

News in Brief

Dentist knocks down dog walker

Kay Nolan, a dentist at Padham Dental Practice near Burnley, knocked down Stuart Mather whilst texting at the wheel. She had pulled into a layby to write the message, but only sent it once she had set off again. The collision occurred on June 6 in Higham, Lancashire. Mr Mather was taken to hospital but later died, as did his dog. Nolan has admitted the charge of causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving. She will be sentenced at Preston Crown Court on December 17.

NHS Dental portal

NHS Dental Services is rolling out the NHS dental portal to all providers and performers. The new dental portal, allowing dentists in England and Wales secure access to both contractual information and the details of their NHS activity, is now live. Performers working in primary care will be able to view and download their monthly pay statements the moment they are produced rather than waiting for them to arrive by post, and check their superannuable contributions. The portal also allows providers to give staff and performers full or partial access to contract information via the portal.

Dentistry news programme ITN Productions have announced it is producing a news programme dedicated to the dentistry profession, which will be available to view at the Dentistry Show and online on ITN's online Healthcare News Channel. The programme will feature interviews with industry-leading representatives covering topics such as direct access, the CPD cycle, and the latest industry changes. "I am really excited to be working with ITN Productions for The Dentistry Show next year" says Lucy Pitt, Group Marketing Manager at organiser CloserStill Media Healthcare. "Key stakeholders will be updating all concerned on Direct Access which could see a huge shift in the scope of practice for DCPs, and this together with general industry trends and future focuses from the trade will be covered within this news programme giving everyone a voice, and further helping to cement The Dentistry Show on the map".



**£2.5 m makeover**  
Glasgow dental school gets upgrade

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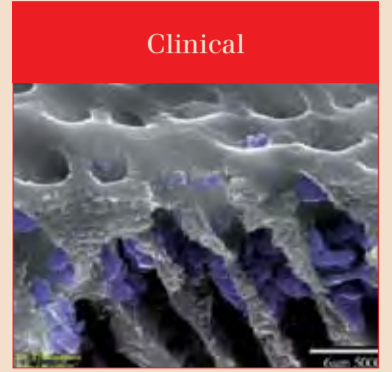
**White night**  
CRISIS fundraiser a success

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**Composite**  
Trevor Bigg gives an overview

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**Dentine Hypersensitivity**  
Fay Goldstep looks at treatments

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# X-ray warning of unsafe scanners

## Handheld scanners found to be dangerously faulty



The Tianjie Dental Falcon Scanner

A cut-price X-ray machine thought to be being used at some dental practices has been found to be 'potentially lethal'.

This is according to a report splashed across the front page of last Monday's (3 December) *Daily Mirror* under the headline 'Lethal X-ray machine at dentists', which describes how a series of imported hand-held x-ray scanners could be lethal to both users and patients.

The Tianjie Dental Falcon scanners, which are for sale on various websites for as little as £200, were tested at King's College Hospital in London after the Health Protection Agency (HPA) raised concerns over the devices.

Richard Paynter, Deputy Director of the Health Protection Agency's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, said: "One of HPA's roles is to give advice on the health effects of radiation exposure. When we became aware that these X-ray sets were for sale on the internet our Dental X-ray Protection Services group bought and tested one.

"When we found the set posed

problems we immediately flagged the issue with professional dental bodies, so they could tell their members, notified the Department of Health; and also asked the MHRA to consider taking action.

"We're delighted that MHRA is now taking such positive steps to ensure public and occupational protection from unnecessary radiation exposure."

Donald Emerton, Clinical Evaluator at King's College Hospital said: "When we tested the X-ray machine, we found it did not properly protect either a potential patient, or the person operating it.

"Over time someone operating this machine, such as a dental assistant, would be exposed to unacceptable levels of accumulated radiation and this would have an increased risk to their health. I certainly wouldn't want someone to use this piece of equipment to take an X-ray of me."

The scanners were found to 'expose users and patients to 10 times the normal level of radiation - dramatically increasing the risks of cancer and organ damage', said the report in the *Daily Mirror*. Investigators also found that the scanners had botched wiring and a lack of lead insulation to protect patients and users against radiation leakage.

At least one dentist in the UK is known to have used the device, and many others have said to have been interested in buying one.

