Students kick the habit

In the first known scheme of its kind in London, student volunteers from Thames Valley University (TVU) in West London have qualified as Smoking Cessation Advisors to help fellow students in Ealing, quit the habit.

Ealing Stop Smoking Service has trained 11 Psychology students at TVU to a professional standard so that they can help their peers quit smoking through a free personalised six week programme.

TVU and Ealing Stop Smoking Service found that students could save £1,000 a year if they stopped smoking ten cigarettes a day, which is equivalent to almost a third of a basic student loan. Research has shown that 65 per cent of smokers in Great Britain want to give up smoking and 22 per cent of people in London smoke, which is the second highest rate in the country*.

Clincis, located at St Mary’s Road in Ealing, run on Monday afternoons, Tuesday evenings and Friday lunchtimes so that full-time and part-time students are able to attend them. Student Advisors offer confidential advice and free recommendations on everything from stop smoking medication to nicotine replacement therapy.

Pauline Fox, Health Psychologist and Principal Psychology Lecturer at Thames Valley University, said: ‘The University is very proud to be working with Ealing Stop Smoking Service to give students the support they need to quit smoking so they don’t need to ‘go it alone’. Students are four times more likely to stop smoking if they use our service and as Student Advisors can recommend stop smoking medication at prescription rates, they can do it on a tight budget.’

Rachael Davis, Stop Smoking Facilitator at Ealing Stop Smoking Service said: ‘We are delighted to have trained Thames Valley University’s hardworking and enthusiastic students as Stop Smoking Advisors. Peer support is really effective in changing behaviour, especially amongst students; this was the catalyst for the project. We are very proud to be working in partnership with Thames Valley University on this project which puts student wellbeing at the heart of the education service that it provides.’

TVU student Caroline Laffarge has been trained by Ealing Stop Smoking Service as an a Stop Smoking Advisor and said: ‘As a student myself I understand how stressful exams can be and what it is like being away from home for the first time so to quit smoking can be a big challenge. The training I received from Ealing Stop Smoking Service and the support from TVU has been excellent and I am thrilled to be involved in this exciting project. When a student comes to see me and wants to give up smoking I ask them about their smoking behaviour history, I take a carbon monoxide reading from a detector and set a quit date’.

* Figures from General Household Survey 2009

Wanted: NEBDN exam panel members

The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) is seeking to recruit new members to its Panel of Examiners in order to deliver a new assessment of the National Certificate in Dental Nursing qualification in 2011.

NEBDN has completely revised the format of the qualification in order to provide a more modern approach to the assessment of dental nurses.

To become an Examiner with NEBDN you must:

• Have previous experience of assessing OSGEs within dental training
• Be registered with the General Dental Council
• Be currently practicing as a dental surgeon or dental care professional
• Have two years’ experience since qualification
• Be well organised and able to maintain high quality standards
• Be passionate about Dental Nurse Education and helping people reach their full potential

Becoming an Examiner will help you to:

• Improve your personal development and professional status
• Develop your skills and understanding of Dental Nurse Education and training
• Gain verifiable CPD through ongoing support and training

• Network with other professionals with a commitment to improving Dental Nurse Education

For further information and an application pack please visit our website www.nebdn.org or contact sarah@nebdn.org Full training and support will be provided. Successful applicants will be invited to an assessment day in May 2011.
A bequest from former BDA president, John Waller–McLean OBE, is to be used to fund work on an archive documenting the history of dentistry since the start of the National Health Service. Being developed in conjunction with King’s College London’s Dental Institute’s (KCLDI’s) Unit for the History of Dentistry, the recently launched John McLean Archive: A Living History of Dentistry, will fill a void in the dental profession’s recorded history.

Members of the McLean family presented the BDA Trust Fund with a cheque in support of dental research, which will be used to fund the archive, at a reception held at BDA headquarters in London. The reception was attended by trustees of the Fund, representatives of KCLDI and the BDA, and members of the project’s team, including Professor Stanley Golder and Dr Steve Simmons from KCLDI’s Unit for the History of Dentistry, and BDA museum staff members Rachel Bairisto, Melanie Parker and Sophie Riches.

Head of BDA Museum Services, Rachel Bairisto said: “In time, this archive will provide an essential record of the significant evolution of the dental profession from 1948 onwards. This will be invaluable for generations of professionals, leaders in the profession, John McLean, whose legacy will long be remembered.”

