Antimicrobial resistance poses ‘catastrophic threat’

CMO gives stark warning of a ‘discovery void’

Global action is needed to tackle the catastrophic threat of antimicrobial resistance, which in 20 years could see any one of us dying following minor surgery, England’s Chief Medical Officer Professor Dame Sally Davies has said.

The stark warning comes as the second volume of the CMO’s annual report is published, providing a comprehensive overview of the threat of antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases.

Calling for politicians to treat the threat as seriously as MRSA, the report highlights a “discovery void” with few new antibiotics developed in the past two decades. It highlights that, while a new infectious disease has been discovered nearly every year over the past 50 years, there have been very few new antibiotics developed leaving our armoury nearly empty as diseases evolve and become resistant to existing drugs.

In addition to encouraging development of new drugs, the report highlights that looking after the current arsenal of antibiotics is equally important. This means using better hygiene measures, prescribing fewer antibiotics and making sure they are only prescribed when needed.

The CMO also states that more action is needed to tackle the next generation of healthcare associated infections, including new strains of pneumonia-causing klebsiella, that will be harder to treat.

Seventeen recommendations have been made, including:

- A call for antimicrobial resistance to be put on the national risk register and taken seriously by politicians at an international level, including the G8 and WHO
- Better surveillance data across the NHS and world wide to monitor the developing situation
- More work carried out between the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries to preserve existing drugs and encourage the development of new antibiotics
- Building on the success of the NHS in cutting MRSA rates, which have fallen by 90 per cent since a peak in cases in 2005 through better hygiene measures, which should be used when treating the next generation of healthcare associated infections such as new strains of harder-to-treat klebsiella.

Prof Dame Sally Davies said: “Antimicrobial resistance poses a catastrophic threat. If we don’t act now, any one of us could go into hospital in 20 years with minor surgery and die because of an ordinary infection that can’t be treated by antibiotics. And routine operations like hip replacements or organ transplants could be deadly because of the risk of infection.”

The UK Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy and Action Plan will:

- Champion the responsible use of antibiotics – by ensuring NHS staff have the skills, knowledge and training to prescribe and administer antibiotics appropriately.
- Strengthen surveillance – by improving the recording of data on the numbers of antibiotics prescribed and trends in antibiotic resistance, this information can be used by clinicians to change patterns of prescribing. This will help reduce the level of resistance and help ensure patients respond to treatments.
- Encourage the development of new diagnostics, therapeutics and antibiotics, for example by trying new technologies such as new strains of hard-to-treat klebsiella.
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The guidelines will come into effect 1 August 2013.

• Responsibilities for those in temporary registration;
• Posts suitable for temporary registration;
• The responsibilities of applicant when first applying for temporary registration;
• The definition of temporary registration;
• Fitness to practise procedures in regard to temporary registration;
• Responsibilities for those involved in temporary registration. The guidelines will come into effect 1 August 2013.

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Campaign launched for BDTA Dental Showcase

The 2013 BDTA Dental Showcase marketing campaign has officially launched!

The BDTA is well-known for its exciting and dynamic themes each year and 2013 is set to be another huge success for BDTA Dental Showcase. This year's theme, for the UK's largest dental exhibition, reflects the exciting opportunity the show provides for every member of the dental team to see all that's new in the world of dentistry.

The advertising campaign's creative visually communicates 'Seeing What's New in Dentistry' - one of the key reasons over 15,000 visitors from the profession and trade flocked to BDTA Dental Showcase in 2012. More visitors than ever told the BDTA they came to see what's new in 2012 and BDTA Dental Showcase 2013 promises to build on this by providing new opportunities to meet one-to-one with over 350 exhibitors, experience hands on demonstrations and product displays by leading dental companies.

A visit to BDTA Dental Showcase 2013 promises to offer visitors the chance to:

- See the latest innovations from the largest selection of exhibitors, with face to face discussion and trial
- Track down the best offers from leading manufacturers and suppliers all under one roof
- Keep up to date with the latest in the world of dentistry
- Find out more about product and technique developments
- Gain CPD through the series of mini lectures and live theatre demonstrations

Tony Reed, BDTA Executive Director comments, “We’re extremely proud that BDTA Dental Showcase continues to be the UK’s most popular dental exhibition. It offers visitors the opportunity to see, feel and try new products first hand, as well as helping to drive innovation through the face to face interaction between exhibitors and visitors.”