Bruce Petrie, of the MHRA's Medical Devices Enforcement Team, said: "It's vital that dentists and dental staff do not buy these dental X-ray machines from eBay or other websites because they are not approved and not safe for dentists or patients.

"We have seized 13 of these

X-ray machines from the distributor and we are working with eBay and other governments to ensure dentists and patients are protected. We urge anyone who has bought one of these machines to contact us on the MHRA's hotline on 020 3080 6701 or at counterfeit@mhra.gsi.gov.uk" [DH](#)

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## Government crackdown on binge drinking



Alcohol could see a minimum 45p per unit price

Ministers are proposing a minimum price of 45p per unit of alcohol sold in England and Wales as part of a package of measures aimed at reducing problem drinking and its associated risks for health and society as a whole.

In addition to the introduction of minimum pricing, the Home Office wants a ban on multi-buy promotions, such as two-for-one offers, and a new

health-related objective for alcohol licensing.

This latter measure would mean licensing authorities would be able to consider alcohol-related health harms when managing problems relating to the number of premises selling alcohol in their area.

Damian Green, the government's policing minister, commented: 'The evidence is clear

- the availability of cheap alcohol contributes to harmful levels of drinking.

'It can't be right that it is possible to purchase a can of beer for as little as 20p.'

Figures suggest that irresponsible drinking costs the taxpayer £21 billion per year, with hospitals admitting 1.2 million patients with alcohol-related problems last year alone. [DT](#)

## Australian example should be followed, charity urges

On Saturday 1 December, Australia became the first country to strip all tobacco products of branding and replace them with graphic health warnings designed to reduce the number of tobacco-related deaths.

The new law means all cigarettes will now be sold in olive green packets containing graphic images warning of the consequences of smoking, legislation that organisers of

Mouth Cancer Action Month believe should be enforced in the UK.

The news comes on the final day of the campaign, and is welcomed by Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter OBE.

Dr Carter said: "Any legislation designed to put people off smoking, particularly young people taking up the

habit, is one the Foundation fully supports.

"These particular images are extremely graphic. If people continue to turn a blind eye to the dangers posed by smoking, they are putting themselves at real risk from a number of diseases and should see what damage smoking does." [DT](#)



Examples of the new packaging

## Aspire Academy shapes 'leaders of tomorrow' at The Dentistry Show



The all new 'Aspire Academy' will be running its first conference for newly qualified dentists on Friday 1st March at the 2013 Dentistry Show.

Hosted by Raj Rattan, the free to attend conference will offer clinical and professional insight into being a modern dentist and a future prac-

tice owner, with presentations from Nilesh Parmar, Prem-Pal Sehmi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh.

Five sessions, each with a mini-ipad up for grabs, together with a host of online content and offers from Smile-On will be available for delegates who attend, followed by networking drinks and access

to a discounted after dinner ticket for the "The Big Heart Party" in aid of Heart Your Smile.

Dentists who qualified between 2007 and 2011 can register to access a free delegate place at [www.thedentistry-show.co.uk/aspire](http://www.thedentistry-show.co.uk/aspire) [DT](#)

## Chair of Public Health England's Advisory Board announced

Professor David Heymann has been confirmed as Chair of Public Health England's Advisory Board.

He is currently Chairman of the Health Protection Agency and in his new role will Chair the Advisory Board that supports the Chief Executive of Public Health England in delivering its mission to protect and improve the nation's health, address inequalities and improve the health of the poorest fastest.

Health Secretary Jeremy

Hunt said: "I am delighted to confirm Professor David Heymann as Chair of Public Health England's Advisory Board. He brings a wealth of experience to the role as a public health scientist and doctor at both national and international level."

Professor David Heymann said: "I feel very privileged to be appointed as Chair of Public Health England's Advisory Board. Public Health England offers an unrivalled opportunity to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of the nation."

"I am looking forward to continuing to work with Duncan and his team and am confident that we have the expertise to support local government as they take on their new responsibility for improving and protecting the public's health, as well as working in partnership with the NHS and other stakeholders locally and nationally."

Chief Executive of Public Health England Duncan Selbie said: "I am greatly looking forward to working with David in pursuit of our mission and ambition."

Professor Heymann will take up post formally as Chair of Public Health England's Advisory Board on 1 April 2013, when Public Health England becomes fully operational. [DT](#)



David Heymann

## Editorial comment

Well, here we are... the last Dental Tribune of 2012! My, how time has flown this year.

