UK’s first professional dental network expands further

By DTI

BIRMINGHAM, UK: One of the highlights of this year’s Dentistry Show in Birmingham was undoubtedly the after-party organised by Dental Circle. Over 250 of the UK’s finest in dentistry took to the Genting Hotel near the National Exhibition Centre for a night of fun, celebration and professional networking. The event was an all-out success for the young network, according to founder and CEO Dr Dev Patel, so much so that it plans to hold an even bigger one next year.

The Next Generation Conference, with sessions specifically that ran concurrently throughout the show in May, was also sold out completely. There, young dentists had the opportunity to obtain valuable insights into a variety of subjects, including starting to place implants and how to manage tooth wear, by well-known national experts, like Dr Dev Patel, Dr Tif Qureshi and Ashley Latter.

Furthermore, he now intends to approach dental schools and universities in order to allow students to join the network. At present, only dentists who are registered with the General Dental Council are able to sign up.

“We want to make sure that all members of the profession will be able to join our website,” Patel emphasised.

More information about Dental Circle and how to register on the site is available at www.dentalcircle.com. There, visitors can also find information about the network’s educational offering.

CURAPROX Black Is White Chew it!

By Curaden

KRIENS, SWITZERLAND: Health begins in the mouth—and not just health: freshness and beauty start with an open, confident smile. That’s what CURAPROX, the oral hygiene brand from Swiss company Curaden, stands for. And new for the market is its Black Is White activated charcoal chewing gum: black, subtly citrusy and minty, this effective whitening product boasts five amazing ingredients.

Glucose oxidase promotes a healthy balance of bacteria in the mouth. This completely natural enzyme turns glucose into hydrogen peroxide and simultaneously activates the salivary lactoperoxidase system. The result: no bad bacteria and no possibility of dental caries, gingivitis or periodontal disease.

In addition, xylitol remineralises the dental enamel and seals demineralisation associated with bacterial effect. Saliva-stimulating and antibacterial, xylitol is highly effective in helping dentists to find work more easily in an increasingly challenging marketplace.

Black is White chewing gum is a wonderful product that promotes beauty and oral health, according to Dr Dev Patel, CEO of Curaden. This gum also symbolises “Gaining US approval is critical for us to maximise the commercial potential of the CALCIVIS imaging system which we believe will transform the management of enamel demineralisation associated with caries and erosion and support the wider adoption of preventive dentistry,” he said.

EDINBURGH, UK: A novel system developed in Scotland for immediate assessing of demineralisation of teeth could soon make its way abroad, as the developer CALCIVIS has recently announced the completion of a premarket approval study that is intended to make the promising technology available to US dentists in addition to clinicians in the UK.

The study was conducted among 111 patients in several dental practices in Edinburgh over the past six months, and the first read-out of data will be available over the next few weeks. If successful, premarket approval by the US Food and Drug Administration for the technology is expected in the second half of 2017. According to CALCIVIS CEO Adam Christie, the US regulatory body has already been consulted on the study design and statistical approach as part of the regulatory pre-submission process.

“Gaining US approval is critical for us to maximise the commercial potential of the CALCIVIS imaging system which we believe will transform the management of enamel demineralisation associated with caries and erosion and support the wider adoption of preventive dentistry,” he said.

The system, which has received over £8 million in funding from the EU and the Scottish Investment Bank, among other institutions, has already gained approval by European regulators and is anticipated to be launched in the UK later this year. Originally developed by researchers at the University of Dundee, the CALCIVIS imaging device allows the real-time detection and visualisation of calcium ions released by demineralising caries lesions in routine dental practice. In order to achieve this, it makes use of bioluminescence with a special solution containing a photoprotein applied to the tooth surface. Photographic mapping with CALCIVIS then provides clinicians with accurate information about the location of active caries or other problems, like acid erosion, in patients.

In addition to helping to detect those conditions in advance, the system is intended to work as a communication tool between patient and dentist, the system’s principal investigator and orthodontist at Downie, Harper and Shanks Dental Practice in Edinburgh, Dr Neil Shanks, explained.

“It will also provide a clear explanation and justification of preventive management approaches to patients, helping to ensure their compliance,” he said.
What would Dr Mo Lar do? Part 4
How to legally reduce one's tax bill

By Richard Lishman, UK

Over the course of this series, the dentists group will explore ways to tackle a number of personal and professional challenges by providing advice and guidance to fictional character Dr Mo Lar. In this article, the fourth in the series, we look at how he could legally reduce his tax bill.

