Standingovation
It’s been one big emotional roller coaster for Dr Eddie Crouch lately. He continued to fight the good fight.

Two sides
The two clinical endodontic questions continue to cause much controversy in the profession. Dr Richard Mounce explains why.

Veneer pitfalls
There are more patients than ever before presenting with acute sensitivity and pain after veneer treatments says Dr Sultan.

Three cheers for Dr Crouch
An orthodontist has won a landmark victory, after taking on the Department of Health and fighting against an appeal, which would have given health bosses the right to terminate dental contracts without cause or notice.

The DH lodged the appeal earlier this year after Eddie Crouch, an orthodontist in Birmingham, won a Judicial Review, which said that primary care trusts (PCTs) were wrong to instruct a clause in the NHS dental contracts allowing them to terminate the contract without cause or notice.

The DH battled it out in the High Court, saying that health bosses needed such a power. If it is successful, the service may be extended to other areas across the country.

For more information, see www.php.nhs.uk

New member
The Chief Dental Officer, Barry Crouch has been invited to join the new strategic group that will oversee all medical education and training in England – Medical Education England (MEE). The group was formed following recommendations by Sir John Cocks into Modernising Medical Careers and was endorsed by Lord Darzi in his NHS Next Stage Review. MEE will coordinate a major restructure of postgraduate training for dentists, doctors and other healthcare professionals, and will also carry out national-level scrutiny of workforce planning, and the commissioning of education and training by strategic health authorities.

More complaints
The Dental Complaints Service (DCS) logged 327 complaints in October and 158 complaints in November last year. For January November 2008, the DCS logged 1,501 complaints, an increase of nine per cent over the same period in 2007. The average number of complaints logged since the DCS was launched in May 2006 is around 32 per week.

Mouthwash link with cancer
Mouthwashes containing alcohol can cause oral cancer and should be removed from supermarket shelves, a dental health study claims.

The news, which was revealed as Dental Tribune was going to press reports sufficient scientific evidence that such mouthwashes contribute to an increased risk of the disease.

The ethanol in mouthwash is thought to allow cancer-causing substances to permeate the lining of the mouth.

Michael McCullough, associate professor of oral medicine at the University of Melbourne, Australia, who led the study, said: ’We see people with oral cancer who have no other risk factors than the use of mouthwash containing alcohol, so what we’ve done is review all the evidence.

‘Since this article, further evidence has come out, too. We believe there should be warnings. If it was a facial cream that had the effect of reducing acne but had a four to fivefold increased risk of skin cancer, no-one would be recommending it.’

Professor McCullough, chair of the Australian Dental Association’s therapeutics committee, said the alcohol in mouthwashes ‘increases the permeability’ of the mucous membrane to other carcinogens, such as nicotine.

A toxic breakdown product of alcohol called acetaldehyde that may accumulate in the oral cavity
Mouthwash link with cancer

Dr Sue Gregory is awarded an OBE

...and qualified as a dental hygienist in 1984. She currently works as a dental hygiene tutor at the University of Bedfordshire, is a fellow of the British Dental Health Foundation, rejected the findings and said: 'A recent, and more thorough review of all available evidence carried out by leading experts on behalf of the foundation concluded there were no proven links between alcohol-containing mouthwashes and increased incidence of mouth cancer. The public should not worry.'

Last night, a spokeswoman for Johnson & Johnson Ltd, the manufacturer of Listerine, said: 'There is no scientific evidence to support an association between the use of alcohol-containing mouthwashes, such as Listerine, and an increased risk of oral cancer.'

More Honours for the profession

New president for the BSDHT

Ms Harris told BSDHT members when she took over the presidency: 'I sincerely believe that the success of your society should not worry.'

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However, Professor Damien Walmsley, scientific adviser to the British Dental Association, said further research was needed to substantiate the claims.

‘Excessive consumption of alcohol and tobacco are well recognised by advertisers. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and may not reflect those of Dental Tribune International.’

Dr Gregory is a member of the General Dental Council’s Fitness to Practice Panel. He became a principal in 1988 and now works between three NHS practices. He is a part-time dental adviser to two primary care trusts.

Dr Sue Gregory, who has just taken up her post as Deputy Chief Dental Officer at the Department of Health, has been awarded an OBE for her services to the NHS.

More honours for the profession

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