We have seen a lot happen this year – not only for the profession but at Dental Tribune as well. One notable event for the


DT team was the British Dental Editors' Forum Young Writer of the Year Award. This year our very own Laura Hatton received this accolade, the first time that a non academic has won the award. If you didn't read her now award-winning series on Sir Harry Baldwin but would like to, drop me an email and I'll happily

send them to you.

We also saw the establishment of an editorial advisory board. This collection of people covering all sectors of the profession has been a great support for the team at DT and I would like to extend my thanks to them for everything they've done this year. In fact they were so good I intend to work them harder next year!

I would also like to thank the

readers and advertisers who help make DT happen. Without our supporters, we would not be able to produce Dental Tribune to the quality and frequency that we do. Without our readers, there would be no-one to send it to. So my heartfelt thanks!

So, all of us at DT would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We will see you in 2013! 

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?

If so don't hesitate to write to: The Editor, Dental Tribune UK Ltd, 4th Floor, Treasure House, 19-21 Hatton Garden, London, EC1 8BA


Or email: [lisa@healthcare-learning.com](mailto:lisa@healthcare-learning.com)

## Preferred CQC chair announced

Following an open and rigorous recruitment exercise, David Prior has emerged as the Government's preferred candidate for the post of Chair of the Care Quality Commission.

The Secretary of State for Health has today invited the Health Select Committee to hold a public pre-appointment scrutiny hearing and report on the candidate's suitability for the post, in line with proposals for scrutiny of key positions in which Parliament has an interest.

After a hearing, the Committee will set out its views on the candidate's suitability for this post. The Secretary of State will then consider the conclusions of the Committee's report carefully before deciding whether or not to proceed with the appointment.

David Prior is Chairman of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Foundation Trust and Chair of an Academy School. David qualified as a barrister and spent ten years in the Steel Industry. Between 1995-2002 he served in a number of political roles, including as MP for North Norfolk, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Conservative Party and a member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee. He has been Chair of a wide range of private companies. 



David Prior

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# Vitamin D could prevent tooth decay



Review shows the benefits of Vitamin D

**A** new review shows that vitamin D could help prevent dental caries or tooth decay.

The review, published in

the December issue of *Nutrition Reviews*, encompassed 24 controlled clinical trials, spanning the 1920s to the 1980s, on approximately 3,000 children in several countries.

“My main goal was to summarise the clinical trial database so that we could take a fresh look at this vitamin D question,” said Dr. Philippe Hujuel of the University of Washington, who conducted the review.

The clinical trials he reviewed were conducted in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Austria, New Zea-

land and Sweden. Trials were conducted in institutional settings, schools, medical and dental practices, or hospitals. The subjects were children or young adults between the ages of two and 16 years, with a weighted mean age of 10 years.

The vitamin D question takes on greater importance in the light of current public health trends. Vitamin D levels in many populations are decreasing while dental caries levels in young children are increasing.

“Whether this is more than

just a coincidence is open to debate,” Hujuel said. “In the meantime, pregnant women or young mothers can do little harm by realising that vitamin D is essential to their offspring’s health. Vitamin D does lead to teeth and bones that are better mineralised.”

Hujuel added a note of caution to his findings: “One has to be careful with the interpretation of this systematic review. The trials had weaknesses which could have biased the result, and most of the trial participants lived in an era that differs profoundly from today’s environment.” **DT**

# Microcracks in jawbone can lead to stronger bones

**A** recent article in the *Journal of Oral Implantology* suggests that introducing microcracks in the jawbone can stimulate bone growth.

The article describes an approach to oral implant surgery for patients with severely atrophic jaws that stimulates bone activation of the future implant location.

Dental patients with severely atrophic jaws have poor quality and quantity of bone in which to place an implant. Using the Osteotensor, a purpose-designed instrument, a series of

microcracks are created in the jawbone. A biological response then takes place: proteins, stem cells, and other growth factors work to regenerate the bone.

After 45 to 90 days, implant surgery can take place. Solid titanium disks are implanted into the bone bed and covered by biomaterial. A rigid, screw-fixed prosthesis can then be immediately loaded and become functional.

