BDA calls for nominations

The British Dental Association is calling for nominations for people wishing to sit on its Representative Body. There are currently vacancies in nine of its branches. If there are more nominees than vacancies, an election will follow in the branch concerned.

The Representative Body is the British Dental Association’s (BDA) most important committee. At its three meetings each year, the Representative Body receives regular reports including those from the Executive Board and the autonomous committees of the BDA, representing all the constituent parts of the profession.

There will also be key issues for decision-making at each meeting, including reports and papers on policy issues. In June each year, the BDA decides the subscription fee for the next membership renewal.

The Representative Body elects the majority of members of the Executive Board, in turn has closer scrutiny of the day-to-day activities of the Association. The reports from the Executive Board at each meeting of the Representative Body include an overview of the situation at the strategic direction of the Association, operational planning and topical matters affecting the profession.

Members of the Representative Body also have the opportunity if they wish, to work in other areas of the BDA’s work.

Nominations must be received no later than 5pm Monday 11 May 2009. Copies of the nomination form can be downloaded from the BDA website, www.bda.org.uk, or by contacting Ian Morley (tel 020 7553 5841).

Candidates should note that the next meeting of the Representative Body is in December and the next scheduled meeting after that is Saturday 10 October 2009.

BDA’s Associate Day

The British Dental Association is holding an Associate Day to give recently graduated associate members the opportunity to date information on NHS rules and regulations, recruitment and the location of their contact.

The workshop on 6 May is designed to empower them to make the best possible decision to take their career forward.

More dental services for Leeds

Leeds has proposed to provide dental care for an extra 8,000 patients across west Leeds.

Plans were put forward for consultation to increase dental services throughout the whole of Leeds with several areas benefitting from an enhanced service. It is expected that new patients in Pudsey, Wortley and Farnley will be able to sign on from September 2009.

Richard Lewis, a Pudsey councillor, has welcomed the move. He said: ‘The current situation has put a huge amount of pressure on existing NHS dentists.

The problem of dental waiting lists has been ongoing for many years with hundreds of people unable to access dental care simply because dental practices have opted out of NHS-led services and have gone private instead. It is my hope that people who have been unable to access dental care in the past will now be able to return to their dentists and I would soon have a solution right on their doorsteps and I would urge anyone currently without dental care to sign up for the new service in September.’

Free digital camera!

Dental Tribune is urging all readers to report the views of all dentists and patients following the recent and phenomenal launch of Patient Tribune in our March 16 issue.

The outstanding positive feedback from Patient Tribune readers proved that it was extremely well-received by patients and dentists in the majority of dental practices.

Launched in association with Denplan, we would like you to respond to the following questions by the end of this month:

A free digital camera is up for grabs for one lucky reader who responds to this survey following our raffle draw in June.

More dental services to Pudsey

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Please either cut out and fold in, or send the whole page to Laura McKeown by June 1, to: Patient Tribune questionnaire, FREEPOST RUSJ-ASGE-ZYER, Smile-on Ltd, 19-21 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8BA

• Would you like to receive the next issue?
• Did you look at any of the advertisements?
• How useful is it to educate your patients?
• How many of your patients have read Patient Tribune?
• What did you think of the look and feel of the publication?
• What is the feedback on Patient Tribune?
• Did you read any of the articles yourself?
• How informative did you find it?
• How useful is it to educate your patients?
• Did you read any of the advertisements?
• Would you like to receive the next issue?
• Any other comments?

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Published by Dental Tribune UK Ltd

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Professor Jimmy Steele continues with his review of NHS dentistry. Eddie Crouch says he has confidence in this investigation. Do you? You can read the Professor’s blog at http://tinyurl.com/dtys2qu. It certainly makes for interesting reading, although the conundrums discussed are the same as topics that have been mulled over for years on GDPUK. An example would be a debate about a patient with problems from a molar. The tooth had an honest and reasonable standard root treatment provided under NHS contract, and the patient chose a crown that could only be provided under private contract. Subsequently, problems from the root treatment were diagnosed, and the conundrum became apparent—seeing as it was a repeat of root treatment which should have been in the hands of an endo specialist, who should pay?

Another topic colleagues like to discuss on a web forum, which they don’t get a chance to discuss in other media formats is about the value of precious metals, and how best to turn these assets into a different more tradeable commodity. Colleagues have shared ideas on how best to do this. Some keep any waste until they retire, some sell small amounts regularly. Some use one of the Assay Offices for the smelting and as scrap dealers. The relative merits of those two approaches were discussed.

Postgraduate education to improve one’s understanding of orthodontics for younger dentists was aired. Younger colleagues realised they had had little experience on qualification. Notes were compared on how to go about gaining more knowledge and experience.

There was much unprompted happiness from the grass roots of the profession when the result of Eddie Crouch’s poll win as the UK’s most influential dentist was announced. Eddie is genuinely popular, and continues to take his stand against the Department of Health (DH) to the brink. Many dentists get their heads down and get on with making a living, Eddie has really stuck to his principles, and kept up his battles.

The impending closure of the Paternoster lifts at Birmingham Dental School attracted comments, many colleagues remember these potentially dangerous lifts. A search of YouTube found many videos to illustrate the thread on the forum. Apparently a similar system is still working on the forum. Apparently a similar system is still working at Sheffield University, so perhaps they are going strong at other academic institutions around the world.

GDPUK round-up
There was a mixed bag of comments on GDPUK last week, reflecting the variety of topics encouraging discussion on the forum.

Postgraduate Dental Education
The Postgraduate Dental Education Unit (PGDEU) is one of the UK’s leading dental education centres offering an established portfolio of courses for qualified dentists who wish to develop their knowledge of the latest methods, equipment and techniques in implant dentistry and orthodontics. The wide range of programmes on offer are delivered by leading professionals, academics and researchers using a wide variety of educational tools.

- **MSc in Orthodontic Dentistry**
The only MSc Orthodontic programme specifically for general dental practitioners enabling them to pursue a flexible training pathway that can be taken over a period suited to individual circumstances.

- **MSc in Lingual Orthodontics**
This course is designed for specialist orthodontists who wish to gain experience with a wide range of lingual orthodontic systems and gain a qualification in lingual orthodontics. Internationally recognised experts in this field are involved with this pioneering course.

- **Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy**
This GDC approved course is aimed at Dental Care Professionals who wish to train as an Orthodontic Therapist providing orthodontic treatment, working to a prescription from a Specialist Orthodontist.

- **MSc in Implant Dentistry**
The implant dentistry programme at The University of Warwick is designed with the busy GDP in mind and recognises that implant dentistry will be delivered in the general practice environment. For this reason we have based the clinical teaching in selected general practices which meet stringent quality assurance.

- **MSc in Lingual Orthodontics**

**Contact Information**
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- dentists@warwick.ac.uk

To find out more about our portfolio of high quality courses visit www.warwick.ac.uk/go/dentistry

Dr Anthony V Jacobs, 52 is a GDP in the suburbs of Manchester, in practice with partner Steve Lazarus at 406Dental (www.406dental.com). He has had roles in his LDC, local BDA and with the annual conference of LDGs, and is a local dental adviser for Dental Protection. Nowadays, he concentrates on GDPUK, the web group for UK dentists to discuss their profession online, www.gdpuk.com. Tony founded this group in 1997 which now has around 7,000 unique visitors per month, who make 55,000 visits and generate more than a million pages on the site per month. Tony is sure GDPUK.com is the liveliest and most topical UK dental website.