The project will comprise a series of witness seminars and individual oral history interviews, encompassing the full breadth of dentistry in the UK.

Wesleyan warns dentists of under insurance risk

Wesleyan has launched a new service for its dental clients to help ensure that they have the correct level of home insurance cover. Wesleyan’s Private Clients Insurance service now includes a free ‘walk-through’ home valuation for dentists after new statistics show that up to 70 per cent of professionals have inadequate cover levels.

According to the Birming-ham-based mutual, a leading provider of tailored financial advice and products to the dental profession, the majority of dentists fail to appreciate the value of their home contents and sometimes forget to re-assess cover levels to include valuable new purchases.

Wesleyan believes that its insurance service is the first in the UK to offer personal valuations for free to dentists regardless of the level of sums insured.*

Mark Lee, Business Development Manager for Wesleyan’s Private Clients Insurance, said: “Our dental customers are time poor and don’t always have the time to review their insurance at regular intervals. As a result they are often underinsured and leave themselves exposed if something should happen to their home. This service takes away the hassle of calculating contents cover by leaving it to an independent valuation professional who will visit at a time that suits the client.”

“Private Clients Insurance is designed specifically with our customers in mind. For example, they can delegate authority for dealing with their policy to another person so they don’t have to handle any of the administration involved. Private Clients Insurance customers also get a dedicated personal client manager who looks after their needs.”

The new valuation service has been launched following the successful first year for Wesleyan’s Private Clients Insurance, which has seen an eight-fold increase in demand since re-launching in 2010. **

* Statistics provided by Wesleyan valuations partner Lyon & Turnbull ** terms and conditions apply

Dental charges rise

Just days after it was revealed that dental charges will be frozen in Wales and prescription charges will be scrapped in Scotland Ministers have confirmed that prescription fees and dental charges will increase in England.

The announcement has unsurprisingly been greeted with anger from patients and many in the profession, the majority of dentists fail to appreciate the value of their home contents and sometimes forget to re-assess cover levels to include valuable new purchases.

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Katherine Murphy, Chief Executive Patients Association said: “At a time when many patients are struggling to make ends meet, another increase on charges they must pay is not acceptable.”

“IT is essential all patients feel they can access healthcare when they need it and not be deterred by costs.”

A spokeswoman from the Department of Health said that the government was investing an additional 10.7 billion pounds in the NHS and claimed that abolishing prescription charges in England would leave a shortfall in NHS funding of 450 million pounds per year.

** terms and conditions apply

Fellowship for Dental Dean

Prof Elizabeth Kay, Dean of the Peninsula Dental School, has been awarded Fellowship Ad Eundem of Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) (FGDP(UK)) at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. She received her award at the Annual Faculty of GDPs (UK) Diplomates Ceremony in London.

The award of Fellowship is the highest accolade a member of the FGDP(UK) can achieve. It is a mark of achievement for those who have made a contribution to patient care or the profession of primary dental care, significantly over and above what might be reasonably expected of a member of the FGDP(UK).

Russ Ladwa, Dean of the FGDP(UK), commented: “It is obvious to all to see that Professor Kay has an exceptional enthusiasm for her profession, and a willingness to help others along their chosen path. Her tireless work and support for dental practitioners to provide an improved quality of care for their patients is well known and I thank Prof Kay for that.”

Prof Elizabeth Kay

Prof Kay added: “I am of course delighted to have been awarded such a prestigious accolade. While it is me who has been made a Fellow, it is an achievement that reflects the hard work and dedication of my colleagues and our students at the Peninsula Dental School, as much as it does me personally.”

Gone with the wind

Ma tthew Walton, the dentist who repeatedly broke wind and belched in front of patients and staff has been struck off.

With a string of allegations to his name, Walton was reported to have made derogatory comments about certain patients’ unemployment, disabilities, age and ethnic origin.

Other charges included Walton being routinely bawling out and snarling at not allowing dental nurses to communicate with patients; not allowing his dental nurse sufficient time to clean the clinical area in surgery between patients and routinely not warning his dental nurse that he was about to take x-rays of patients when she was in the room.

Walton, worked at the practice in Whitchurch, Shropshire, between August 2006 and December 2008.