The authors of the article report the case of a 74-year-old woman treated with this technique after she declined

to undergo a bone grafting procedure. Forty-five days after microcracks induced bone activation, the same Osteotensor instrument could no longer penetrate bone at 23 of 42 impact sites. After 90 days, none of the sites could be penetrated. Softer, type IV bone had been transformed to harder, type II bone, and it was safe to proceed with implant surgery.

Two years later, the patient’s implants were osseointegrated, and the regenerated bone had become functional bone. **DT**



The technique was used on a 74-year-old patient

# Glasgow Dental School gets £2.5m makeover



Glasgow University tower

**D**ental services and teaching at the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School have completed a £2.5m refurbishment programme.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) have invested almost £2m on a significant project to modernise the hospital’s restorative dental clinics and expand the central instrument de-

contamination unit.

To complete the package of enhancements at the hospital The University of Glasgow have also invested £500,000 in transforming a traditional biochemistry laboratory into a multi-media teaching facility.

The new teaching suite is to be named the Dorothy Geddes Multi-

media Facility in memory of the late Professor Geddes, who was a pioneering dental surgeon and oral biologist and the first woman to hold a professorship in dentistry at a UK university.

At a special event to officially open the new facilities NHSGGC Chairman Andrew Robertson said: “The benefit of these investments will reach many thousands of dental patients treated each year. The newly refurbished and expanded decontamination unit will serve not only the dental hospital but also 17 community dental clinics in and around Glasgow offering the very highest standard of instrument decontamination available.

The refurbishment includes a newly expanded central decontamination unit, new restorative dentistry clinics, a full 3D projection system, and a virtual microscopy suite. **DT**

# Patients put off dentist due to cost



Money is an issue for dental patients

**A**ccording to a new survey, almost one third of people are putting off going to the dentist because of the cost.

The survey, carried out on behalf of the Irish Dental Association, found that there has been an increase in the number of patients who wait until they experience pain to visit a dentist.

Three quarters of dentists surveyed said they have seen an increase in the number of patients who arrive at a surgery in pain while 95 per cent of dentists have

seen a marked increase in the number of extractions performed. Significantly, 91 per cent of dentists have seen a decrease in patient attendance.

Dr Peter Gannon of the IDA said the results were alarming.

“The simple preventive treatments that were available were key to maintaining good dental health for many people. It is worrying to see such problems so soon and I am concerned that we are returning to the days of extractions and dentures” he said. **DT**

## Aspire Academy - for tomorrow's leaders Friday 1st March at the Dentistry Show

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Hosted by Raj Rattan with presentations from Nilesh Parmar & Prem-Pal Sehmi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh

**Register for free by 18th January and book your place alongside the leaders of tomorrow.**

# Lack of fixtures review could drive down value of practice



NASDAL's Nick Hancock

Changes to the Capital Allowances Act could affect practice owners wishing to sell up.

"You could benefit from a tax refund now as well as laying important groundwork in advance of selling your practice. The earlier one of these claims is done the better because as well as a potential tax refund, it provides additional capital allowances going forward", said NASDAL member Nick Hancock of specialist dental accountants

Albert Goodman.

Until now, he explained, the 'qualifying fixtures' have normally been left as part of the freehold acquisition price. For a commercial property being sold after 5 April 2014, one of these reviews must be undertaken as part of the sales process. After that date, the vendor and the purchaser will need to specifically agree the sales price of those fixtures, usually by making a joint election under Section 198 of the CAA 2001 to achieve the capi-

tal allowance position.

Failure to carry out a fixtures review could drive down the value of the practice. Nick explained: "If qualifying assets are not identified with a Section 198 election being agreed, then effectively the buyer and all subsequent owners will have no opportunity to make a capital allowance claim on qualifying fixtures going forward. This could well have a detrimental effect on the sale proceeds figure when you try and sell your property." DT

## All change for Careers Day 2013

A number of new features including a CV clinic, business room and hands-on demonstrations will be on offer alongside the regular mix of practical advice, lectures, and exhibition at next year's BDA UCL Eastman Careers Day, the newly-published programme reveals.

The annual event, which takes place on 8 February at London's Hotel Russell, gives young dentists the chance to

explore a range of career options and specialisms. Each of the eight rooms at the event will offer a full programme centred around a particular theme such as general practice, specialities, business and finance, experience building, and hospitals and special care.

