BDIA publishes post-Brexit manifesto

By DTI

LONDON, UK: The British Dental Industry Association (BDIA) has published a manifesto in response to the uncertainty after the Brexit vote in June. Six main priority areas are highlighted in the document, including creating a favourable business environment, investing in the nation’s oral health, working to protect patients, spending more on the NHS, generally building towards a better future and championing innovation. At the same time, the association has encouraged dental professionals to attend the BDIA Dental Showcase in October to obtain more information about the Brexit outcomes.

The impact of the Brexit on the dental industry in the medium to long term will very much depend on the form a post-Brexit UK will take, the relationship that the UK chooses to have with the EU, and indeed the relationship that the EU is willing to accept. In the short term, business will be as usual for the dental industry, since EU law will continue to apply in the UK.

In response to the Brexit, the BDIA has released a post-Brexit manifesto, Shaping the Future, which sets out the industry’s views on how government should positively influence the future for oral health, dentistry and the dental industry. Six main priority areas are highlighted: creating a favourable business environment, investment in the nation’s oral health, protecting patients, investment in the NHS, building a better future and championing innovation.

The document can be obtained from the BDIA website. BDIA Policy and Public Affairs Director Edmund Profitt commented on the manifesto: “There is a window of opportunity for the dental industry to share its positive vision for the future with key politicians, civil servants and decision makers. If Government can build the right regulatory environment and provide targeted investment in oral health it can make a significant contribution to protecting the UK’s oral health for years to come.” The BDIA has encouraged all dental professionals to visit the BDIA Dental Showcase to learn more about the British industry.

More than 350 dental companies are expected to be at the trade fair, being held from 6 to 8 October at the ExCel, London exhibition and convention centre, this year. As the largest dental show in the UK, about 12,000 visitors attend to discover the very latest dental innovations. The Implant Zone will be back for 2016, as well as some new features, including the Networking and Meeting Zone and Go Digital! Zone. Also new this year are two education theatres offering 90- to 40-minute sessions on educational topics, with speakers selected by leading industry suppliers. Entrance to the exhibition is free for all registered visitors. A BDIA 2016 mobile app will soon be released, the exhibition organisers have announced.
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Kings collaborates with China’s largest dental group

By DTI

LONDON, UK: King’s College London Dental Institute is extending its international reach with the launch of a number of activities that will see the institute partner with BYBO Dental Group, one of China’s largest dental providers, over the upcoming months.

The collaboration started this week with a distance learning programme that will offer BYBO staff across China training and information on the management of tooth wear and occlusal change.

In addition to the distance-blended learning programmes, face-to-face lectures by King’s academics, including Profs. Raman Bedi, Martyn Cobourne and Francis Hughes, at various sites in China began in June and will continue until the end of the calendar year, the university said in a press release.

All information will be available to BYBO staff in both English and Mandarin.

In addition to continuing professional education, the partnership will include staff exchange, as well as the transfer of clinical expertise and protocols, over the next three years.

Estimated to be worth £1.6 million, the collaboration agreement was first announced at the end of 2015.

“King’s Dental Institute’s commitment to improving oral health knowledge and provision in practice around the world shines through in this collaboration,” commented Prof. Dianne Rekow, Executive Dean of the Dental Institute, on the partnership. “Not only is it a fantastic opportunity to share our world-leading expertise with BYBO, but it also offers us a unique chance for us to learn from one of China’s most renowned dental providers.”

Founded in 1993, BYBO consists of 200 chain dental clinics with approximately 6,000 employees across China, according to its figures.

North-East law firm appoints Goodman exec to expand into dental industry

By DTI

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER & PRESTON, UK: Previous Goodman Grant Solicitors director Nicola Lomas has been appointed by law firm Brabners to help expand its health care practice into the dental market. With the step, the North-East based law firm aims to meet increasing demand for tailored legal services by both NHS and private dental practitioners.

Lomas has more than ten years’ experience of working as a corporate lawyer in the dental industry, advising clients on a number of legal issues, including the buying and selling of dental practices, incorporations, expense sharing and partnership agreements, as well as associate contracts. In a comment on her appointment, she said that the market remains extremely active, with clear demand for legal services as businesses expand and consolidate their operations.

