Dental Tribune

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News in Brief

Dentist destroys teeth

A 33-year-old mother from China is reportedly suing her dentist for £10,000 in damages after dental treatment left her smile in ruins. According to national reports, the woman, Xu Feng claimed she was talked into paying £1,200 to have 12 crowns fitted on her teeth during a visit to a clinic in Chongqing city, central China. However, reports state that once the treatment was carried out Xu Feng's gums became infected and her mouth was filled with abscesses. On visiting another dentist, it was soon discovered that Xu Feng's teeth had been perfectly healthy; it was also discovered that the clinic was unlicensed.

Silkworm cocoons drugs

Researchers at Tufts University School of Engineering have discovered a way to maintain the potency of vaccines and other drugs for months and possibly years at temperatures above 110 degrees F, by stabilising them in a silk protein made from silkworm cocoons. The Tufts findings address a serious obstacle to the effective use of life-saving pharmaceuticals: keeping them cold. Most vaccines, enzymes, and antibodies and many antibiotics and other drugs require constant refrigeration from manufacture to delivery to maintain their effectiveness. According to the paper's first author, Jeney Zhang, silk stabilisation has "the potential to significantly change the way we store and deliver pharmaceuticals, especially in the developing world." The research was published before print in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Online Early Edition.

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News

On the rise
The BLOS note a rise in orthodontic treatments
page 2

Book Review

Antimicrobial Prescribing
DT reviews latest book from FGDP UK
page 10

Endo Tribune

Lesion management
Dr Campo discusses root canal treatment
pages 16-19

Money Matters

Buy now save later
Dino Charalambous provides some advice
page 24-25

A positive change

General Dental Council changes again

The Department of Health has announced changes to the constitutions of the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council. The changes mean reducing the size of both the Councils to 12 members and moving towards an appointed (rather than elected) Chair. The move, which was announced recently, aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the two councils.

According to the report, a move will now also be made away from election to a system of appointing the two chairs, which will increase the openness and transparency of the recruitment process, enable the regulators to seek applicants from a much wider field and help ensure that people with the specific qualities needed to be the chair can be appointed.

Initially the proposal had been for a reduction from 24 to eight members, and that both chairs should be appointed rather than elected by the governing councils from within their membership.

The Chairman will cease to be elected from among the members and will in future be appointed by the Privy Council for an indeterminate term. The amended Orders have now been laid in parliament.

General Dental Council Chair Kevin O'Brien said: "The changes in our governance structure, due to take effect in October 2013, will further enhance the GDC's ability to respond effectively and in a timely way to a rapidly changing regulatory environment. A key priority for me as Chair of the Council will be to oversee a smooth transition so that important work already underway at the GDC and aimed at improving our performance is not interrupted."

These changes are just some of the ways in which the GDC is trying to improve its performance, as was pointed out in its review of performance in 2011, which was recently published by The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE).

The report, which investigates the ways in which the GDC has been actively trying to improve, noted the GDC's "*changes to its established processes, as well as its new processes, policies and systems to enable [the GDC] to become a more effective regulator*".

Although the CHRE added that: "*the GDC has demonstrated that it meets most of the Standards of Good Regulation for fitness to practise*", there was also a list of measures to be taken to improve the function of the GDC.

In relation to the GDC's other functions, the report commended the GDC for reviewing its continuing professional development scheme and developing a new 'outcomes-focused' regime for dental education and training

The CHRE noted that further work is needed to improve the timeliness of progression of Fitness to Practise cases and quality of decisions.

Chief Executive Evlynne Gilvarry said: "We welcome this report and the acknowledgement of the progress we have made over the past year. We agree with the CHRE on the further measures necessary to increase the rate of progression of fitness to practise cases and to bring about further necessary improvements in the handling of cases." DT

Cross-generational orthodontic treatments on the rise

L-R - Tania and Hannah O'Dowd

The number of cross-generational orthodontic treatments is on the rise, according to the British Lingual Orthodontic Society (BLOS). Members of the society are reporting more instances of parents and children embarking on treatment together and sharing advice on their braces, their hygiene and their diet, as well as going to the practice together for shared appointments.

Tania O'Dowd and her daughter Hannah are a classic example of the new trend. They have lent their brace-free smiles to a new leaflet produced by the British Lingual Orthodontic Society (BLOS). The leaflet highlights why lingual braces are such an attractive method of teeth straightening, for both patients and professionals.

Angela Auluck is a member of the BLOS committee and she is currently treating a mother, father and daughter from the same family. "The mother brought the daughter for an appointment and decided she would opt for lingual braces while her daughter had conventional braces. Then when the father realised he could have treatment without anyone knowing, he decided to have lingual braces too!"

