YOU CAN NOW all sit back and gasp in astonishment that Paul Wright and the London Hospital Dental Club committee members decided to offer me the presidency of our illustrious society for the year 2009–10 culminating in the Annual Clinical Meeting on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 March when, after a cracking series of speakers, I hand over the heavy gold badge of office to Tim Friel.

I am sure you want to know what kind of meeting I have organised for your delectation. My first thoughts were that as a general practitioner the meeting should be totally practice orientated and there is to be no mention of implants or implantology over the two days. Dentistry is awash with other thoughts and issues which I think need looking into and I hope the eclectic mixture of lecturers at this year’s meeting will initiate discussion and be illuminating to all of us.

Never having been a person to court controversy I have assembled the following speakers: from the world of veterinary dentistry, Dr John Robinson will guide you through the ins and outs of how to add another string to your practice bow by treating animals. You may not realise it but your qualification, as registered at the GDC, is in Dentistry not just that of humans! These recessionary times may well require a bit of lateral thinking to keep our businesses profitable! John’s lecture will be on ‘Four Legged Dentistry’ and should prove to be both amusing and, possibly for a few of us, another route off the UDA treadmill.

Recently, you may have seen the front covers of the BDI featuring photo shoots of very stylish new and refurbished practices that have been designed and executed by Richard Mitzman Architects. Richard was initially a dentist who moved across to surgery design and architecture. He now has a thriving and very busy architectural practice that has won many prestigious awards for innovation and aesthetic design. We are extremely lucky to have him come and make a rare lecture appearance to discuss his surgery design concepts and the relationship of this to cross-infection control with a large dose of fantastic surgery eye candy.

On the Friday afternoon I have engaged for your entertainment, the maestro of fast talking, Professor Eddie Lynch from Queen’s University Belfast to give a two hour talk entitled ‘Tomorrow’s technological tools.’ Having heard this a few weeks ago, I was blown away by the many new products and ideas that are now available and being developed for use in the near future. Ed will tell us about these, hopefully without much reference to implantology! Most of you either know Ed personally or know of his reputation for plain speaking and sound advice. His slot is an absolute must for all of us engaged in general practice.

After the lectures there will be a drinks’ reception in the Old Library and an optional evening meal with drinks at Wapping Food, which happens to be opposite the Prospect of Whitby for all you late night revellers!

When I was asked to take up the presidency, Paul Wright said we needed to attract younger Old Londoners and to this avail Saturday morning has been given over to a fantastic speaker, Chris Barrow, who has no dental qualification whatsoever but is probably Britain’s best known “Dental Guru.”

Chris describes himself like Marmite, you either love him or hate him. He is a very lively speaker and there hopefully will be a lot of audience interaction concerning some of his views on where both the NHS and private practice are heading, and in his view, where the corporate sector might be aiming to take away a chunk of our business. It obviously will pay to be ahead of the game and be able to steer our practices through the current choppy waters to a calm future, remember the next General Election is nearly upon us and some of our cosy contracting is up for grabs!

Chris has the tools and he will share them with us, some of you may well be disturbed by his predictions but we ignore these things at our peril! All in all I hope that every single one of you Old Londoners who receive this newsletter will seriously consider coming along for the two days. I do strongly recommend the Saturday morning to hear Chris Barrow if you can’t drag yourselves away from the tooth face on Friday. Gain a Saturday morning’s three hours CPD credit and take the rest of the weekend to enjoy the delights of London.

With best wishes,

Dr Bill Meeson
q LDS, The London, 1981
OVER 100 ALUMNI, guests and current students attended the Annual Clinical Meeting in March 2009. The meeting, organised by the London Hospital Dental Club President for 2009, Dr Wendy Turner (q BDS, The London, 1992), focused on the specialist area of Periodontics.

The School presented the Slack Medal to Professor Jim Elliott, Professor of Biophysics in Relation to Dentistry, in absentia. Jim was unwell at the time of the meeting.