Dental Showcase takes place from 17 – 19th October at the NEC Birmingham. For further information and to register for this year’s BDTA Dental Showcase visit: www.dentalshowcase.com now!

Brighton woman named UK Dental Hygienist of the Year 2012

Christina Chatfield scoops two awards at the DH&T Awards

Christina Chatfield opened the Dental Health Spa in Brighton in 2007 following changes to the law that allowed registered members of the dental team, other than dentists, to manage the business of dentistry.

With over 20 years’ experience in practice, she has worked amongst major blue chip health companies, including Gillette, Braun/Oral B Braun Oral-B and Pfizer.

She has long campaigned for hygienists to provide direct access to patients, believing that they should have an opinion as to where they should be able to seek dental treatment and advice - without a prescription.

Now her work and her surgery have been recognised with two prestigious awards - Best Dental Marketing 2012 and the UK Dental Hygienist of the Year at the Dental Hygiene and Therapy Awards.

Commenting on her awards success, Christina said: “For many years I have had a vision of changing the industry and empowering the patient by making dental hygiene more accessible for all.

“I am passionate about direct access for patients and bringing dental hygiene to the high street of the UK so it is a major honour to have my work recognised in this way.”

Dental nurse wins trip to Africa

On Saturday and March during this year's Dentistry Show, Bridge2Aid announced their competition winner Lyndsay McGrath from Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool, who has won a sponsored place on their Dental Volunteer Programme (DVP).

Requesting 250 words explaining why individuals think that they should be awarded a sponsored DVP place, Bridge2Aid received many competition entries from many dental professionals.

Standing out from the crowd was dental nurse Lyndsay, whose application outlined: “I have always dreamed of doing something to make a difference to another person’s life. I really hope I get the chance to do that. For a person who is passionate about their career; Bridge2Aid is really ‘living the dream’.”

Competition judges included Chris Barrow (Coach-Barrow) IDH’s Alex Handley, ProDental CPD’s Rob Dyas, Practice Plan’s Nigel Jones and last year’s competition winner Maddie Brathwaite, as well as Bridge2Aid’s CEO Mark Topley.

Lyndsay and the B2A Visits Team will now confirm a date for Lyndsay’s trip to East Africa. Talking about giving the opportunity to experience DVP, B2A Founder Ian Wilson commented: “I am delighted that Lyndsay’s passion for helping others will contribute to the passion of the B2A team, both in Africa and in the UK. I’m sure she’ll be an amazing asset. Enjoy it, Lyndsay.”
Editorial comment

A week on from the announcement of the demise of Clearstep, I am still saddened by the whole situation. I feel for the employees of the company, now made redundant (having been there I know how it feels). I feel for the patients who are mid treatment and are unsure of what is going to happen. And I feel for the practitioners who are now left to deal with their worried and angry patients, needing to find suitable solutions and counting the cost.

One of the saddest things about the situation came home to me today, when a copy of the asset catalogue for Clearstep was sent to me. Ten years of build-up and development boiled down to just 148 auction lots. As you read this, the auction will be over and items from 3D printers and scanners, computers, monitors, desk chairs and even down to a Twin section aluminium extending Ladder, (24ft approx.) will have been bid on, paid for and collected.

I wonder how many auction lots we would all boil down to?

Monitor decision gets positive BDA response

Confirmation that primary care dentists will initially be exempted from licensing by Monitor, the NHS economic regulator, has been greeted as a victory for common sense by the British Dental Association (BDA).

The intention of the Department of Health to exempt providers of primary medical and dental care holding contracts with the NHS National Commissioning Board from the requirement to hold a Monitor licence has been confirmed in the newly-published Protecting and promoting patients’ interests – licensing providers of NHS services. The Commissioning Board formally assumes responsibility for commissioning dental care in England on 1 April 2013.

The exemption follows extensive campaigning by the BDA during the passage of the Health and Social Care Act, and was proposed in the Department of Health consultation published in August 2012.

It will, however, be reviewed in 2016/17, a proposal opposed by the BDA in its consultation submission.

Dr John Milne, Chair of the BDA’s General Dental Practice Committee, said: “High street dentists in England are already subject to an extensive system of personal and practice-based regulation. The BDA has worked hard to make the case for a proportionate approach, arguing that it was unnecessary to extend Monitor’s jurisdiction to the licensing of dental practices. We are pleased to see that we have been listened to and look forward to the exemption being confirmed by the laying of regulations before Parliament.