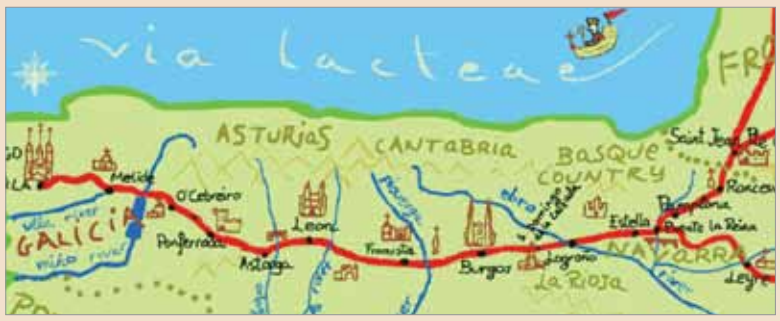
Lingual braces have all the advantages of fixed braces but are conveniently placed behind the teeth to remove any potential for embarrassment. Research carried out over the last few years also shows that lingual braces are have other benefits. Buccal surfaces are considered to be more caries prone than lingual surfaces. Furthermore, lingual brackets are shaped to fit the morphology of the teeth and seal almost the entire surface. One study completed in 2012 on groups of young people shows that lingual treatment is less damaging to the health of the teeth.

The researchers analysed for white spot lesions (WSL) and the number of WSL that developed or progressed on buccal surfaces was 4.8 times higher than the number of WSL that developed or progressed on lingual surfaces. In short, decalcification was nearly five times more likely and over 10 times worse with a labial appliance than a lingual one.

The other significant difference is in what is achievable with lingual appliances compared to clear aligner systems. Research published last year showed the difference between what was planned and what was achieved with lingual appliances was minimal.

Baz Parmar, Chairman of BLOS, commented: "Many of our members are seeing the same trend of parents and children going into treatment together." DT

Walking the footsteps of saints



A snapshot of Keith's journey

Keith Pearson, President of the British Orthodontic Society is raising funds for research which will be targeted at finding the evidence base for the value and importance of orthodontic treatment to patients, both young and old. This will directly benefit all those in clinical practice, for in the years to come pressures will mount on the funding of the provision of such treatment, particularly within the NHS.

Keith, who is an Orthodontic Specialist in practice in Beckenham, Kent, is currently walking as a 'pilgrim' along the way of St James to Santiago de Compostela for a total of nine days and covering 180km to reach Santiago de Compostela where the European Orthodontic Meeting is being held later in June 2012.

The BOS has been in communication with Keith during his walk and in one of his more plaintive missives he reports: "Walked all day Sunday. High winds and cold temperatures. Stayed in Molinesca overnight. Walked on to O, Cebreiro mainly uphill all day and in driving rain, totally soaked looking like a drowned rat tonight."

Another entry reads: "Overnight in O,Cebeiro a very small village built almost entirely of granite and considered to be one of the wettest and windiest in Spain! Tuesday. Slightly less arduous in that the weather has improved but still overcast and cold but only drizzle today. Overnight in a rectory just outside Sarria, home cooking and absolutely wonderful, I might even come back here!"

He also reports: "Wednesday a very long day made easier by the sunshine at long last! Tonight in Portomarin, a town which was rebuilt, having been transported up the valley which was later flooded to create a huge reservoir. Tonight's accommodation not too good as the room resembles a large garden shed with integral shower cubicle, but at least it's a bed for the night."

The vital funds brought in by Keith's Herculean effort will make a significant contribution to future orthodontic research. There is still time to applaud Keith's motives - and his stamina, by donating to The BOS President's Fund. Please visit www.justgiving.com/KeithPearsonsWalk. Alternatively cheques can be made payable to BOSF and sent in an envelope marked for 'The President's Fund' BOS Head Office, 12 Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AP.

Anyone who would like to contact Keith about the walk or the President's Fund can do so by emailing to pearsonkj@aol.com. He will report back about his walk and the amount of money raised at the end of June. DT

Consultation on a new adult safeguarding power

The Department is consulting on a new adult safeguarding power. As stated on the Department of Health website:

"Our aim for adult safeguarding is to ensure there is a clear legal and policy framework, enabling the most effective local arrangements and practices to protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

"We have based our approach to new safeguarding interventions with reference to the Law Commission's recommendation that new legislation "should not include any new compulsory or emergency powers unless Government decides that such powers are needed" (Recommendation 41, page 122, Adult Social Care: Law Commission No 326).

"We do not want to intervene in people's lives unnecessarily. However, we are aware of the strong feeling from some that a specific power of entry in the circumstances set out in this consultation could give an opportunity to offer timely information and advice, and ensure that people who are unable or unwilling to ask for help can have their voices heard.

"Through this consultation we are seeking evidence from your experience as to whether this would be an effective, proportionate and appropriate way to support the duty to make enquires proposed in the draft Care and Support Bill."

