CDO opens new dental school

The government’s Chief Dental Officer has officially opened a new dental training school in East Lancashire.

Before unveiling the official plaque, Barry Crocock met dental students who are training at the centre.

The £2.2m Oak House NHS Dental Centre will act as a training facility for new dentists and for dental therapy students and is one of the first new dental schools to be opened in nearly 100 years.

The aim is to train ‘home-grown’ dentists for the future, with the hope that they will stay and work in the area where they have trained.

Quality teachers compete

Some of the best practitioners in dental education will be battling it out for the title of teacher of the year in the 2008 DDU Educational awards.

Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, head of the Dental Defence Union said: ‘The finest teachers are able to communicate their enthusiasm for dentistry, as well as their knowledge of the subject, to students and newly qualified dentists.

These qualities are always evident in our finalists, so we look forward to some interesting and inspiring presentations and, as ever, I’m sure it will be tremendously difficult to choose a winner.’

Two finalists have been selected from a shortlist of nominees in three categories.

Dr Nitzan Bichacho and Dr Dubi Schwartz-Arad will present their dental practice and Drs Anjum, Younis and Asghar will discuss the role of the aesthetics.

Overall winners in each category will receive £1,000 towards the cost of educational materials for their schools or Vocational Training (VT) schemes.

The centre also has four purpose-built, NHS dental surgeries which act as a new base for the local NHS out-of-hours emergency dental service.

The centre is part of a project between the Preston-based University of Central Lancashire and the Universities of Liverpool, Lancaster, and Cumbria, together with East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the North West Strategic Health Authority.

The new four-year, graduate-entry dental course has already recruited its first 52 students, who will spend time at the £5.2m dental school in Preston before working eight of them to East Lancashire for their clinical experience.

Scottish dental students are urged to stay put

Gradedentists at a new dental school in the north east of Scotland are being offered incentives to remain in the area and practice as NHS dentists.

The new Aberdeen Dental School will produce 15 graduates this year and 20 fully-qualified dentists every year after.

Graduates will be offered incentives to remain in the region as NHS dentists.

The dental school, which has received £21m of funding from the Scottish Government and NHS Grampian, will have facilities for radiography and restorative dentistry as well as dental laboratories.

Public Health Minister Shona Robison said: ‘The Aberdeen Dental School will be a centre of excellence for the north of Scot- land and an important asset for the whole country.

‘Young dentists who train at the school will provide a significant boost to the numbers of trained practitioners in our country, helping to bring NHS dentistry within reach of more and more people.’

North east Lib Dem MSP Mike Rumbles called it ‘a step in the right direction’ but added ‘it is not the solution to the problem, which is what the government seem to think it is. It is not a fully-fledged school, it is a post-gradu- ate facility.

‘What the government has done is not good enough because the school should be producing at least 60 dental students a year, not 15.’

The new Aberdeen Dental School will be a milestone after losing its dental school up and running.

It’s one of the first new dental schools to be set up in more than a century, which is quite an achievement in itself. All credit to the part- nership that has made it possible.

We see this as a major opportunity to train our own NHS den- tists of the future, while helping local people as the trainee den- tists to their supervised practical work.’

Stripping for charity

Dental patients in Sunder- land have agreed to be photographed wearing nothing but a smile for a saucy charity calendar.

Riverbed Cosmetic Den- tistry practice in Sunderland decided it wanted to do a charity calendar after losing its manager, Amanda Fisher, to bowel cancer three years ago.

The calendar features the Riverbed team, Rugby League player Paul Sculthorpe and nine Riverbed patients.

New links for CIC

mile-on is set to provide delegates with a rich educational experience.

The 2009 Clinical Innovations Conference will be held at the Royal College of Physicians in Regent’s Park, London.

For more information, or to make a booking, please call 0207 400 8989 or email info@mile-on.com.