For the first time in 2013 the day will also include a special programme of guidance sessions for those who are studying or have passed

their ORE exam and a dedicated hands-on demonstration programme where a range of experts will demonstrate new clinical techniques on phantom head simulators. There will also be a dedicated CV Clinic offering delegates the chance to get one-to-one advice with the speakers.

There will also be a panel discussion looking at the organisation of dentistry in the future. The panel will include Chief Dental Office Barry

Cockcroft alongside Professor Andrew Eder, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Dental Education at the Eastman Dental Institute, Elizabeth Jones, Dean of Postgraduate Dentistry for the London Deanery, and Peter Ward, Chief Executive at the BDA. The discussion will be chaired by Dr Judith Husband, Chair of Education and Ethics for the BDA's Principal Executive Committee.

Speaking ahead of the

event, Dr Judith Husband, said: "Those starting out on their career in dentistry will find, at the Careers Day, everything they need to help them take those essential first steps. I am pleased that we are once again working with the UCL Eastman Dental Institute to host this event."

A full programme for the day and booking information is available on the dedicated event page on the BDA website. DT

## Tooth agenesis linked to family history of cancer



Individuals with tooth agenesis have an increased risk of having a family history of cancer, a new study in the Journal of Dental Research has found.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine recruited 82 individuals and 528 individuals with no birth defect from the same institution to carry out the study.

Tooth agenesis was assessed in permanent teeth

and was defined based on the age of the participants and when initial tooth formation should be radiographically visible.

The results showed that individuals with tooth agenesis had an increased risk of having a family history of cancer ( $p = 0.00006$ ). Despite this, the researchers concluded that prospective studies are needed to confirm if tooth agenesis can be used as a risk marker for cancer. DT

## White night for CRISIS

Members of the dental community braved the cold to gather for a fundraiser with a difference!

Aptly named the Ice White party, the event saw more than 200 guests come together at the swanky Holborn House club in central London for an evening of dancing and entertainment to raise money for the homeless charity CRISIS.

Organiser of the event, dentist Nilesh R Parmar commented: "The Ice White party was a huge success and I am overwhelmed by the support of the entire dental community. It was an overwhelming event to organise but with help from Louise (Manan Ltd) and Raj Bhandot (owner of the club Holborn House), we were able to really impress our guests. So far we have raised £3,261 for CRISIS with donations coming in through the justgiving page



All white for CRISIS

on a daily basis. I would like to thank all my sponsors for their financial support and help with the Ice White party, and look forward to working with them again next year!"

To donate to CRISIS via the Ice White page, go to [www.justgiving.com/theice-whitex-masparty](http://www.justgiving.com/theice-whitex-masparty). DT

# Wrigley oral healthcare programme appoints new global manager



Matthew Kent

The Wrigley Oral Healthcare Programme (WOHP) has appointed Matthew

Kent as the new Global Manager. Wrigley has hired the senior health comms specialist to drive the further development of the Programme which is focused on helping dental care professionals and patients better understand the role of sugarfree gum in their oral care routine. Matthew will be based in Wrigley's UK headquarters putting the spotlight on the UK as leading the way in better oral health. WOHP operates in 47 countries around the world and is grounded in more than two decades of clinical research.

Matthew has a wealth of experience in both the UK and internationally. Previously Associate Director of London-based

healthcare agency 90TEN, Matthew was responsible for delivering innovative solutions in public relations, medical education and treatment adherence through smart healthcare communications with a creative edge. Prior to 90TEN, Matthew held a senior position at Tonic Life Communications in New York where he specialised in delivering high impact programmes for brands and companies in pharmaceutical and consumer health.

Commenting on the appointment Louisa Rowntree, Communications Manager of the UK Oral Health Programme, said: "Matthew has great strategic and planning skills coupled with a track record of delivering well

executed healthcare communications. His international background will be key to delivering the Programme's oral health messages globally as well as promoting the great work the Programme is doing in the UK."

Matthew added: "This is an exciting time for Wrigley in oral care and I'm delighted to be driving the global Wrigley Oral Healthcare Programme from here in the UK. Much of what happens in the UK informs and inspires our activities across the world, from educational resources to public policy outreach. I'm looking forward to providing new creative and strategic insight, to further engage dental pro-

fessionals and their patients on the benefits of chewing sugarfree gum as part of an oral care routine."

