Students kick the habit

In the first known scheme of its kind in London, student volunteers from Thames Valley University (TVU) in West London have qualified as Smoking Cessation Advisors to help fellow students in Ealing, quit the habit.

Ealing Stop Smoking Service has trained 11 Psychology students at TVU to a professional standard so that they can help their peers quit smoking through a free personalised six week programme.

TVU and Ealing Stop Smoking Service found that students could save £1,000 a year if they stopped smoking ten cigarettes a day, which is equivalent to almost a third of a basic student loan. Research has shown that 65 per cent of smokers in Great Britain want to give up smoking and 22 per cent of people in London smoke, which is the second highest rate in the country*.

In previous years, the Foundation will also be raising the awareness of a healthy diet and the link between good oral health and good overall body health and promoting the three key messages of brush for two minutes twice a day using a fluoride toothpaste, visit the dentist regularly, as often as they recommend and cut down on how often you have sugary foods and drinks.

Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter, described the thinking behind this year’s campaign, saying: "As a student myself I understand how stressful exams can be and what it is like being away from home for the first time so to quit smoking can be a big challenge. The training I received from Ealing Stop Smoking Service and the support from TVU has been excellent and I am thrilled to be involved in this exciting project. When a student comes to see me and wants to give up smoking I ask them about their smoking behaviour history, I take a carbon monoxide reading from a detector and encourage local communities, practices and individuals up and down the country to take part and get involved in National Smile Month, and as ever, there will be a wide range of different ways in which people can do just that. There will be many family and community events throughout the campaign - all of which need your support.

If you’d like to find out more about National Smile Month, wish to take part in an event or organise one, all campaign material is now available. Please call the Foundation’s PR Department on 01788 539792 to request a copy."

‘Smile Factor’ for NSM

The the British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) is delighted to announce the theme for this year’s National Smile Month, the ‘Smile Factor’, running from 15 May – 15 June. The aim of the campaign is to put the smile back on peoples’ faces and help them display their full personalities through the ‘Smile Factor’ theme.

Now into its 55th year, National Smile Month remains an integral part of the Foundation’s work in promoting greater oral health. As in previous years, the Foundation will also be raising the awareness of a healthy diet and the link between good oral health and good overall body health and promoting the three key messages of brush for two minutes twice a day using a fluoride toothpaste, visit the dentist regularly, as often as they recommend and cut down on how often you have sugary foods and drinks.

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Wanted: NEBDN exam panel members

The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) is seeking to recruit new members to its Panel of Examiners in order to deliver a new assessment of the National Certificate in Dental Nursing qualification in 2011.

The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) has completely revised the format of the qualification in order to provide a more modern approach to the assessment of dental nurses.

To become an Examiner with NEBDN you must:

• Be registered with the General Dental Council
• Be currently practicing as a dental surgeon or dental care professional
• Have two years’ experience since qualification
• Be well organised and able to maintain high quality standards
• Be passionate about Dental Nurse Education and helping people reach their full potential

Becoming an Examiner will help you to:

• Improve your personal development and professional status
• Develop your skills and understanding of Dental Nurse Education and training
• Gain verifiable CPD through ongoing support and training
• Network with other professionals with a commitment to improving Dental Nurse Education

For further information and an application pack please visit our website www.nebdn.org or contact sarah@nebdn.org Full training and support will be provided. Successful applicants will be invited to an assessment day in May 2011. •

* Figures from General House- hold Survey 2009

L-R: Heronika Nszybrka and Keshma Tuliasa, both advisors, run through the first meeting of a smoker and a minder in TVU’s scheme.
Dental archive bequeathed by estate

A bequest from former BDA president, John Waller-M-Lean OBE, is to be used to fund work on an archive documenting the history of dentistry since the start of the National Health Service. Being developed in conjunction with King’s College London Dental Institute’s (KCLDI’s) Unit for the History of Dentistry, the recently launched John McLean Archive: A Living History of Dentistry, will fill a void in the dental profession’s recorded history.

Members of the McLean family presented the BDA Trust Fund with a cheque in support of dental research, which will be used to fund their archive, at a reception held at the archive. The reception was attended by trustees of the Fund, representatives of KCLDI and the BDA, and members of the project’s team, including Professor Stanley Gollner and Dr Steve Simmons from KCLDI’s Unit for the History of Dentistry, and BDA museum staff members Rachel Bairisto, Melanie Parker and Sophie Riches.