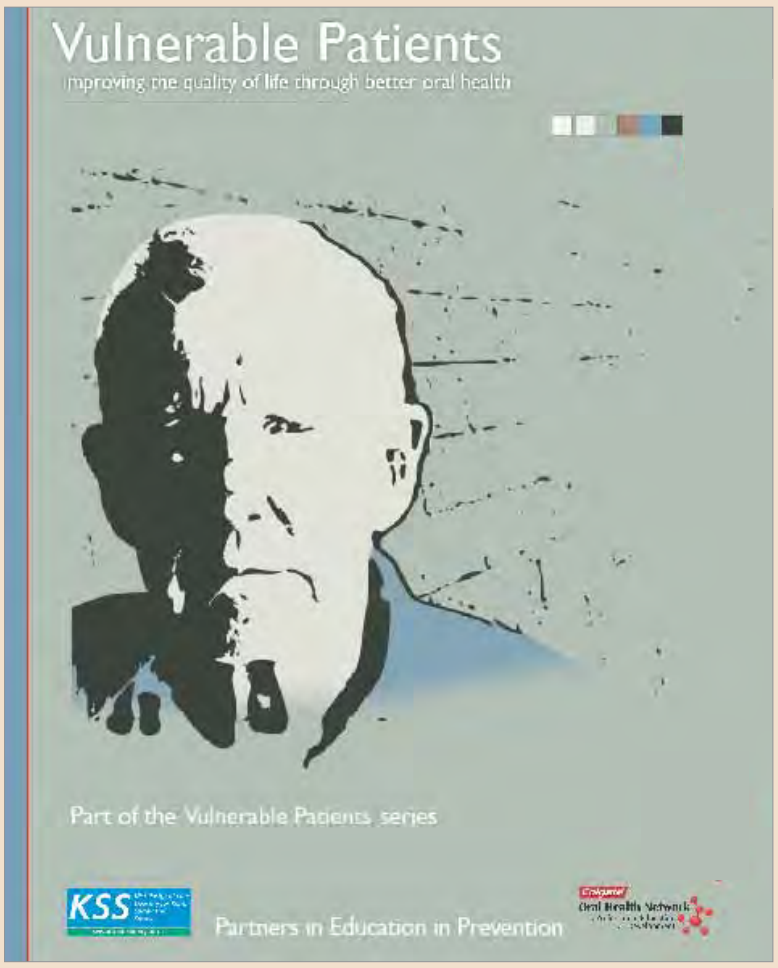
The consultation will run from 11 July until 12 October 2012. Comments received after 12 October 2012 will not be considered.

Please submit your comments by email to safeguardingconsultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Quality and Safety Team, Department of Health, 124 Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG.

To download the Consultation on New Safeguarding Power PDF visit www.dh.gov.uk/health http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/safeguardingadults/ DT

• Smile-on and KSS Deanery have come together to produce Vulnerable Patients, an eLearning resource which addresses the role of dental, other healthcare professionals, and carers in safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable adults and children. Featuring 1.5 hours of CPD, this programme will help dental professionals identify potential signs of abuse and neglect and understand what to do when you suspect abuse. The programme also gives guidance on how to treat vulnerable patients in practice and the issues surrounding treatment ie consent and hygiene instruction.

For more information call Smile-on 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com.



Editorial comment

As you read this issue of *Dental Tribune* the biggest event on earth will be in full swing in London and other places across the country. Oh yes – the Olympics are here! And while we cheer on our respective countries we all get to involve ourselves in the highs and lows of competitive sport, as well as become world experts in sports that two weeks ago we had never even heard of! Let's hope for a fantastic Games and the chance to show the world how great we are! (Come on Team GB! – Ed)

Moving back to matters closer to the surgery - congratulations to Anna Bradley, who has been confirmed as the Chair of Healthwatch England.

The role, which also comes with the honour of being a non-executive Director of the Care Quality Commission, was taken up by Ms Bradley on the 16th July.

Healthwatch is the new consumer champion for health and social care in England. It will exist in two distinct forms - Healthwatch England, at national level, and local Healthwatch, at local level.

Healthwatch England will be a national body representing the views of service users and the public. It will use these views to influence national policy and provide advice to Monitor, the NHS Commissioning Board, the Secretary of State and English local authorities, as well as providing leadership and support to local Healthwatch organisations. DT

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?

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BADN dental nursing conference

The 2012 National Dental Nursing Conference - the last before the end of the five-year CPD cycle for those dental nurses who registered before August 2008 - will be held at the Blackpool Hilton on 24 November 2012.