“Areas such as cosmetic dentistry are also opening up new revenue streams, which has led to a number of larger businesses that offer both NHS and private dental care reviewing their options for further growth and expanding the services they provide,” she said.

Lomas will add to Brabners’ nationally recognised team of health care solicitors, some of whom have practical experience of working within the NHS and in private practice as health care professionals, the company said.

“We offer a range of legal services tailored to the healthcare sector and Nicola’s impressive understanding of the challenges facing the dental profession, along with her unrivalled expertise in this area, ensures we’re well placed to support our dental sector clients,” Brabners head of health care Richard Hough explained.

Active in a number of commercial sectors, Brabners offers a complete law service to health care providers. “Not only does Nicola’s appointment offer us further growth and expanding the services we provide,” he said.

Mouthrinse reduces caries in children

By DTI

LONDON, UK: In order to determine the effectiveness and safety of fluoride mouthrinses in preventing dental caries in the younger population, researchers have conducted an extensive review of studies published on the topic over four decades. They were able to confirm that regular use of a fluoride mouthrinse by children and adolescents is associated with a large reduction in caries increment in permanent teeth.

In the study, researchers at the Queen Mary University of London reviewed 37 trials published between 1965 and 2005 that tested supervised use of fluoride mouthrinses in schools and at home. Overall, the studies involved 15,813 children and adolescents aged 6 to 14. The children were treated with a fluoride mouthrinse mostly formulated with sodium fluoride or a placebo on a daily or weekly basis or received no treatment.

The analysis confirmed that supervised regular use of a fluoride mouthrinse could help reduce tooth decay in children and adolescents. On average, children treated with a mouthrinse showed a 27 per cent reduction in decayed, missing and filled tooth surfaces in permanent teeth compared with participants in the placebo group or those who did not use a mouthrinse.

According to the researchers, this benefit is likely to be present even if children use fluoride toothpaste or live in water-fluoridated areas. They also found little information about potential adverse effects and acceptability.

The review, titled “Fluoride mouthrinses for preventing dental caries in children and adolescents,” was published online on 29 July in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.
Amalgam phase-out discussed at London meeting

By DTI

LONDON, UK: Limiting the use of amalgam in dentistry is a task that needs a combined effort by various actors in and outside of the health care sector, the organisers of a meeting of 50 senior oral leaders in London have agreed. However, by phasing down the material, the profession will have a rare opportunity for more prevention-focused oral health care in the future, they said.

“I was very impressed by the commitment of the major dental community stakeholder to a measurable, equitable and sustainable phase-down of dental amalgam use, as well as the recognition that ‘dentistry can’t do this alone’. This will need the engagement of other actors such as other health professions, the industry and most importantly civil society,” commented Julian Fisher, resource person for the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership Area on Waste Management.

At the meeting, senior oral health leaders from around the globe came together to discuss pathways for reducing the use of amalgam not only in the UK but also on an international level. The conference took place in mid-July at King’s College London Dental Institute in cooperation with Newcastle University’s School of Dental Sciences and the University of Leeds’s School of Dentistry. In addition to presentations on phase-down case studies, such as the UNEP-WHO East Africa project, the multi-day event provided an overview of minimally invasive dentistry programmes. A particular focus was on improved and newly developed materials and the impact the transition to these materials could have on the dental profession in the long run.

“The complexity of something seemingly as simple as changing a material is remarkable,” said the Dental Institute’s Executive Dean, Prof. Dianne Rekow. “Indeed, this ‘simple’ change has ripple effects that change the philosophy and practice of dentistry, as well as the economies of health care.”

“One of the most impressive features of the symposium was the willingness of the participants to explore the implications and interdependencies of the ripples and assertively work toward finding ways to improve both the environment and health,” she stated further.

Various initiatives have been implemented worldwide since representatives of over 190 countries signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Japan three years ago, which agreed on a mercury ban in a variety of products, as well as a phase-out of amalgam.

While its use in developing countries is declining, the mercury-containing restorative remains the material of choice in developing countries around the world.

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