The Evelyn Sprawson Lecture, delivered by Dr Stephen Duckworth, Founder and Chief Executive of Disability Matters, was described by the majority of the audience as “truly inspiring.”

Saturday’s theme was ‘Optimising Clinical Outcomes’ and delegates found the session ‘very useful because they were based on actual clinical experiences.’

Dr Stephen Duckworth, last year’s Evelyn Sprawson lecturer, receives a vote of thanks from Professor Paul Wright (q BDS, The London, 1969)


PHOTOS BY PAUL ABBOTT (q BDS, THE LONDON, 1973)

Date of ACM 2011

THE ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING IN 2011 will be held on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 March. The President for 2010-11 is Dr Tim Friel (q BDS, The London, 1988). Tim is a Clinical Lecturer in the Centre for Adult Oral Health at the Institute of Dentistry.
Professor Davenport appointed to GDC Council

LIZ DAVENPORT (q PhD Dentistry, The London, 1992), Professor of Dental Education in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, has been appointed to the newly created Council of the General Dental Council.

The new-look, smaller Council has been established following the 2007 Government White Paper ‘Trust, assurance and safety: the regulation of health professionals in the 21st Century,’ which sets out plans for the future of healthcare regulation in the UK.

Professor Davenport is one of 12 dental registrants who will sit on the Council, which took office on 1 October 2009.

Professor Davenport commented on her appointment: “I am thrilled to have been appointed to the restructured General Dental Council. There are many challenges ahead for those of us who have been appointed. Personally, working on improving the quality of dental education throughout the United Kingdom and profession, leading to better standards of patient care, is what excites me most about my appointment to the regulatory body of the dental team.”

Past Dean becomes an Octogenarian

CELEBRATING HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY on 4 July 2009, Harry Allred, Professor of Conservative Dentistry and Dean of Dentistry, 1979-85, with Del Andrews, Assistant to the Dean (L) and Carole Symondson, former Secretary to the Dean (R).

Retirement for Judith Walker...

DENTAL UNDERGRADUATE administrator, Judith Walker, retired at the end of September 2009. Known to thousands of medical and dental students over the years, Judith has been associated with the School for more than 30 years. She joined in 1975 as Warden of the Students’ Hostel (now Floyer House) where she remained until 1998, when she moved to the Dental School Registry. In 2005, Judith’s outstanding contribution to higher education and student support was recognised when she was awarded an MBE.

...and for Professor Sam

PROFESSOR OF CONSERVATIVE DENTISTRY, Dayananda Samarawickrama (q PhD, The London, 1975) retired from the Institute of Dentistry in December 2009. “Professor Sam,” as he is affectionately known, has been a dedicated, highly respected and popular teacher at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry for over 30 years. In 2008, he won the prestigious title of ‘Teacher of the Year’ at the Dental Defence Union (DDU) Educational Awards.

Professor Farida Fortune, Dean of the Institute of Dentistry said of Professor Sam: “Whilst he has a quiet and understated personality, his skill in managing students of all abilities and different learning styles has been a major asset to the Dental School. He has helped innumerable students at all levels over a long period to progress in their careers and always supports the best interests of his students and the School to which he has dedicated so much of his life.”
How to book your place

TO ATTEND the 2010 Annual Clinical Meeting on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 March please complete and return the enclosed registration form or go online at www.qmul.ac.uk/alumni and book using your credit or debit card by Friday 19 February.

The fee for attending both days is £150 (no increase on last year). Discounts are available (see registration form). If you would like to join us for the subscription dinner at Wapping Food on Friday evening, tickets for the three-course meal are £65 and include two complimentary glasses of wine as well as transport. A vegetarian menu is also available.

A coach will take diners from the Garrod Building to Wapping Food and, following dinner, to drop-off points at Aldgate East and Liverpool Street tube stations. If you require recommendations for overnight accommodation nearby do let us know and we will be pleased to advise you. Please send your completed booking form to the Alumni Relations Office. If you have any queries, please contact us on +44 (0)20 7882 7790.