“The BDA will now continue to make the case for the plan to review dentistry’s exemption in a few years to be reconsidered. Conducting a review because a certain point in time has been reached is arbitrary and unnecessary.”

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Do you have an opinion or something to say on any Dental Tribune UK article? Or would you like to write your own opinion for our guest comment page?

If so don’t hesitate to write to:
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Or email: lisa@healthcare-learning.com
Education, education, education

Your chance to win tickets to the Shard

Members of the dental team who register for BDTA Dental Showcase 2015, the largest show in the dental calendar, before the end of March will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win a visit to the tallest skyscraper in the UK! Registration is free of charge.

BDTA Dental Showcase 2015 will be held from 17-19th October at the NEC, Birmingham. Last year the exhibition attracted over 15,000 visitors from the profession and trade, making it the most popular and best-attended event on the calendar.

This year, BDTA Dental Showcase is focused on helping the whole team see, learn and find all that’s new in dentistry. The show is dedicated to offering visitors hands on demonstrations and face to face discussion with the biggest names in dentistry who will be showing their largest display of products. The combination of the latest new launches from dentistry brands and special shows offers, make it a fantastic time to both research options and make a purchase. In addition, last year visitors benefitted from almost 5,000 free, verifiable CPD sessions offering a further reason to attend.

Register now for your chance to win 4 tickets to visit the viewing deck of the Shard. The lucky winners will experience the most sought-after attraction in the UK, with views sweeping across 40 miles of London.

To register for the UK’s largest dental exhibition visit www.dentalshowcase.com now!

Fluoride in drinking water cuts tooth decay in adults

An international study conducted by researchers at the University of Adelaide has resulted in the strongest evidence yet that fluoride in drinking water provides dental health benefits to adults.

In the first population-level study of its kind in the world, researchers have found that fluoridated drinking water is preventing tooth decay for all adults regardless of age - and significantly for people who have had exposure to fluoride for most of their lives.

Conducted by the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH) at the University of Adelaide’s School of Dentistry, the study adds to the established evidence that fluoride in drinking water has dental health benefits for children.

The study looked at data from a random sample of 8800 Australians aged 15 and over. The results are now published online in the international Journal of Dental Research.

“By looking right across the Australian population, we now have good evidence that fluoride in drinking water is effective in preventing tooth decay in adults,” says co-author Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson, Director of ARCPOH at the University of Adelaide.

“We’ve known for some time that fluoridated drinking water can prevent tooth decay in children, but this is the first time that research has conclusively shown this in an adult population.”

The results show that adults with more than a 75 per cent lifetime exposure to water fluoridation have significantly reduced tooth decay (up to 50 per cent less) when compared with those with less than 25 per cent lifetime exposure.

“Those people who have had longer exposure to fluoride in water obviously will have the greater benefit. However, and this is an important aspect of the study, even those people who were born before water fluoridation existed have since received some benefit in their lifetimes,” Professor Roberts-Thomson says.

Dental technician’ prosecuted

The General Dental Council (GDC) has taken legal action against Liam Sherry for practising as a dental technician illegally.

According to This is Kent, Sherry appeared at Maidstone Magistrates’ Court on Thursday and pleaded guilty to the offence of the illegal use of a title.

Between September 2011 and August 2012 he was using the title ‘dental technician’ when he was not registered with the GDC. He was operating a company by the name of LPS Prosthetics, 265 Tombridge Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8ND.

Sherry has been fined £650, ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and ordered to pay costs to the GDC of £550.
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Irfan Ahmad
Louis Mackenzie
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Ian Buckle

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Biological tooth replacement: a step closer

New research published in the *Journal of Dental Research* describes an advance in efforts to develop a method to replace missing teeth with new bioengineered teeth generated from a person's own gum cells. The research is led by Professor Paul Sharpe, an expert in craniofacial development and stem cell biology at King's College London's Dental Institute.

