**Dentsply sponsors dental aid programme**

Dentsply, a manufacturer of dental products and dental instruments, helped to sponsor a dental aid programme in Kenya by providing free dental equipment.

Eight final year Manchester University dental students travelled to Kenya to deliver quality dental care to those who otherwise have very limited, or no access to recognised dental treatment. The students carried out full dental checks on over 90 children at the Frances Jones Abandoned Baby Centre in Kenya.

Other patients received treatments which included scaling, extractions, single and multi-rooted endodontics and denture procedures.

A spokeswoman for Dentsply said: ‘Our donation of dental instruments, particularly the new Artio range, as well as other equipment, helps to make the expedition possible.’

**GDC appoints new director for Scotland**

The General Dental Council has appointed Ian Jackson as its new director for Scotland.

Mr Jackson, who has already taken up his post, now manages the General Dental Council’s (GDC’s) activities in Scotland and works with the Scottish parliament, members of the public and the dental profession.

GDC president Hew Mathewson called his appointment ‘an important one for the GDC’.

He said: ‘The GDC is committed to providing regulation which is consistent across the UK whilst relevant to the way in which healthcare is delivered in different countries, systems and contexts.

Ian joins us at an important time. His work will aim to further build and maintain effective GDC engagement in Scotland so that we can relate better – and respond better – to Scottish-based patients and registered dental professionals working in Scotland.’

Mr Jackson has previously held various roles at BT, where he has worked since 1990, and was most recently its partnership director.

He is also a member of the General Teaching Council in Scotland and was awarded an MBE in January 2005 for services to education in Scotland.

Mr Jackson said: ‘I am very pleased to have the opportunity to make a real impact on the GDC’s presence in Scotland by leading the development of the Council’s activities in the country.

I look forward to working with the many Scotland-based patients and professionals as well as the Scottish Parliament, other regulators and agencies in the country.’

‘International standards’ for academic staff

At least 80 per cent of staff at the UK’s dental schools have been judged as undertaking research of an ‘international standard’.

The findings of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise confirm the high standard of dental research in the UK, with all 14 institutions recognised for their ‘world-leading originality, significance and rigour’.

Dr Ross Hobson, chair of the British Dental Association’s central committee for dental academic staff, said: ‘Today’s results confirm the excellence of the research that is being carried out by the UK’s dental schools, with the international excellence of their work enjoying just recognition.’

He added: ‘What makes this success even more remarkable is that it has been achieved against a background of pressures on dental academic staff from a 25 per cent increase in student numbers and the opening of a number of new institutions.’

The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise was conducted jointly by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Scottish Funding Council, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland.

**Learning solutions at Dentistry Show 2009**

Smile-on is to showcase the latest in its learning solutions at this year’s The Dentistry Show.

The show, which is being held at the NEC in Birmingham on 13-14 March, will include workshops and lectures from internationally recognised experts.

Thousands of dental professionals can already register, and attendees will be able to discuss the latest integrated learning breakthroughs with the Smile-on team.

Visitors to the stand are advised to ask about webinars, which enable dental professionals to take part in interactive lectures from the comfort of their armchair. Webinars can be replayed to go over valuable points.

The team will discuss the innovative features of its three-module programme Communicating in Dental Emergencies. Sami: in the foreground of the Practice, the Clinical Photography Course, DNSTART and Clinical Governance Progress Management.

A spokeswoman for Smile-on said: ‘We understand the need for learning solutions that meet the changing needs of the industry.’

With the latest technological innovations and forward-thinking approaches, Smile-on helps dental professionals develop their skills and knowledge, regularly refreshing their newfound expertise.

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

**Highly interactive’ webinars**

Dental care professionals were able to take part in two ‘highly interactive’ webinars on endodontics from their own homes.

Dr Julian Webber, director of the Harley Street Centre for Endodontics and faculty member of the Pacific Endodontic Research Foundation, presented the two-part series of webinars in December.

A spokeswoman for Smile-on and Dentsply Maillefer, which produced the webinars, said: ‘Webber’s considerable expertise enabled delegates to improve their knowledge and confidence in rotary endodontics and heated obturation solutions.

Both of the webinars were highly interactive with delegates asking questions throughout by typing them into their computer.

Dr Webber addressed these questions as they arose, allowing the delegates to really get the most out of the experience.’

Dr Webber covered a range of topics including irrigation, preparation with Nickel titanium files and heated obturation.

Dental care professionals (DCPs) taking part in the webinars can earn up to ten verifiable Continuing Professional Development points. These DCPs will also be able to view webinars again over the website.

The Smile-on spokeswoman said: ‘The past webinars are also available to purchase but of course, the real benefit of attending the live sessions is having the chance to ask your own questions to Dr Webber throughout the presentation.’

For more information on any of our webinars, please visit www.dentalwebinars.co.uk, call 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com

**Fellowship award for Kevin Lewis**

The director of Dental Protection has been awarded a fellowship from the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK).

Kevin Lewis was awarded the fellowship during the first diplomates’ ceremony jointly hosted by the Faculty of Dental Surgery (Eng) and the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) to celebrate those awarded the MJDF (Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties) and the Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy.

Mr Lewis has been at the helm of Dental Protection since 1998, overseeing a major period of expansion in membership of the company which now has 52,000 members.

In 2007, he was awarded a fellowship by the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He said: ‘I feel very honoured to have received this award, and particularly so because I still feel very much a general dental practitioner at heart. To have been the recipient of two fellowships in the same year does beg the question of whether the college knows something that I don’t – but I do hope to continue serving my profession for many years to come.’

**‘Excessive regulation’ hits Wales**

Tough, new regulations could put dentists off from coming to Wales, according to the British Dental Association for Wales.

Under new Welsh Assembly regulations, every dentist offering non-NHS treatment has to register with the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

The HWI will have the powers to inspect practices and act on any complaints it receives.

This means that dental practitioners providing private dental treatment in Wales will be inspected to the same standards that are applied to NHS dental services.

Dr Stuart Geddes, from the British Dental Association for Wales, is concerned that regulation is too excessive and could deter dentists from coming to Wales.

He said: ‘This is unnecessary regulation on top of existing rules, it is over the top. This could put dentists off coming to Wales because of the extra regulation and cost and leave a shortage in Wales.’

However Health Minister Edwina Hart said: ‘It is important that there is uniformity of regulations between NHS and private care.’

Peter Biggins, chief executive of HWI, claimed that the regulations will ‘act as a strong mechanism to encourage continuous improvement in the quality of private dental treatments and the improvement of clinical governance throughout primary dental care in Wales’.

New regulations could affect private dentistry in Wales because of the extra regulation and cost and leave a shortage in Wales.”