The new one day format is being trialled in accordance with dental nurses' responses to the BADN's recent survey. "Holding a one day Conference allows us to keep the cost down" said BADN President Nicola Docherty. "This year, with generous sponsorship from the BDTA, the Conference registration fee is less than £50 for BADN members, and offers 4.5 hours of verifiable CPD."

"Topics include the core subjects of decontamination, medical emergencies and radiography, as well as oral cancer, hypnodontics, communication skills, special care, the end of the cpd cycle and, of course, the keynote address by GDC Chair Kevin O'Brien."

The Conference registration fee also includes lunch, refreshments and a pre-lunch Zumba session.

Also in accordance with the survey results, there will be no Presidential Dinner this year. Instead, delegates can join Nicola and other BADN Council members at an informal dinner at iconic fish and chips restaurant Harry Ramsdens, just beneath Blackpool Tower the evening before Conference.

For more information, visit www.badn.org.uk/conference where there is a link to the on line registration. DT

The DLA awarded for their initiative

From L to R Steve Taylor BIDST President, Richard Daniels DLA Chief Executive, Quentin Wilson Host, Barbara Hibbert DLA President, James Whitehurst Director WMS, David Bevan BACDT President

This year the Dental Laboratories Association were shortlisted finalists for the CBI's Trade Association Forum in the categories; Magazine of the Year for the DLJ and Commercial Initiative of the Year for their Medical Devices Directive implementation folders. The awards dinner took place in Plaisterers Hall in central London and was hosted by the former Top Gear presenter and 'Fair Fuel' lobbyist Quentin Wilson.

The DLA were located on table 20 out of 20, which as a sign didn't suggest that they would be successful on this occasion, thankfully despite the table location, initial concerns were unfounded!

The DLA were announced winners of the Trade Association Forum Commercial Initiative of the Year Award 2012, for the MDD Folder; the DLA were awarded the prize because of the quality of the product and its importance subject area to the membership, the DLA were also successful due to the fact that by introducing a product revenue stream, the DLA were able to hold membership fee's over the past two years.

Richard Daniels, DLA Chief Executive said: "I am absolutely delighted that we have won this category, developing products within the DLA was a huge gamble, as we were introducing a new concept to the membership in terms of their relationship with the DLA, but the figures speak for themselves and now to have our peers positively recognise the challenge we had is a real credit to the team in the office and the Exec Board who made the decision to go down this line."

Barbara Hibbert, the DLA's recently elected President said: "I'm only in to my second week and I'm collecting awards on behalf of the DLA! It is absolutely wonderful, this award is a reflection of how well the Exec Board and the office staff work together – I'm very proud!"

Whilst the DLA didn't with the Magazine of the Year, they did come second with a Highly Commended award, which was also a fantastic achievement given the fact that they were up against some huge organisations some of which are based in the publications and media profession. DT

BSDHT 2012 Oral Health Conference opens for registration

Arena and Convention Centre (ACC) in Liverpool

The British Society for Dental Hygiene and Therapy are pleased to announce that registration for their flagship Annual Oral Health Conference & Exhibition is now open.

The 2012 event takes place at the Arena and Convention Centre (ACC) in Liverpool on 9th and 10th November.

This year's event will include an impressive array of speakers from across the dental profession, with presentations, workshops, and a range of parallel sessions, all on subjects sure to be of interest to dental hygienists and dental hygienist/therapists, as well as other members of the dental team.

Located on Liverpool's waterfront, and overlooking the River Mersey, the ACC is close to landmarks such as the Albert Dock, Tate Gallery, and many of Liverpool's historic buildings, including the Liver Building - all within a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Sally Simpson, BSDHT President, said: "This year's Conference will be our first in the ACC at Liverpool and I'm sure everyone who visits this fantastic location will be very impressed by the state of the art facilities there. Delegates will experience an even wider choice of topics all directly relevant to and tailored specifically for dental hygienists and dental hygienist-therapists."

To register for the event go to www.bsdht.org.uk. DT

BDA PEC Chair calls for high-quality care and professionalism

The recently-elected leader of the UK's dentists, Dr Martin Fallowfield, has pledged that the British Dental Association (BDA) will champion high-quality care, promote professional values and speak out forcefully on behalf of the profession.

Speaking in his first interview since being elected Chair of the BDA's Principal Executive Committee (PEC) Dr Fallowfield asserts his belief in the importance of all dentists being able to provide patient care in an environment where they are able to put patients' interests first, free of concern about whether the system that is funding the care provides adequate resources for the treatment that is needed.

Dr Fallowfield also argues that the significant contribution non-NHS dentistry makes to improving oral health in the UK deserves greater recognition, stressing the evolving aspirations and values of patients as a driving force for the different expectations many patients have of their dental care today.

Putting patients first, Dr Fallowfield contends, is the behaviour that entitles dentistry to consider itself a profession. It is this belief in values and standards, he says, that lifts dentists above the level of artisans to their professional status.

