar & Prem-Pal Sehmi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh

Register for free by 18th January and book your place alongside the leaders of tomorrow.
Lack of fixtures review could drive down value of practice

Changes to the Capital Allowances Act could affect practice owners wishing to sell up.

“You could benefit from a tax refund now as well as laying important groundwork in advance of selling your practice. The earlier one of these claims is done the better because as well as a potential tax refund, it provides additional capital allowances going forward”, said NASDAL member Nick Hancock of specialist dental accountants Albert Goodman.

Until now, the ‘qualifying fixtures’ have normally been left as part of the freehold acquisition price. For a commercial property being sold after 5 April 2014, one of these reviews must be undertaken as part of the sales process. After that date, the vendor and the purchaser will need to specifically agree the sales price of those fixtures, usually by making a joint election under Section 198 of the CAA 2001 to achieve the capital allowance position.

Failure to carry out a fixtures review could drive down the value of the practice. Nick explained: “If qualifying assets are not identified with a Section 198 election being agreed, then effectively the buyer and all subsequent owners will have no opportunity to make a capital allowance claim on qualifying fixtures going forward. This could well have a detrimental effect on the sale proceeds figure when you try and sell your property.”

All change for Careers Day 2013

A number of new features including a CV clinic, business room and hands-on demonstrations will be on offer alongside the regular mix of practical advice, lectures, and exhibition at next year’s BDA UCL Eastman Careers Day, the newly-published programme reveals.

The annual event, which takes place on 8 February at London’s Hotel Russell, gives young dentists the chance to explore a range of career options and specialisms. Each of the eight rooms at the event will offer a full programme centred around a particular theme such as general practice, specialties, business and finance, experience building, and hospitals and special care.

For the first time in 2013 the day will also include a special programme of guidance sessions for those who are studying or have passed their OBE exam and a dedicated hands-on demonstration programme where a range of experts will demonstrate new clinical techniques on phantom head simulators. There will also be a dedicated CV Clinic offering delegates the chance to get one-to-one advice with the speakers.

There will also be a panel discussion looking at the organisation of dentistry in the future. The panel will include Chief Dental Office Barry Cockcroft alongside Professor Andrew Eder, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Dental Education at the Eastman Dental Institute, Elizabeth Jones, Dean of Postgraduate Dentistry for the London Deanery, and Peter Ward, Chief Executive at the BDA. The discussion will be chaired by Dr Judith Husband, Chair of Education and Ethics for the BDA’s Principal Executive Committee.

Speaking ahead of the event, Dr Judith Husband, said: ‘Those starting out on their career in dentistry will find, at the Careers Day, everything they need to take those essential first steps. I am pleased that we are once again working with the UCL Eastman Dental Institute to host this event.’

A full programme for the day and booking information is available on the dedicated event page on the BDA website.

Tooth agenesis linked to family history of cancer

Individuals with tooth agenesis have an increased risk of having a family history of cancer, a new study in the Journal of Dental Research has found.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine recruited 82 individuals with no birth defect from the same institution to carry out the study. Tooth agenesis was assessed in permanent teeth and was defined based on the age of the participants and when initial tooth formation should be radiographically visible.

The results showed that individuals with tooth agenesis had an increased risk of having a family history of cancer (p = 0.00006). Despite this, the researchers concluded that prospective studies are needed to confirm if tooth agenesis can be used as a risk marker for cancer.

White night for CRISIS

Members of the dental community braved the cold to gather for a fundraiser with a difference!

Aply named the Ice White party, the event saw more than 200 guests come together at the swanky Holborn House club in central London for an evening of dancing and entertainment to raise money for the homeless charity CRISIS.

Organiser of the event, dentist Nilesh R Parmar commented: “The Ice White party was a huge success and I am overwhelmed by the support of the entire dental community. It was an overwhelming event to organise but with help from Louise (Manan Ltd) and Raj Bhandot (owner of the Ice White House), we were able to really impress our guests. So far we have raised £3,261 for CRISIS with donations coming in through the justgiving page on a daily basis. I would like to thank all my sponsors for their financial support and help with the Ice White party, and look forward to working with them again next year!”

To donate to CRISIS via the Ice White page, go to www.justgiving.com/theice-whitexmasparty.
Wrigley oral healthcare programme appoints new global manager

IDH to launch dental academy

Denplan Announces New Life Presidents

ADI appoints official DCP Committee Member