The 2016 British Academy of Restorative Dentistry (BARD) Conference was held at the Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel and Country Club in Meriden on 3 and 4 June. The event kicked off with an address from the president, Prof. Paul Tipton, and conference chairperson Adam Toft. This was followed by a day of lectures on various topics by speakers from all over the world, culminating with a live patient demonstration.

The patient concerned was delighted about the treatment outcome and gave a touching account of his experience. The first day’s topics focused on anterior restorations, 3D cleaning of root canals, the Equipose denture system, whitening treatment, tooth wear, occlusion, and the digital world, occlusion, tips and pointers on a one-to-one level during the extended breaks.

BARD’s core purpose is the education of dental clinicians, adding in the improvement of oral health by offering them a flexible learning pathway. These pathways can lead to the Membership in Restorative Dentistry via the postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma, MSc and MClinDent. Members are encouraged and given the opportunity to improve their skills in all aspects of dentistry, from the very basic principles to advanced treatments and concepts. Our members are not limited to dentists, dental technicians too can join the academy.

After a successful first day, the programme focused to new ideas and materials, with presentations on high-performance PEEK polymer and its uses, CEREC and the digital world, occlusion, dealing with and promoting oral health via the media, the Biofunctional Prosthetic System, comfort in the improvement of oral health by offering them a flexible learning pathway. The conference is intended to be more than just an educational experience. It is also designed to be unforgettable and enjoyable, especially when it comes to the social programme. The Saturday evening event this year started with a drinks reception, at which an illusionist had everyone amazed and baffled—“how did he guess that, just by looking at me?”. This was followed by a charity dinner supporting the Vine Trust’s Amazon Hope Medical and Dental Programme, which seeks to promote health and dental care in Peru, supported by volunteer clinicians.

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Prof. Paul Tipton addressing delegates.

Sponsors of the event made a fantastic contribution, the response and support exceeded expectations. There were an array of exhibitors offering the latest in materials, products and innovative technology designed to make clinical practice more economical, effective and efficient. The focal point was the JUVORA stand, where a new non-metal PEEK material used for fixed and removable dental prostheses was demonstrated. Sponsors displays included dental materials and instruments, scanning machines, dental courses, loupes, dental implants, dental laboratories, finance and even a car.

The weekend catered for a broad spectrum of interests and the hugely positive remarks praised the high standard and wide range of topics, exhibitors and speakers, as well as the superb social event. Delegates were inspired to go back to their surgeries and incorporate what they had learnt, buzzing about the next conference. Preparations and talks for the 2017 BARD Conference have already begun. The Belfry Hotel and Resort in Wishaw in Scotland is the likely venue for the event to be next spring or summer. For further information and details, visit www.bard.uk.com.

More than just an educational experience
By Dr Nisha Sisodia, UK