Dentsply rolls out awards

More than 200 people attended this year’s Dentsply/BDA Student Clinician Awards.

The event was held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in London and the awards for the best original research by undergraduate students were presented by Dr Linda Niessen, vice president and chief clinical officer of Dentsply International and Dr John Drummond from Dundee Dental School.

Dean Hallows, marketing director at Dentsply said: ‘These awards are massively important for the dental profession and are held in a number of countries around the world. They promote research, which is of course, the future of the dental profession and emphasise the continuous bond that exists between the profession and the dental industry. The future of the dental profession depends on a strong body of scientific research.’

Megan Cross from the University of Birmingham Dental School, won first prize for her entry ‘DNase activity within dental plaque and gingival crevicular fluid during a 21 day experimental model of gingivitis’.

She won an all expenses paid trip to the American Dental Association meeting in Honolulu in October. She will also become a member of SCADA - the Student Clinician Program of the American Dental Association.

Second prize of £500 went to Rahheel Malik of Kings College London Dental Institute for his entry ‘The role of the chemokine receptor ‘CXCR4’ in oral squamous cell carcinoma tumour cell biology’.

The adjudicators’ prize for professionalism throughout the presentation went to Gemma Walker of the University of Sheffield, School of Clinical Dentistry for her entry ‘CT imaging and dental age estimation’.

Mr Hallows added: ‘They were all obviously winners as they had gone through an extremely rigorous selection process to get to this stage.’

Thirteen teaching schools in the UK put forward an entrant for the adjudication, which was held, at the British Dental Association’s (BDA) headquarters.

Each student presented a piece of original research to the three adjudicators – Professor Nairn Wilson, dean of Kings College London Dental Institute; Dr John Drummond, senior lecturer at Dundee Dental School and Professor Robbie McConnell from the Department of Restorative Dentistry College of Medicine at Cork University Dental School.

The Student Clinician Programme (SCP) was first introduced in 1959 at the centennial session of the American Dental Association (ADA) in New York.

Its purpose was to stimulate dental student membership in the ADA, introduce students to dental society activities, encourage original clinical and research work at the pre-doctoral level, and create a source of future clinicians.

As a result of the success of this programme, it is now held in Canada, the UK, Australia, Germany, Scandinavia, Japan, France, India, Thailand, South Korea, South Africa and Taiwan.

For information on the 2010 Dentsply/BDA Student Clinician Programme, contact Dentsply on 0800 072 5515.