“Head of BDA Museum Services, Rachel Bairisto said: “In time, this archive will provide an essential record of the significant evolution of the dental profession from 1948 onwards. This will be invaluable for generations of dental practitioners to remember. "

The project will comprise a series of witness seminars and individual oral history interviews, encompassing the full breadth of dentistry in the UK. The archive will provide an essential record of the evolution of the dental profession for generations of dental practitioners to remember."

Wesleyan warns dentists of under insurance risk

Wesleyan has launched a new service for its dental clients to help ensure that they have the correct level of home insurance cover. Wesleyan’s Private Clients Insurance service now includes a free ‘walk-through’ home valuation for dentists after new statistics show that up to 70 per cent of professionals have inadequate cover levels.

According to the Birmingham-based mutual, a leading provider of tailored financial advice and products to the dental profession, the majority of dentists fail to appreciate the value of their home contents and sometimes forget to re-assess cover levels to include valuable new purchases.

Wesleyan believes that its insurance service is the first in the UK to offer personal valuations for free to dentists regardless of the level of sums insured.*

Mark Lee, Business Development Manager for Wesleyan’s Private Clients Insurance, said: “Our dental customers are time poor and don’t always have the time to review their insurance cover. As a result they are often underinsured and leave themselves exposed if something should happen to their home. This service takes away the hassle of calculating contents cover by leaving it to an independent valuation professional who will visit at a time that suits the client.

“Private Clients Insurance is designed specifically with our customers in mind. For example, they can delegate authority for dealing with their policy to another person so they don’t have to handle any of the administration involved. Private Clients Insurance customers also get a dedicated personal client manager who looks after their needs.”

The new valuation service has been launched following the successful first year for Wesleyan’s Private Clients Insurance, which has seen an eight-fold increase in demand since re-launching in 2010.

*Dental School, as much as it does to support the education of a different fee rate for free to dentists regardless of their home contents and sometimes forget to re-assess cover levels to include valuable new purchases.

The British Medical Association has criticised the price increase, claiming that the increase amounts to a tax on the sick. Sue Sharp, from the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, also condemned the news, saying that people from low income families may struggle to get the medication they need.

“Struggling to get the medication isn’t acceptable.”

A spokesperson from the Department of Health said that the government was investing an additional 10.7 billion pounds in the NHS and claimed that abolishing prescription charges would result in additional costs.

“Other charges included Wesleyan being routinely being rude, abrupt and sarcastic; not allowing dental nurses to communicate with patients; not allowing his dental nurse sufficient time to clean the clinical area in surgery between patients and routinely not warning his dental nurse that he was about to take x-rays of patients when she was in the room.

Walton, worked at the practice in Whitchurch, Shropshire, between August 2006 and December 2007.

The committee in London told Walton it had taken into account his “lack of insight and lack of remediation”.

Fellowship for Dental Dean

Prof Elizabeth Kay, Dean of the Peninsula Dental School, has been awarded the prestigious Fellowship of GDPs (UK) Diploma in General Dental Practice (UK) (FGDP(UK)) at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. She received her award at the Annual Faculty of GDPs (UK) Diplomates Ceremony in London.

The award of Fellowship is the highest accolade a member of the FGDP(UK) can achieve. It is a mark of achievement for those who have made a contribution to patient care or the profession of primary dental care, significantly over and above what might be reasonably expected of a member of the FGDP(UK).

Russ Ladwa, Dean of the FGDP(UK), commented: “It is obvious to all to see that Professor Kay has an exceptional enthusiasm for her profession, and a willingness to help others along their chosen path. Her tireless work and support for dental practitioners to provide an improved quality of care for their patients is well known and I thank Prof Kay for that.”

Gone with the wind

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Prof Kay added: “I am of course delighted to have been awarded such a prestigious accolade. While it is me who has been made a Fellow, it is an achievement that reflects the hard work and dedication of my colleagues and our students at the Peninsula Dental School, as much as it does me personally.”

Dental charges rise

Just days after it was revealed that dental charges will be frozen in Wales and prescription charges will be scrapped in Scotland Ministers have confirmed that prescription fees and dental charges will increase in England.

The announcement has unsurprisingly been greeted with anger prompting people to question the equality of a different fee scale for different parts of the UK.

Ministers have confirmed that dental charges will increase by the following: band 1 treatments will go up to £17, band 2 treatments will increase to £47 and band 5 treatments will be raised to £204.