Lar operates as a sole trader. In other words, he is classed as the exclusive owner of his own business and is entitled to keep all profits after tax and National Insurance. What he takes home will depend on which Income Tax bracket he falls into. Now that he has some experience as an associate, his earnings will be in the region of between £60,000 and £100,000, which means he falls into the Higher Rate Threshold (HRT). Once he starts earning above £100,000, however, his Personal Allowance — the level at which Income Tax begins to be paid — will be reduced by £1 for every £2 of income above this limit. For the tax year 2017/18, the Personal Allowance is £11,500.

As for National Insurance, Lar falls into the Class 4 category, which means he is required to pay 9 per cent on profits between £8,060 and £43,000. As from April 2018, this will rise to 10 per cent and again to 11 per cent in 2019. Anything above £43,000 will be taxed at 2 per cent.

One way in which Lar can pay less tax and save money is to make sure he claims all of his tax-deductible expenses, such as subscriptions and technical journals, lab costs and hygienists fees, course costs, payments to charity, equipment, uniforms and accountancy and management consultancy fees. As a sole trader, Lar is also eligible to claim a percentage of the running costs of a car as long as he keeps detailed mileage records. It is important to note, however, that travel between home and the surgery is not classed as a business journey.

If Lar plays it smart with his tax payments, he could minimise his tax even further. Because he is self-employed he is able to select when his accounting year ends. Choosing a date early in the tax year would give him more time to prepare his accounts and longer to pay the amount of tax due. If in the event it looked like Lar would be earning less than the year before, he could apply to reduce any payments on account due to HMRC — in other words, any advance payments towards his tax bill. For the best results it is always best to utilise the services of a specialist dental accountant.

There are a number of savings that can be made outside of work too. At this stage in his life, Lar is not married and has no children, which means if he wanted to make some extra cash he could rent a room in his property. The Rent a Room relief would mean he could receive up to £7,500 in rent each year from a lodger, completely tax-free. When he does decide to marry, he could consider transferring his investment assets to his spouse, if they are in a lower tax bracket.

In the meantime, the best option for Lar would be to mitigate tax through maximising his pension and Independent Savings Account (ISA) Annual Allowances (AA). For the tax year 2017/18, the pension AA is £40,000, so to get...
The risks of appointing a practice employee as registered manager

By Ben Williams, UK

For many, deciding who is going to be the practice manager is a decision that is not taken lightly. The role of a practice manager is an important one, and one that comes with a great deal of responsibility. However, what happens when the employee registered as the practice manager leaves or is unable to fulfill their duties? Here are a few considerations to keep in mind when appointing a new employee as the practice manager.

If his salary is increased and he starts earning above £35,000, he would be subject to the Tapered Annual Allowance. At £40,000, for instance, Lar’s AA would be reduced to just £10,000. As such, it is worth considering how he is going to leverage his money to his advantage, especially as he plans on purchasing his own practice in the future.

In regard to Lar’s ISA, he should ensure that he makes full use of the AA, which is £20,000 for 2017/18. With the added benefit of no income tax on the interest or dividends and all profits from ISA investments are exempt from Capital Gains Tax, this is a great way to legally reduce a tax bill.

How can these issues be overcome? The actual process cannot be avoided, but making the transition of registered managers smooth without disruption is achievable. When appointing a new employee as the practice’s CQC registered manager, some important factors have to be considered, such as having a ten- to 12-week contractual notice period in place to provide the practice owner with a time frame in which to deal with the CQC applications to change the registered manager and negate the need to alert the CQC. This is not to say that employees should never be appointed as registered managers, but considerations must be given to situations in which they may no longer be employees.

While there are a number of ways in which mitigation can be achieved, the process can be extremely complex and confusing. As such, it is always best to employ the help of specialist accountants and Independent Financial Advisers such as those at the adenstis group. Dentists like Lar may have to invest in help from the experts, but it will save him money in the long run.

Next issue: Dr Mo Lar gets married and starts a family.

Ben Williams is a trainee solicitor at Goodman Grant in Liverpool. He works as part of the dental team on a variety of matters, including dental due diligence, CQC registration, drafting associate agreements and employment contracts, and carrying out administrative duties for the team.

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