Celebrating a milestone year since qualifying?

IF 2010 IS A MILESTONE YEAR since you qualified, why not come to Wapping Food as a year group and meet-up with friends and celebrate. We are happy to help any group who wish to hold a gathering with finding lost friends. If you qualified in 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 or 2000 – this is a significant year. Do let us know if you would like to book a table. Everyone is welcome!

CPD Accreditation

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) accreditation has been approved for the Annual Clinical Meeting as a ‘Non-Section 63 (Other Approved) course.’ It is a condition of accreditation that attendance must be validated by a signed register. There will be a separate CPD register for each day, so please ensure that you sign-in on Saturday 6 March if you wish to claim the full allowance for the Meeting. Attendance certificates will be available each day.

CPD has been mandatory since 1 January 2004; a minimum of 250 hours over a five year period is required for all dentists to remain a member of the UK Dental Register, at least 75 of which must be verifiable CPD. A certificate of attendance must be obtained for all courses attended, and all learning activities should be recorded. The points for this ACM equate to one per hour of attendance. The Annual Business Meeting is not included in the total.

2010 Evelyn Sprawson Lecture

‘Historical Origins of the White-Tooth Smile’

This year’s Evelyn Sprawson Lecture will be given by Colin Jones FBA, Professor of History at Queen Mary, University of London and President of the Royal Historical Society.

Professor Jones has already conducted two research projects on French dentistry. The first study, ‘Pulling Teeth in Eighteenth-Century Paris,’ focused on the Parisian tooth-puller Le Grand Thomas, who was regarded as ‘a standard fixture, a living legend, plying his dental wares on the Pont Neuf in Paris.’ Professor Jones’ second study, entitled ‘The King’s Two Teeth,’ cites the emergence of a more traditional dentist.
Annual Business Meeting

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS Meeting for the Dental Club will take place in the Perrin Lecture Theatre on Saturday 6 March, following the end of the Clinical Meeting. All alumni are welcome to attend. An election for the LHDC President for 2012 will take place.

Request for teeth

CLINICAL SENIOR LECTURER IN Restorative Dentistry at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Dr Chris Mercer is looking for extracted teeth which can be used for teaching purposes only.

As Convenor for the BDS course, which includes early teaching on caries and simple restorations, Chris welcomes anything on offer, so long as the teeth have not been allowed to dry out.

If you have any extracted teeth, for which you have written consent from the patient who agrees to their use for teaching purposes, please bring them with you to the meeting. There will be a deposit box available.

Please contact Chris Mercer by telephone on +44(0) 20 7882 8628 or by email at c.e.mercer@qmul.ac.uk with any queries.

2010 Slack Medallist

THIS YEAR’S SLACK Medallist is Emeritus Professor Aubrey Sheiham. His association with The London lasted for some 36 years, from his initial appointment as Registrar in Oral Pathology in 1961 until 1997. From 1984-97 he held joint posts at UCL and The London. Since 2001 he has been Emeritus Professor of Dental Public Health at University College London’s School of Life and Medical Sciences. His research interests include how to assess dental needs, determinants of health behaviours, and how the mouth affects people’s quality of life.

Programme

President: Bill Meeson

Friday 5 March

Lectures will take place in the Perrin Lecture Theatre, Blizard Building, Newark Street, E1 2AT

08.30 Registration, refreshments and Trade Show
    Old Library, Garrod Building (formerly the Old Medical College Building), Turner Street, E1 2AD

09.00 Welcome Professor Farida Fortune, Dean for Dentistry, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry

09.15 Introduction and welcome by President Bill Meeson

09.20 ‘Four Legged Dentistry: dental care for pets/companion animals. How a dentist can become involved in dentistry for animals’
    Dr John Robinson BDS