Current implant-based methods of whole tooth replacement fail to reproduce a natural root structure and end, an organisation that cares for adults with life-limiting illnesses largely focused on the generation of immature teeth (teeth primordia) that mimic those in the embryo that can be transplanted as small cell 'pellets' into the adult jaw to develop into functional teeth. Remarkably, despite the very different environments, both teeth primordia can develop normally in the adult mouth and thus if suitable, cells can be combined in such a way to produce an immature tooth, there is a realistic prospect biotissue can become a clinical reality.

Professor Sharpe said: "What is required is the identification of adult sources of human epithelial and mesenchymal cells that can be obtained in sufficient numbers to make biotissue formation a viable alternative to dental implants."

In this new work, the researchers isolated adult human gum (gingival) tissue from patients at the Dental Institute at King's College London, grew more of it in the lab, and then combined it with the cells of mice that form teeth (mesenchyme cells). By transplanting this combination of cells into mice the researchers were able to grow hybrid human/mouse teeth containing dentine and enamel, as well as viable roots.

Professor Sharpe concluded: "Epithelial cells derived from adult human gum tissue are capable of responding to tooth inducing signals from embryonic tooth mesenchyme in an appropriate way to contribute to tooth crown and root formation and give rise to relevant differentiated cell types, following in vitro culture. These easily accessible epithelial cells are thus a realistic source for consideration in human biotissue formation." 

Women smokers more likely to lose teeth

Postmenopausal women who have smoked are at much higher risk of losing their teeth than women who have never smoked, according to a new study published in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* by researchers at the University at Buffalo.

The study involved 1,106 women who participated in the Buffalo Osteoporosis Study, an offshoot of the Women's Health Initiative, (WHI), the largest clinical trial and observational study ever undertaken in the U.S., involving more than 162,000 women across the nation, including nearly 4,000 in Buffalo.

Smoking has long been associated with tooth loss, but postmenopausal women, in particular, experience more tooth loss than their male counterparts.

In the study, heavy smokers - defined as those who had at least 20 pack-years of smoking, or the equivalent of having smoked a pack a day for 26 years - were nearly twice as likely to report having experienced tooth loss overall and more than six times as likely to have experienced tooth loss due to periodontal disease, compared to those who had never smoked.

Participants provided information to researchers using a detailed questionnaire covering smoking history. Each participant also underwent a comprehensive oral examination and reported to the dental examiner's reasons for each tooth lost. In some cases, the patient's dental records also were reviewed.

“We found that heavy smokers had significantly higher odds of experiencing tooth loss due to periodontal disease than those who never smoked," explains Mai. "We also found that the more women smoked, the more likely they experienced tooth loss as a result of periodontal disease." 

Keeping up with the industry

Designed specifically to help dental practitioners keep up-to-date with their dental skills, Healthcare Learning: Smile-on is proud to host the 10th Clinical Innovation: Smile-on is proud to update their knowledge and skills, and provides an invaluable resource for practitioners to update their knowledge and skills.

As well as offering a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for networking, the trade exhibition also enables delegates to meet the experts behind new products, giving them a better understanding of techniques."

Richard will be joining a fantastic programme of speakers which include Nasser Barghi, Irfan Ahmad, Ian Buckle, Manish Bose, Ash Parmar, Wymann Chan, Adi Moran and many more.

For special early bird rates, call 020 7400 8989.
**Liverpool dental spa host glitzy fundraising ball for Dental Mavericks**

Owners of the award winning Liverpool Dental Spa, Marius McGovern and Debbie McGovern organised a star studded charity ball last week at Liverpool's Hilton Hotel to raise funds to carry out an expedition with the ‘Dental Mavericks’ to the Rif Mountains in North Africa to treat over 500 children with chronic dental problems.

The glitzy charity event was organised by the owners of the Liverpool Dental Spa in Brunswick Street, along with Julie Perry Events.

Liverpool's favourite girl band, Atomic Kitten, finally played in front of a home crowd. The girls, who last performed in the city 13 years ago, wowed 200 guests with three of their biggest hits, The Tide is High, Whole Again and Right Now.

The event was hosted by Radio City's Simon Ross, and entertainment also included sets from last year's X Factor finalist Chris Maloney and boy band Reconnected, who sang their current single 'One in a Million'.

Kerry Katona said “It was absolutely fantastic playing in front of a home crowd again as a ‘Kitten’ and doing it for such a worthwhile cause made it all the more special.”