Along with this rise in dental fees prescription charges will also increase by 20p to £7.54 per item from the 1st April.

Dental charges in England are the highest in the UK and now England remains the only country in the UK where prescriptions aren’t free.

The British Medical Association has criticised the price increase, claiming that the increase amounts to a tax on the sick. Sue Sharp, from the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, also condemned the news, saying that people from low income families may struggle to get the medication they need.

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A visit by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Dentistry allowed a group of MPs and Peers to see the work of a busy dental school, including its research, teaching and clinical activities. Guests were able to visit KCL-DF's craniofacial development and stem cell research laboratories, tour facilities for the care of vulnerable and anxious patients, and see the state-of-the-art haptic TEL technology used in teaching students. The visit was led by Professor Nairn Wilson, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Dean and Head of KCLDJS.

Parliamentarians learnt about the evolution of dental academia, including the opening of new dental schools, expansion of student numbers and the contribution many general dental practitioners are playing in educating dental students. The development of shorter courses for graduates from related disciplines and the development of training for dental care professionals were also highlighted.

The Parliamentarians also heard from Laureen Holmes, the President of the institution’s Dental Society and a fourth-year student. She highlighted the experience of dental students and stressed the importance of the reforms currently being undertaken in dentistry engaging the next generation of practitioners who will deliver care in the system that is created.

A retainer and a whole lot of bacteria

Researchers at the UCL Eastman Dental Institute have found that insufficient cleaning could allow a build-up of microbes on orthodontic retainers.

Dr Jonathan Pratten and colleagues looked at the types of microbes which live on retainers and found that potentially pathogenic microbes were growing on at least 50 per cent of the retainers that were conducted ion the study.

The results of the study, which was published in the Society for Applied Microbiology’s journal Letters in Applied Microbiology, has indicated that there is possibly a need for the development of improved cleaning products for orthodontic retainers. According to reports, Dr Pratten and his team took samples from the mouths of people without retainers and those wearing either of the two most widely used types of retainers and searched for microbes which are not normally found in the oral cavity.

The researchers were particularly interested in two species of microbes; Candida, a type of yeast, and Staphylococcus, including MRSA. The results of the study showed that species of these microorganisms were present on 66.7 per cent and 50 per cent of retainers respectively, regardless of the retainer type. Reports stated that these microbes were also present on the interior cheeks and tongue of retainer wearers.

Living in communities, otherwise known as biofilms, the bacteria can be very difficult to remove, and although they pose no real threat to healthy individuals, both Candida and Staphylococcus can be potentially dangerous to people with a low immune system.

The researchers are now looking at developing effective methods of cleaning retainers; however, for the meantime it is hygiene that is the key to reduce the bacteria.

Consultant appointed Vice President RCPSG

A female consultant has become the first woman to be given the job of Vice President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

The institution was established more than 400 years ago in 1599 and a woman has never been given the position, until now. Dr Alyson Wray, a consultant in paediatric dentistry at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Glasgow Dental Hospital, has been awarded the prestigious title.

Dr Wray said that the appointment was a “huge thing” for the organisation; she said that she has spent many years being the only woman in the room at conferences and meetings, but claimed that in recent years, things have started to change and women are being given more opportunities.

America’s Toothfairy

Dental manufacture KaVo Group has made a leadership commitment to the health of the nation’s children as the newest National Children’s Oral Health Foundation: America’s Toothfairy (NCOHF) underwriting partner. In just five years, NCOHF affiliates have reached more than one million children with preventive, restorative, and educational oral-health services. NCOHF underwriters include leading national and international dental corporations that fund Foundation operating and program expenses to help ensure that 100 per cent of every additional dollar donated to NCOHF provides underserved children with the care they deserve.

“We are thrilled to have become an underwriter and advocate for NCOHF,” said Henk van Duijvenhoven, president and global group executive, KaVo Group.

“The core values of the NCODHF and the KaVo Group are very similar. We use innovative ideas, the best team, and spirit of continuous improvement to drive awareness and access to comprehensive pediatric oral health services to eliminate this epidemic.”

“We are honored that KaVo has joined us in our mission to eliminate children’s needless suffering from America’s number one chronic childhood illness,” said Fern Ingber, NCOHF president and CEO. “Their laudable philanthropy makes it possible for NCOHF to respond to the escalating number of children in critical need of services in 2011.”

So why don’t they mention this?
New plans to stub out smoking

New FtP panel members

Fake drugs arrest

News

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