Recent study has revealed some of the bacteria found on orthodontic retainers, revealed that after orthodontic treatment is completed, can be associated with the hospital superbug MRSA, a condition which can lead to blood poisoning.

The research, carried out by the UCL Eastman Dental Institute in London, also found a further two thirds of retainers examined in London, also found a further the UCL Eastman Dental Institute can lead to blood poisoning. A

Researchers also found that having poor oral health. The researchers also found that over the period of a year opioid users in particular showed a decline in oral health. The findings appear online in the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment.

According to reports, public health, dental medicine and internal medicine faculty from Boston University investigated the effects of different substances on oral health among a sample of substance-dependent individuals. Alcohol, stimulants, opioid and marijuana users were included. The subjects were asked to self-report their oral health status on a five-point scale ranging from poor to excellent.

Statistical analysis of the patients’ reports found no significant associations between the types of substances used and oral health status. The results did show, however, that 60 percent of all subjects reported fair or poor oral health. Opioid users in the sample also exhibited worse oral health compared to one year ago.

“We found that the majority of our sample reported fair or poor oral health,” said Meredith D’Amore, MPH, a researcher in the Health care Disparities Research Program at Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center. “Thus, oral health should be considered a significant health problem among individuals with substance dependence and providers should be aware of potential oral health issues.”

The researchers hope that their findings prompt more oral health interventions targeted toward individuals with substance dependence in the future. They also suggest that engaging addictionists in medical care discussions may be facilitated by addressing oral health concerns.

According to reports, Judge Carol Hague told him: “There was no element of personal gain whatsoever. On the contrary, you subsidised staff salaries from your own salary.”

“You provided treatment to a large number of patients under NHS, at the highest standard, for many, many years. Up until the changes in remuneration in April, 2006, the StapletonRoad practice was flourish. But the effect of those changes, combined with difficulties in providing the service you previously provided, led to the situation being untenable.”

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And how about topping it all off with a night on the tiles in Manchester’s vibrant town centre? The British Dental Conference and Exhibition 2011 19th-21st May 2011 offers dental care professionals all this and more.

In collaboration with Oral B, the event team of organisations has put together a series of sessions specifically designed for dental professionals. For the first time the BDA is providing a DCP theatre within the exhibition, offering a series of 21 bite-sized lectures on a variety of inspiring topics, all absolutely free!

On 19th May speakers will cover subjects including:

- Fear-free dentistry
- Medical emergencies – allergies and allergic reactions
- How to integrate prevention into your daily practice
- Periodontal health
- A-Z of running a successful practice
- The dental nurse as a registered professional
- The prevention of oral cancer

On 20th May speakers will cover subjects including:

- Good record keeping
- Periodontal health
- Boost your profitability with business planning
- How social networking can help promote your practice
- Smoking cessation

**Dentist sees the future with optician partnership**

A joint venture partnership between dental business is opening its first practice in a high street optician in Dundee, Scotland.

A.S. Optometrists has bought an Ideal Dental Care franchise and has set up the fully branded practice within both NHS and private treatments.

It’s a ground-breaking move for dental business and owner Peter Thompson is keen to demonstrate the success of the new model -- both in terms of the wider range of healthcare provision available to patients under one roof and also the potential business opportunities for optical companies looking at innovative ways to expand their service proposition.

“There is an immense amount of synergy between dental and optical businesses and it’s a fantastic opportunity for A.S. Optometrists to further enhance the range and scope of healthcare treatments it can offer its patients,” said Peter.

“In a competitive marketplace it’s important that businesses such as opticians have a point of difference and having a complementary service such as dental practice can only be a good thing in retaining existing patients and attracting new ones.”

A.S. Optometrists has its first dentist in place ready for its mid-April opening and owner Ameen Sattar already has a large number of customers who have joined the waiting list to become patients.

“We are acutely aware of the need for dual qualifications for generating some of these revenues such as opticians have a place within optometry but is still in its infancy in the dental industry -- which really surprised me. But it’s good to see that there are forward thinking business people in dentistry such as Peter Thompson who is making it work both as a standalone and concessionary practice.”

**Go ‘Absolutely Dental!’**

The British Dental Health Foundation wants dental and health professionals to go ‘Absolutely Dental’ during National Smile Month by helping to plot hundreds of street and place names with fun dental themes.

The Foundation has published the first ever UK Dental Place Map, and it is hoped that everyone involved in dentistry and the health professions will add to the map and join in the fun in time for the start of National Smile Month on 15 May 2011.

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Some of the many addresses and locations plotted on the map so far include Floss Street (London), Drill Lane (Canterbury), Bristle Avenue (Gwent), Mouth Lane (Wisbech), Canal Street (Leeds), Surgery Lane (Hartlepool), Wisdom Drive (Hertford), Tarilar Road (London), Smiley Court (Northern Ireland), Bracebridge Street (Nottingham), Scales (North West), Tongue (Scotland), Staines (Surrey), Toffthill (Swindon) and Root (North West).