The interview also sees Dr Fallowfield discuss a range of other issues including the importance of the BDA's trade union function, the findings of the recent Office of Fair Trading report into the UK dental market and the long-term nature of the challenge facing the PEC. The interview is available to read or listen to at *http://bit.ly/LKr4tv* DT

New dental clinic to open at University of Central Lancashire

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is launching a new dental clinic on its Preston campus – and dental professionals are invited to visit the new facility on a special open day on 9 August.

The UCLan Dental Clinic (UDC) will open in September to provide dental services for students, staff and the wider Lancashire and South Lakes community. It will also offer the opportunity for qualified dentists from UCLan's School of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education to gain clinical experience on campus – an opportunity that few universities can offer. The Clinic is building its referral list and welcomes the opportunity to carry out specialist procedures for dental practitioners across the region.

The clinic will comprise four general dental surgeries; an oral surgery suite (two surgeries and recovery room) and a ten-chair training suite. It will be fully equipped to meet both treatment and teaching requirements.

Dental services can be provided to students, staff and their families via the Denplan capitation scheme, at favourable prices. Dentists with special interests will offer personal treatment options or refer cases to the qualified dentists following the UCLan Postgraduate Masters programme.

Endodontic, periodontic treatments and advanced restorative procedures including implants will all be available. These high quality services will be offered at prices that compare favourably to the high street prices.

Announcing the launch of the clinic, StJohn Crean, Dean of the School of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education said: "This is an exciting development for UCLan – as well as for dental education in the northwest region. An on-campus clinic will give students and staff access to first class dental services and allow our dental students an amazing opportunity to develop their clinical skills without leaving the university.

"I hope as many of our colleagues across the dental profession take the opportunity to come and visit this special site before our official launch in September."

Paul Walsh, Clinical Director of the UCLan Dental Clinic said: "Our clinic will provide the full range of dental services one would expect from a first class dental surgery. We hope that once our colleagues from local clinics see the levels of expertise, service and patient care we can provide, then they will begin to refer patients to UDC. We are as committed to providing a service to the local community as we are to improving dental education in the region." DT

Dental Nurse Education Zone

Online Dental Nurse Education and Qualification Services

Smile-on and **Tempdent** understand the need for flexible learning to fit around the busy lifestyles of dental nurses and practices.

This blended learning website priovides **everything you need** from the start of your dental career through to your postgraduate qualifications and even helps you find the right job:

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Giving a smile on Facebook

David's teeth before and after

A man from Hove has reason to smile after a dentist in Brighton fitted him with new teeth for free, following their search for a worthy patient on Facebook.

David Bryant, a member of the charity Blind Veterans UK, was nominated for a new set of teeth, after the Brighton Implant Clinic decided to search for somebody who deserved a new smile.

After filtering through hundreds of applications, the dental practice decided on David, who was nominated by two colleagues and a patient. David's hard work and commitment to ex-servicemen who have lost their sight in conflict earned him the opportunity to smile with confidence again.

"After visiting David at work and seeing how he interacted with patients and staff, it was apparent that he is a much-loved character," said Bruno Silva, dental surgeon at the Brighton Implant Clinic.

"At the beginning of the year we ran a competition via Facebook for one lucky winner to win a brand new set of teeth, in the form of an all-on-4 procedure, a treatment that ranges in cost from £6,500 to £15,000. After sorting through hundreds of stories, one man caught our eye."

David started to lose his teeth 15 years ago because of an accident and bad experiences with dentists. Before his treatment he only had a few top teeth left, and friends and family felt that David had low self-esteem due to his appearance.

David's treatment consisted of extractions and All-on-4 implants. After a straightforward procedure and pain controllable with paracetamol, David left the clinic with new teeth, and above all, a new lease of confidence.

"I used to always avoid smiling," said David. "My teeth were in a really poor state before my treatment, which meant I didn't smile like I wanted to.

"I'm overwhelmed to have been nominated for implants and I can't stop looking in the mirror at my new teeth," he added. DT

Dental fillings cause "anxiety, depression, and social stress" in children

A New England Research Institutes study has discovered that composite dental fillings could be associated with impaired social behaviours in children.

The paper found that dental fillings that may release bisphenol-A (BPA) were associated with impaired social behaviours in children. According to the press release from NERI, associations were stronger when the composite fillings were on chewing surfaces where degradation of the plastic over time may be more likely. No adverse psychosocial outcomes were observed in children who had fillings made without the plastic materials.

"Dental Composite Restorations and Psychosocial Function in Children" was published in *Pediatrics* on July 16 2012.

BPA is used to create bisGMA – traditionally the main source monomer for composite dental fillings. Either a combination of BisGMA and other materials, or amalgam (silver coloured fillings containing mercury) are commonly used for dental fillings.

Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health and New England Research Institutes studied dental fillings in 534 children aged six or older as part of a randomised trial of amalgam. They found that with increasing amount and duration of exposure to bisGMA fillings over five years follow-up, children reported more anxiety, depression, social stress, and interpersonal-relation problems. The researchers say this finding is consistent with laboratory research showing social problems related to early life exposures to small amounts of BPA, but they add that additional studies are needed to confirm these findings. DT

A sonnet full of smiles

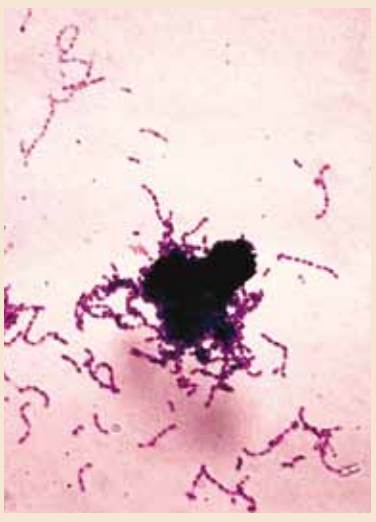
A dentist from Austin, Texas, has put together a selection of poems about lips and smiles of patients that visit his dental surgery.

The collection of short poems, which is called *Reflections On A Smile, Poems To Passion*, is by Lester Sawicki. According to report, the poems offer interesting thoughts and ideas of lips and smiles and the many moods that they present.

Having worked with mouths for more than 36 years, dentist Lester Sawicki started to look at his patients' mouths and their smiles in a humorous and mystical way, rather than simple a mouth from a dentist's point of view.

According to one report, Sawicki now sees the dental world in more 'complex terms' thanks to seeing smiles in his dental surgery in a new light. The book is now available from Amazon. DT

Scientists 'find' anti-cavity molecule



Streptococcus mutans

According to various news sources, scientists have discovered a molecule that can eliminate tooth decay bacteria in seconds.

The molecule, which is believed to be able to help protect teeth for several hours, was reportedly discovered by researchers at the University of Chile.

Several reports have suggested that the molecule could be added to oral care products, such as toothpastes and even sugar free chewing gum to help prevent dental cavities.

The molecule, named Keep 32, is reportedly able to destroy Streptococcus mutans, the bacterium which is instrumental in the development of dental caries.

However, even though the molecule is a potential breakthrough in preventing dental cavities, it has yet to undergo human testing. DT

Dentists get Olympic fever!

The Olympic Stadium

Overseas athletes competing at London 2012 will receive free dental care at a specially constructed Polyclinic at the Olympic Park.

The move may come as a welcome relief for some of the athletes taking part, as the clinic will aim to carry out and complete work they may not have access to in their own country.

Top athletes may be putting their oral health at risk though frequent consumption of energy drinks, leading to the possibility of tooth decay and dental erosion. However, if they are receiving dental treatment while at the Olympic village, The National Dental Helpline, run by the British Dental Health Foundation, believe it could help them to maintain a high level of performance.

Karen Coates, a Dental Advisor at the British Dental Health Foundation said: "Looking after your oral health not only has great benefits for your mouth, but also for your overall health too.

"Athletes are in a great position to begin with, as people who exercise are less likely to develop tooth-threatening problems that could lead to gum disease. Many other links between good oral health and good overall health have also been made, including diabetes, lung diseases and heart problems. However, by consuming too many sports and energy drinks, athletes are at risk of dental erosion."

One dentist at the heart of the Olympics fully understands the pressure an athlete's teeth are under. Dr Kunal Dattani will be the leading practitioner for athletes at the Rowing and Canoe Sprint Village at the London 2012 Olympics, after volunteering to be involved. He said in the *Chesham and Buckinghamshire Examiner* "I thought it would be a once in a lifetime thing and it will be an amazing journey. It's incredible and I will see the Games from a different angle."

Dr Dattani told the Examiner about 40 per cent of the athletes will need dental treatment over the course of the Games. He said: "Toothache is one of the worst pains you go through so I've got to make sure I treat them as soon as possible and relieve them of their pain. They've got to be on their game."

However, with the participating athletes representing the height of fitness you may have presumed the Olympic organisers might have taken advantage of the country's excitement by promoting a healthy lifestyle. Therefore it is a little surprising that the chief sponsor of the games is McDonald's, the world's leading fast food outlet.

It is not just the effect fast food has on our bodies that is concerning. Less healthy foods can also have detrimental consequences for oral health- periodontal disease affects 19 out of 20 people. In a study by Case Western Reserve University, 12, 000 Americans were examined to discover how lifestyle can affect oral health. Researchers found that regular exercise and healthy eating reduced the prevalence of gum disease, highlighting the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Dr Nigel Carter, chief executive of The British Dental Health Foundation commented: "It has been shown that the disease develops more rapidly in people whose nutrition is lacking."