The committee in London told Walton it had taken into account his “lack of insight and lack of remediation”.

Forehead for Dental Dean

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Dental archive bequeathed by estate

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The archive will provide an essential record of the evolution of the dental profession.

** terms and conditions apply
MPs visit dental college

A visit by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Dentistry allowed a group of MPs and Peers to see the work of a busy dental school, including its research, teaching and clinical activities. Guests were able to visit KCL-DY’s craniofacial development and stem cell research laboratories, tour facilities for the care of vulnerable and anxious patients, and see the state-of-the-art haptic TEL technology used in teaching students. The visit was led by Professor Nairn Wilson, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Dean and Head of KCLDI.

Parliamentarians learnt about the evolution of dental academia, including the opening of new dental schools, expansion of student numbers and the contribution many general dental practitioners are playing in educating dental students. The development of shorter courses for graduates from related disciplines and the development of training for dental care professionals were also highlighted.

The Parliamentarians also heard from Lauren Holmes, the President of the institution’s Dental Society and a fourth-year student. She highlighted the experience of dental students and stressed the importance of the reforms currently being undertaken in dentistry engaging the next generation of practitioners who will deliver care in the system that is created.

A retainer and a whole lot of bacteria

Researchers at the UCL Eastman Dental Institute have found that insufficient cleaning could allow a build-up of microbes on orthodontic retainers.

Dr Jonathan Pratten and colleagues looked at the types of microbes which live on retainers and found that potentially pathogenic microbes were growing on at least 50 per cent of the retainers that were conducted ion the study.

The results of the study, which was published in the Society for Applied Microbiology’s journal Letters in Applied Microbiology, has indicated that there is possibly a need for the development of improved cleaning products for orthodontic retainers. According to reports, Dr Pratten and his team took samples from the mouths of people without retainers and those wearing either of the two most widely used types of retainers and searched for microbes which are not normally found in the oral cavity.

The researchers were particularly interested in two species of microbes; Candida, a type of yeast, and Staphylococcus, including MRSA. The results of the study showed that species of these microorganisms were present on 66.7 per cent and 50 per cent of retainers respectively, regardless of the retainer type. Reports stated that these microbes were also present on the interior cheeks and tongue of retainer wearers.

Living in communities, otherwise known as biofilms, the bacteria can be very difficult to remove, and although they pose no real threat to healthy individuals, both Candida and Staphylococcus can be potentially dangerous to people with a low immune system.

The researchers are now looking at developing effective methods of cleaning retainers; however, for the meantime it is hygiene that is the key to reduce the bacteria.

Consultant appointed Vice President RCPSG

A female consultant has become the first woman to be given the job of Vice President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

The institution was established more than 400 years ago in 1599 and a woman has never been given the position, until now. Dr Allyson Wray, a consultant in paediatric dentistry at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Glasgow Dental Hospital, has been awarded the prestigious title.

Dr Wray said that the appointment was a “huge thing” for the organisation; she said that she has spent many years being the only woman in the room at conferences and meetings, but claimed that in recent years, things have started to change and women are being given more opportunities.

America’s Toothfairy

Dental manufacture KaVo Group has made a leadership commitment to the health of the nation’s children as the newest National Children’s Oral Health Foundation’s (NCOHF) underwriting partner. In just five years, NCOHF affiliates have reached more than one million children with preventive, restorative, and educational oral-health services. NCOHF underwriters include leading national and international dental corporations and fund Foundation operating and program expenses to help ensure that 100 per cent of every additional dollar donated to NCOHF provides underserved children with the care they deserve.

“We are thrilled to have become an underwriter and advocate for NCOHF,” said Henk van Duijzen, president and global group executive, KaVo Group.

“The core values of the NCOHF and the KaVo Group are very similar. We use innovative ideas, the best team, and spirit of continuous improvement to drive awareness and access to comprehensive pediatric oral health services to eliminate this epidemic.”

“We are honored that KaVo has joined us in our mission to eliminate children’s needless suffering from America’s number one chronic childhood illness,” said Fern Ingber, NCOHF president and CEO. “Their laudable philanthropy makes it possible for NCOHF to respond to the escalating number of children in critical need of services in 2011.”

SO WHY DON’T THEY MENTION THIS?
New plans to stub out smoking

New FtP panel members

Fake drugs arrest