The benefits of chewing sugarfree gum are well documented and it is a clinically proven way to look after oral health whilst 'on the go'. The science behind chewing is simple - chewing sugarfree gum after eating and drinking stimulates the flow of saliva which washes away food debris, helps neutralise damaging plaque acids and remineralises tooth enamel. The proven benefits of chewing sugarfree gum provide a strong reason for dental professionals to recommend chewing to their patients. **DT**

# IDH to launch dental academy

Integrated Dental Holdings (IDH) has announced the creation of a Dental Academy, providing leading edge clinical training for its dentists, which will launch in Spring 2013.

The vision behind the Dental Academy is to deliver world-class training programmes initially for IDH staff, as part of IDH's commitment to the development of its people and the highest standards of dental care across the UK. Once established, The Academy will also open its doors to the wider profession and offer high-quality devel-

opment for non-IDH dentists. The state of the art facility and training centre will be based in Manchester, and include a fully functioning dental practice offering both NHS and private dentistry. The facility will have lecture rooms, seminar rooms and surgeries equipped to demonstrate treatments. This will include decontamination treatment facilities, radiography training facilities and a phantom head room.

All forms of training are there to up-skill dentists so they can provide more complex treatments and

will also cover their general CPD\* as well as nurse, hygienist and therapist training. Both hands-on and web based teaching methods will be available.

Richard Smith, CEO at IDH says, "Dentistry is a rapidly changing industry in the UK, developments in preventative care and cosmetic solutions have increased the industry's need for an enhanced skill mix from dentists. As the largest employer of dentists and practice staff in the UK the Academy is our way of responding to the changing needs of our staff and cus-

tomers. Our ambition is for The Academy to improve the

standard of dental practice in the UK." **DT**



## Denplan Announces New Life Presidents

Following its acquisition by Simplyhealth, Denplan has announced that its former Chairman, David Phillips and former Non-Executive Director, Meredyth Bell, have accepted roles as Life Presidents at Denplan.

The Life President role has been created to recognise David and Meredyth's commitment to Denplan over the years and their ongoing involvement and support for the dental profession.

Denplan Managing Director, Steve Gates commented: "I'm thrilled that we have been able to secure the services of Da-

vid and Meredyth. In their new roles as Life Presidents they will continue to play a key role in a number of Denplan activities and remain ambassadors for the business. They have both been instrumental in the success of Denplan and their ongoing experience and input will continue to be warmly received, alongside our other expert advisors." **DT**



L-R David Phillips and Meredyth Bell

## ADI appoints official DCP Committee Member

The Association of Dental Implantology (ADI) has elected Juliette Reeves as their first official Dental Care Professional Committee Member. Juliette, a hygienist, will represent dental care professional (DCP) members on the ADI Committee over the next two years, as announced at the ADI's annual general meeting on Monday 19 November.

The ADI Committee, which comprises 15 clinicians and one technician representative from around the UK, meets on a quarterly basis to direct the future of the organisation on behalf of its 2,000 members. Juliette will be involved in liais-

ing with and representing the ADI's DCP members, ensuring that their interests are being met.

Juliette is a successful hygienist and nutritionist with more than 30 years' experience. Her main areas of interest are nutritional influences in periodontal disease, stress and bone density. Juliette has received training in implant maintenance from master class academies in Geneva, Liechtenstein and more recently in the US.

Juliette says, "I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to work with the ADI Committee on behalf of my fellow DCP's. As the field

of implant dentistry develops and the number of implant placements increases, it is critical that the dental team also progresses." **DT**



Juliette Reeves

# The Minimally Invasive Dentistry Show!

## Ken Harris talks MI and the MSc in Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry

The media and certain groups within our own profession seem intent upon exposing “the unpleasant and unacceptable face of cosmetic dentistry” to para-

phrase our former premier, Ted Heath.

The media have been on this tack since the dawn of time (or at least the dawn of

the *TIMES*) and it goes something like this. Dentist butchers perfectly healthy teeth in the name of cosmetic improvement, shock horror!!!

The profession responds with alarm and a new philosophy is hastily trotted out to pacify the indignant *Daily Mail* readership. Atraumatic extraction anybody? Perhaps a

no-prep veneer?