A similar study was carried out earlier this year in Japan, looking at the relationships between eating habits and periodontal condition in university students. The analysis found that overweight students who frequently consumed unhealthy food and seldom ate vegetables were at a higher risk of developing gum disease. Carter noted: "One of the key ingredients to good oral health is a balanced diet." To put it simply, the more you eat unhealthy foods, the more oral damage is produced. DT

A positive investment in driving down infections

Almost £8m is being invested in driving down HIV infections and providing information to improve people's sexual health, Public Health Minister Anne Milton recently announced.

The money will go to the Terrence Higgins Trust and FPA (Family Planning Association) over three years and builds on previous work funded by the Department.

The latest figures show that the largest increases in STIs were seen in men who have sex with men.

The funding will mean:

• the Terrence Higgins Trust and their partners receive £6.7 million to prevent HIV in men who have sex with men and people from African communities, the groups most affected by HIV in England; and
• FPA will receive £1.13 million for their comprehensive specialist sexual health information service for the public and health workers.

There are nearly 100,000 people living with HIV in the UK yet a quarter of them don't know they have it - meaning they're more likely to pass it on and are unable to benefit from effective treatment. In 2010, there were around 3,000 new diagnoses in men who have sex with men - the highest number ever reported in one year.

Public Health Minister Anne Milton said: "Sexually transmitted infections can lead to serious health problems.

"One in twenty gay men and one in twenty black African men and women in England are HIV positive and in London this rises to one in every seven gay men.

"This money will help the Terrence Higgins Trust and FPA reach out to these communities. They will use a range of approaches including social media to encourage more people to come forward for testing."

Sir Nick Partridge, Chief Executive of Terrence Higgins Trust said: "England has a strong record in HIV prevention and we are proud of the part we have played in this, but the stakes – and potential gains – have never been higher. It's within our grasp to significantly reduce the rates of new infections by working together with local authorities, clinical services and most importantly the communities most at risk of HIV. Our plans are exciting, ambitious, but achievable, and we're proud to have been entrusted with this work."

Julie Bentley, Chief Executive, FPA said: "FPA has delivered factual, accessible, and high quality sexual health information to the public and healthcare professionals for many years. We are delighted to have won this contract which is evidence of how respected and trusted our sexual health information continues to be." DT

Titanium implants may corrode

Titanium medical implants used in bone-anchored hearing aids and dental prostheses, may not be as robust as is commonly believed, according to new evidence from scientists at the University of Birmingham.

Collaborative research led by Dr Owen Addison in the Biomaterials unit of the School of Dentistry has found evidence to suggest that in environments where there is no significant wear process, microscopic particles of Ti can be found in the surrounding tissue.

This can potentially be pro-inflammatory and affect the performance of the device scientists say in a research paper published today (Wednesday July 25) in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface.

Globally, more than 1,000 tonnes of titanium (Ti) is implanted into patients in the form of biomedical devices every year. Metallic prostheses, fixation and anchoring devices are used extensively for orthopaedic, craniofacial and dental rehabilitation and their effects on the body are widely perceived to be predictable following initial implantation.

For this study, tissue was obtained from patients undergoing scheduled revision surgery associated with bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA) at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust. Soft tissues surrounding commercially pure Titanium anchorage devices were investigated using microfocus synchrotron X-ray spectroscopy at the Diamond Light Source (Oxford, UK).

'The results showed, for the first time, a scattered and heterogenous distribution of Ti in inflamed tissues taken from around failing skin-penetrating Ti implants,' the authors report.' Wear processes and implant debris were unlikely to be major contributors to the problem, they concluded. 'In the absence of obvious macroscopic wear or loading processes, we propose that the Ti in the tissue results from micro-motion and localised corrosion in surface crevices.'

The development of peri-implant inflammation may result in the premature loss of the implanted device or the requirement for revision / rescue surgery and are scenarios which can 'impact on patients' well-being and economically on the health service provider,' the authors conclude. DT

DCP taster day

Tim Ives is presenting a one day course with Fiona Ellwood for DCP's who are interested in mentoring. The first one is in Leicester on 11 August 9am - 4pm at the Peepul Centre, Orchardson Avenue, Leicester. This is designed as a taster day for a nationally recognised qualification in mentorship and is a real bargain for £10.