Dr Nigel Carter, Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, said: “It’s vitally important for the image of dentistry that we can show the public a less serious side to our profession. National Smile Month is an opportunity for everyone in the profession to join in and send serious messages to the public about how to improve oral health. But it is also a chance to help change our image by engaging with the media and showing the public the fun side of the profession.

“We hope that everyone will scout their local A-Z street maps over the next few weeks and help us to plot a few more locations. We also hope that some dental practices will take photographs of them next to the street or place signs. We’ll upload the photographs onto the National Smile Month website at www.smilemonth.org and we hope that everyone’s efforts will help to create a fantastic story with the media during National Smile Month.”

**Four practices win £500 each**

Dental practices across England and Wales have been participating in the BDTA’s ‘Kick out the sweets, bring on the treats’ Change4Life campaign for the past six months; displaying posters, encouraging patients to complete questionnaires and delighting their young patients with colourful stickers.

More than 2000 completed questionnaires have now been returned by the general public and four practices responsible for generating some of these responses have been selected at random as winners of the BDTA member gift voucher prizes.

The lucky winners were:

- The Robert Wakefield Dental Surgery, Driffield
- Ghyllmount Dental, Penrith
- Nash & Nash Dental Care, Essex
- The Dental Care Centre, London
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Happy the Hippo here to help

Happy the Hippo has been recruited by the British Dental Health Foundation to help teach young children how to look after their teeth. Around one third of children under the age of 12 in the UK continue to suffer from dental decay. Happy will be joining the Foundation in May to help lead the 55th National Smile Month campaign.

Despite major improvements in children's oral health over the past 40 years, many children are still being affected by dental decay. The most recent data suggest that around a third (31 per cent) of five year olds starting primary school will have dental decay. The picture is slightly worse for children aged 12 in secondary schools – one third of children in every classroom will have signs of visible dental decay.

The theme of this year’s National Smile Month campaign is the ‘Smile Factor’. In adulthood peoples’ mouth, teeth and smiles are fundamental to all aspects of their life – whether career, personality, relationships, attraction or all-round good health. Creating good oral health habits from an early age are especially important to help children keep their smile factors throughout their lives.

Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter, says: “Over the past 40 years we have made great improvements in children’s oral health. In 1975, nine out of every ten children aged twelve showed signs of visible dental decay. However, the incidence of dental decay still remains too high and we hope that Happy the Hippo will show more children how to look after their teeth better.

“National Smile Month between 15 May and 15 June is a great opportunity for parents, guardians, schools and teachers to get involved. We have lots of excellent free resources at www.smilemonth.org to help educate and improve children’s oral health. Our free Dental Helpline on 0845 065 1188 is also available to anyone who needs help and advice. ”

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Enzyme could fight caries

Dental bacteria Streptococcus salivarius, a harmless inhabitant of the human mouth, inhibits the formation of dental biofilms (plaque). Japanese researchers have discovered that the bacterium produces the FrA enzyme, which inhibits the development of plaque.

In their study the scientists separated a couple of substances produced by Streptococcus salivarius and tested their impact on Streptococcus mutants, the primary species of bacteria inhabiting the mouth and main factor for the formation of plaque. The authors suggest that FrA may actually regulate microbial pathogenicity in the oral cavity.

“We show that FrA produced by Streptococcus salivarius inhibited Streptococcus mutants biofilm formation completely in the in vitro assay supplemented with sucrose,” the researchers state in their study, which was published in the March 2011 issue of the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology. The researchers say the activity of the inhibitors was elevated in the presence of sucrose, and the inhibitory effects were dependent on the sucrose concentration in the biofilm formation assay medium.

FrA is produced not only by Streptococcus salivarius, but by other oral streptococci. Much of the oral microbial flora consists of beneficial species of bacteria. They help maintain oral health and control the progression of oral disease.

According to the science portal wissenschaft.de, a major step in fighting caries could be taken if the researchers find a method to implement FrA into a dental health product.

New Appointments at James Hull Associates

James Hull Associates is delighted to announce two new senior appointments as it further strengthens its board.

Current CEO Robin Pugh, (pictured left), will step up to Chairman after successfully guiding the business through its recent refinancing. Robin will take up the role of Chair- man left vacant since the departure of Graham Hutton of Hutton Collins. Robin said “This is an exciting point in the development of the Group and I look forward to working with the team to take the business forward as the UK’s leading provider of specialist dental services.”

Robin will be replaced as CEO by Bryan Magrath, (pictured right), who joins James Hull Associates after a long and successful career with some of the UK’s leading blue chip retailers. Bryan’s experience in customer facing organ- isations will be vital in helping James Hull Associates become the UK’s dentist of choice both for general and specialist care. Bryan said “I’m delighted to be joining James Hull Associates and the world of dentistry. The sector is changing rapidly and JHA is ideally positioned to take advantage of the developing market. I look forward to learning from the team around me and being part of the next phase in the development of JHA.”

JHA is a UK provider of specialist and general dental care with 74 practices nationwide, all dedicated to providing the highest standards of clinical care and customer service.

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