Yes folks, it's the Minimally Invasive Dentistry Show, the art of fighting without fighting. A very laudable ideal, but many of us actually practice “Realistic Dentistry” driven by real patients who demand real results and not some faddish, here today, gone tomorrow solution. Furthermore many patients (at least my patients) just want their teeth to look good, and are not too concerned about how it happens.

However, few patients can resist the oleaginous charms of the current heavy-weight champion of the minimally invasive movement when correctly presented; put your hands together for tooth whitening, ladies and gentlemen!!

An excellent module has us all fully spammed-up about tooth whitening. The science has been comprehensively

*‘Furthermore many patients (at least my patients) just want their teeth to look good, and are not too concerned about how it happens’*

covered, check. We know our Carbamides from our pure peroxides, check. Even internal bleaching of single teeth has been blitzed, checkkitty check!! That should hit any media objections clear out of the park, surely?

Now don't get me wrong, tooth bleaching should be the first offering of any self-respecting dentist when the evil cosmetic dental devil comes a-calling, but it will not straighten teeth or replace lost tooth tissue ... which is where it all gets a little messy.

Let's quickly rewind back to the heady days of spring when our anterior aesthetics module began. As well



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An introduction to the Ultimate provisional.... **snapon smile**



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as tooth whitening, we have also touched upon the minimally invasive miracle that is “rapid orthodontics” (another fashionable, fad?). On a more traditional note, we have been lifted to celestial heights of ecstasy watching the prodigiously gifted Dr Gregory Brambilla in action. I would suggest there are few better exponents of the art of direct resin, and we are so fortunate to have him lead the direct composite resin module.

The latest minimally invasive offering, the concept of “Pragmatic Aesthetics” was also introduced during this module by the ever likeable Professor Trevor Burke, but I do wonder just where we are allowed to draw the line with “pragmatic”. I’m equally not convinced my patients would compromise aesthetics for tooth preservation to the degree as was suggested. Furthermore, it takes real skill to convincingly rebuild teeth with composite resin, and I’m sure Trevor would agree he’s no Gregory Brambilla, I know I’m not.

Equally, boiling down aesthetic dentistry to just sticking bits of composite to teeth, admirable though it is, seems just a teensy bit reductive I feel, and a truly excellent module concerning the restoration of root filled teeth suggests a tacit agreement by our tutors that we should not put our drills away just yet.

However, for now we have been asked to demonstrate just our minimally invasive credentials by providing two simple aesthetic case reports to test our progress. As a card carrying Manchester University student, I was looking forward to the traditional long summer break, and we were duly rewarded for all our hard work with all of August off; hurrah for the holidays!! The holiday smile was soon wiped from my face however, when the case report deadline was

announced as early September; hold the Ambre Solaire!

Nothing too complex said our tutors; it’s not about showing off, but more about learning your limitations, Hm-mmm! My first case involved whitening and direct composite resin to restore a traumatised upper central incisor. Think I managed that one OK (thank you Dr Brambilla). The other, a case of replacing


two old PFM crowns with all ceramic alternatives. Unfortunately case reports are not as simple as they sound when you have to back up your decision making with academic references from the literature. I guess that’s what being an academic is really about, and why I am doing the MSc after all.

Fast forward to an early September evening in London

with the lethargic city nursing a post-Olympic hangover; it’s the eve of our second residential course. Speaking of hangovers, many of us are meeting at a local hostelry to trade MSc stories and reignite old friendships. This is what the MSc is really about, socialising with like-minded colleagues.

However, when the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appears we begin four days of

intense teaching starting with the excellent Professor Burke on posterior aesthetics followed by two whole days with the awe-inspiring Prof Nasser Barghi keeping the Anterior end up. Bring it on!

I’ve just discovered there is also the little matter of another essay, and this time it’s a big one. A whopping 2,500 words is required. I’m hiding behind the settee!! 

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About the author



**Ken Harris** graduated from the dental school of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1982 and passed MFGDP(UK) in 1996. He maintains a fully private practice with branches in Sunderland and Newcastle upon Tyne specialising in complex dental reconstruction cases based upon sound treatment planning protocols. He is one of only two Accredited Fellows of BACD, holds full membership of BAAD and remains a sustaining member of AACD. He is currently UK Clinical Director for the California Center for Advanced Dental Studies and the only UK Graduate and Mentor of the Kois Center in Seattle.