This is a taster day designed as an introduction to a nationally recognised qualification in mentorship for the registered dental care professional (DCP). This will suit all DCP's who have or wish to develop a role in team training and development and is an ideal stepping stone for those who are considering teaching and /or mentoring as a career. DT

Defining an organisation

Alun Rees discusses business success

"It's a very personal thing, but throughout my career – from my time as a teacher, to my time as a banker – I have seen just how important culture is to successful organisation's... Culture is difficult to define, I think it's even more difficult to mandate – but for me the evidence of culture is how people behave when no one is watching... Our culture must be one where the interests of customers and clients are at the very heart of every decision we make; where we all act with trust and integrity. But it's not just about how we behave towards our customers and clients. It's also about how we work together with our colleagues, because if you have to deliver for customers with 150,000 colleagues around the world, as we do, you better be able to work as a team. As far as I'm concerned, if you can't work well with your colleagues, with trust and integrity, you can't be on the team. Culture truly helps define an organisation."

Fine words and there is no one who can dispute them. It's the sort of statement that a leader in any business or organisation should be making. However when you discover that the words were spoken last year by Bob Diamond the recently ex-CEO of Barclays Bank whilst giving the Today Business Lecture in 2011 your opinion might change.

I am old enough and have enough memory of my 'right-on' days to retain a suspicion of Barclays because of their involvement with South Africa in the years before the end of apartheid. In recent times the stories of Mr Diamond's "compensation package" and bonuses have made me wonder what he actually did - but like many I wondered, with just a hint of jealousy, what I would do with so much money.

'My grandmother had many wise sayings, one was "Fine words butter no parsnips". The modern equivalent amongst those of us seeking to be ethical professionals is "Walk the Talk'

His appearance a couple of days ago before a committee of MPs, each of whom seemed to have a separate agenda resulting in most of them missing the target, apart perhaps from having their voices recorded for posterity, made me reflect on Mr Diamond's name. Bob Diamond or perhaps Diamond Bob could have been a dark suited card sharp on a Mississippi river boat, a small revolver concealed in his sleeve for settling arguments without debate. Or perhaps it's more redolent of Las Vegas where he might have fronted a mob owned casino. If the latter then his appearance before the committee this week is reminiscent of Al Pacino's Michael Corleone in

Godfather II facing down the federal inquisitors investigating organised crime.

To return to Mr Diamond's talk: my grandmother had many wise sayings, one was "Fine words butter no parsnips". The modern equivalent amongst those of us seeking to be ethical professionals is "Walk the Talk". Both of these are comparable with "the evidence of culture is how people behave when no-one is watching". Yet in a matter of a couple of days the perception has become that the culture of the organisation is wanting, to say the least, because of the actions of a few individuals.

I speak about, consult on and coach what I know, and that is dentistry and people. We are constantly being encouraged by business pundits and gurus to be authentic, honest and sincere. Sadly the cynic in me is reminded of the words of Groucho Marx who said: "To be successful all you need is sincerity; once you can fake that you can fake anything."

One of the first things I attempt (I admit I don't always succeed) with clients is to get them to work out what they truly want to do with their lives. Yep it's that "vision" thing again. Until they know their destination I can't help them to find their own road, but one thing I truly know is that until they have a dream, a desire, an aspiration they will go around in circles or worse they will wander down someone else's path because "it seemed to have worked for them."

Unless those dreams are congruent with their conscience, unless they are doing what they do for the right and therefore ethical reasons they will end up disappointed and frustrated. Ultimately they will need to confront their own version of Diamond Bob's time of reckoning even if it's only by facing their children or by staring into their own eyes in the mirror every day.

I often come across this lack of consistency when I talk about the subject of sales and selling in professional life - it seems that as long as it's said to be "ethical" and "low-key" then it's OK. What I find is that people have been on sales courses and have learned the words, the techniques of rapport and closing and so on without working out exactly what it is they are trying to achieve for the greater good of the patient.

That's where "selling without the S-word" came from - a challenge from a client to encourage his team to (whisper it) "sell" without them realising that's what they were doing. It takes high quality leadership (another overused and poorly understood word) to ensure that the culture of a business is imbued with that "trust and integrity" that Bob Diamond mentioned, if you're not a leader that can be trusted 100 per cent or whose integrity can be called in to question then don't be surprised when your organisation performs poorly.

Until every team member from cleaner to principal is doing what they are doing for the long-term benefit of the patient and truly understand and embrace that, until they truly walk the talk then success will be an illusion. DT

About the author

Alun Rees trained at Newcastle University and started his career as an oral surgery resident, before working as an associate in a range of different practices. With this solid foundation, Alun went on to launch two practices in the space of just 15 months, a challenge in the toughest economic conditions. After years of hard work Alun finally sold his award-winning business in 2005. Alun's background and experience give him a strong understanding of what others go through to build a successful practice. He has seen many different approaches and learned his own lessons in the real world. Alun now runs Dental Business Partners to offer specific and specialised support for dentists, by dentists. He has served as a media representative for both the BDA and BDHF and is an authority consulted by the media and has featured on BBC2, Sky TV and various radio stations.
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