Marius McGovern, Clinical Director of the Liverpool Dental Spa, said: “The event has raised over £20,000 tonight to enable us to help many children who are suffering needlessly. We are very grateful to everyone who has supported us, especially Atomic Kitten, Marius Maloney and our many friends and colleagues who have come along tonight”.

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**Rising costs a factor for dentists**

The annual benchmarking statistics just issued by NASDAL show that dental practices have been contend-

ering with a significant increase in costs. In the tax returns of dentists in the year ending March 2012, the total average costs of running a dental practice equated to £67.6 per cent of practice income. As a result, profits are almost back to the levels in the 2004-2005 NASDAL survey.

While fee income has risen on average by £21k in NHS practices included in the survey, profit is down. In the private sector, fee income is down and profits static. Larger practices, with associates, have seen the greatest reduction in profit. In the year ending 2010 the average net profit per principal in a practice with associates was £148,408, in the year ending March 2011 it was £129,000 and the year ended March 2012 it was £125,000.

Other indicative findings on income are:

- The average net profit for a typical dental practice in 10/11 was £125,000 and by the end of March 2012 it was down to £122,000

- An NHS principal's net profit is down by nearly 3 per cent to £150,000 while a Private practice principal's net profit is static at £117,000

Overall, NHS practices continue to earn greater profit than private practices, although the gap has narrowed in recent years.

- Associates continue to experience a fall in income and profit, with average net profit reducing from £88,000 in 2011 to £87,000 in 2012
- Lab and material costs are static at £26.02
- Dentists appear to be working harder for less

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**UCLA Dentistry gets $5M to establish clinical research centre**

Dr. Mick Dragoo and his wife, Mary, have pledged a landmark gift of $5 million to the UCLA School of Dentistry to establish the UCLA Mick and Mary Dragoo Periodontal and Implant Clinical Research and Patient Care Center.

The Dragoo’s gift, the largest single donation from an individual or couple the dental school has ever received, will create a leading site for clinical research, patient care and education in periodontology and implantology — special-ised areas of dentistry related to tooth-supporting structures and tooth replacement.

The new Dragoo Periodontal and Implant Center will be a place for world-renowned fac-

ulty to conduct independently funded clinical research to advance scientific knowledge in periodontal and implant dentistry. Researchers from the school will translate their find-

ings into meaningful treatment protocols and will disseminate their research through publi-

cations, educational programs and the Internet to advance the state of patient care world-

wide.

“With Dr and Mrs Dragoo’s extremely generous gift, our hope is to advance the stand-

ard of patient care, as well as influence decisions made by dentists and patients alike,” said Dr. No-Hee Park, dean of the UCLA School of Dentistry. “The Dragoo Center helps us further achieve our mission, which is to improve the oral health of the people of the world. I cannot thank the Dragoo’s enough for their sup-

port.”

Directing the Dragoo Perio-

dental and Implant Center will be Dr. Perry Klokkevold, an asso-

ciate professor, acting chair and director of the residency program in the section of peri-

donodists at the UCLA School of Dentistry. Klokkevold has more than 20 years of experi-

ence in education, administra-

tion and clinical practice in periodontology and implantology.

“I am fully committed, hon-

oured and inspired to have the opportunity to direct the Dra-

goo Periodontal and Implant Center,” Klokkevold said. “I share the Dragoo’s vision and goals of improving patient care worldwide through inde-

pendently funded clinical re-

search.”

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**London Centre of Innovation Excellence launched**

The UK’s worldwide repu-

tation for innovation in healthcare will be sealed as Jeremy Hunt Launches Lon-

don’s new centre of innovation excellence established by US healthcare firm Johnson & John-

son that will bring high-tech jobs and investment to the capital.

Along with new centres in Boston, Shanghai and San Francisco, London’s centre will scout, develop and promote new tech-

nologies in key areas:

- dementia
- cancer
- infectious diseases
- immunology
- biomarkers for disease; and
- surgical devices to make sur-

gery quicker, faster and safer

Innovation Expo will show-

case other examples of fresh thinking and creative solutions to prevent ill health and improve care. This includes the new Health Apps Library to help the public easily find safe and trusted healthApps to help manage their health.

The centre will focus on tech-
nologies in key areas:

- remote
- cancer
- infectious diseases
- biomarkers for disease; and
- surgical devices.

The library will be continually added to and currently includes around 70 apps to provide advice and support for a range of condi-
tions, access to online services and general health and fitness information.

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