CIC round-up
Dental professionals are being urged to hurry and book their places at this year’s Clinical Innovations Conference and Annenberg Lecture held on 15-16 May 2009.

Dental education provider Smile-on has joined forces with Alpha Omega, known for its promotion of education, and has put together a programme of world-renowned experts. Dr Nitzan Bichacho and Dr Dubi Schwartz-Arad will present their lecture Success factors in dental implantation: a multi-disciplinary approach between the surgeon and the prosthodontist.

Other lectures and hands-on sessions will be given by Professor Sacher, founder member of the Association of Dental Implantology, Dr Chris Orr, Professor Liviu Steier, Dr Wyman Chan and Dr Sia Mirfendereski.

A spokeswoman for the event said: Delegates will receive Continuing Professional Development and be introduced to all of the latest ideas and concepts that are set to revolutionise the dental industry.

The event will be held at Royal College of Physicians, Regent’s Park, London. For more information, and to book your place, call 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com

Best marketer
Joanne Mellor, marketing director of Designer Dental has won best marketer of the year 2008. The award sponsored by The Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) was given to Ms Mellor for her achievements in dental marketing. To win the award, she had to demonstrate a minimum of three years proven marketing success.

Xmas draw
The annual BDA’s (British Dental Association) Benevolent Fund Christmas Draw is the perfect opportunity to show your support and raise money for a much needed cause. First prize is £5,000 and tickets for the draw are only £1. The Fund is dedicated to helping others all year round supporting UK dentists and their families in difficult times.

The registered charity offers financial support through grants and interest free loans. If you do not receive an entry form through the post as a result of your membership, please call the BDA Benevolent Fund on 0207 486 4994 or email dentists@helpbtconnect.com

GDC bans ‘unqualified’ implants
The General Dental Council is telling all dentists they must only undertake procedures they are properly trained in, after a number of dentists were found carrying out dental implants without proper training.

Dentists currently doing implant dentistry, and those considering branching into that area, are being told by the General Dental Council (GDC) to read guidelines published by the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK), ‘Training Standards in Implant Dentistry’.

These guidelines stipulate the minimum training the GDC would expect dentists to have successfully completed before undertaking implants.

Health & Safety
NHS dentistry fails pensioners
Elderly people are finding it hard to see a dentist because of the poor access to dentistry services, according to Help the Aged.

In the past, many older people had dentures but this is happening less now because of the improvements in dental care since the creation of the NHS.

Charlotte Potter, a senior health policy officer at Help the Aged, said it’s a ‘particularly acute problem’ for people in care homes or for those that are housebound.

She added: ‘Services are just not flexible enough and it means that elderly people often go without treatment.’

The problem has been exacerbated with more and more elderly people keeping their own teeth for longer.

More than a third of over 75s fail to have regular check ups - the highest for any age group, according to Help the Aged.

It would like to see mobile dental units visiting care homes to give older people more of an opportunity to see a dentist.

Nigel Carter, chief executive of British Dental Health Foundation, said that teeth decay quicker, as people get older as they are not producing so much saliva.

A Department of Health spokesman said guidance had already been issued to NHS managers about the importance of providing dental services for the elderly.

He said: ‘We recognise how important it is to have accessible NHS dentistry services for everyone.’

New horizons
Dr Derek Mahony tells us how a new expansion techniques offer patients and doctors less invasive and more comfortable therapies.