10.20 Presentation from the 2009 John Richards Scholar: Ramona Ravikumar

10.30 Coffee and Trade Show

11.20 ‘Super surgery design and cross-infection control’ Richard Mitzman

11.30 Presentation from the 2009 Malcolm Jenkins Scholar:
    ‘A comparison of the techniques and materials used in the restoration of extensively broken down posterior teeth at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, Hong Kong and The Royal London Hospital’ Nike Goodluck

12.30 Lunch and Trade Show

14.00 ‘Tomorrow’s Technological Tools’ Professor Eddie Lynch, Queen’s University, Belfast

16.00 Tea

16.30 Presentation of Slack Medal to Emeritus Professor Aubrey Sheiham
    Emeritus Professor of Dental Public Health at University College London’s School of Life and Medical Sciences

    Professor Colin Jones FBA, Professor of History, QMUL

17.30 Drinks’ reception
    Old Library, Garrod Building, Turner Street, E1 2AD

19.00 Dinner
    Wapping Hydraulic Power Station, Wapping Wall, E1W 3SG

Saturday 6 March

Events will take place in the Perrin Lecture Theatre, Blizard Building, Newark Street, E1 2AT

09.30 ‘The Perfect Vision: How to make sure your dental practice prospers until 2020 – and beyond Pt 1’ Chris Barrow

10.45 Coffee


12.30 The London Hospital Dental Club Annual Business Meeting

13.00 Lunch
Supporting students

The Malcolm Jenkins and John Richards Travelling Scholarships are presented annually to up to two dental students from the School. The 2008-09 recipients, Dr Divya Verma and Dr Neel Shah presented their papers to alumni at the 2009 ACM.

To determine whether there are any differences in delay of treatment used for patients with oral cancer between Malaysia and the UK.

Dr Divya Verma (q BDS, Barts and The London, 2009) writes:

‘I carried out my study at the University of Malaya (Fakulti Pergigian) which is the oldest university in Malaysia and Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. I was very fortunate to work with eminent staff, including Professor Dr Rosnah Binti Mohd Zain (oral medicine) and Dr Siti Mazlipah Binti Ismail (maxillofacial surgery) in Malaysia, and Professor Ian Hutchinson (maxillofacial surgery) in the UK.

Oral cancer is the sixth most common malignancy worldwide (15th in the UK) with a 50 per cent overall five year survival rate and high morbidity after treatment (data from CRUK). It has been shown that early detection provides significantly higher survival rates (Franceschi et al, 1993). In Malaysia 0.5 per cent of the population will present with oral cancer, particularly amongst South Indians many of whom chew betel quid.

There are three main sources of delay in treatment. Firstly, delay in presentation of the patient to a health care professional. Secondly, a delay in diagnosis and referral by primary care practitioners. Finally, a delay between referral and treatment by specialists. Little research has been carried out in this area. My comparison was with an unpublished study in the UK which clearly demonstrated the link between lower socio-economic status with later presentation by the patient, often with a higher stage of disease which required more debilitating surgery.

My study involved both questionnaires and patient records. I talked to 15 patients, however only nine were eligible for use in my study. The questionnaire looked at patient delay by asking about the type of presenting lesions, who they showed (GDP/GMP/pharmacist) and how long before they presented. Practitioner delay was measured by the practitioner’s initial diagnosis and treatment and the duration before referral to hospital. Finally the duration between referral date and treatment was used as hospital delay data. I also considered other information such as the stage of the cancer at diagnosis, the treatment carried out (radiotherapy/chemotherapy/surgery) and the patient’s subjective assessment of their condition. It was very moving listening to the extent of their morbidity in some cases.

My results showed that the average patient delay was eight and a half weeks, the average practitioner delay was 35.25 days, and the average hospital delay was two days. Most patients in Malaysia presented to their GMP or referred themselves directly to hospital. Generally they all presented with pain and not earlier. There was no correlation of higher socio-economic status and earlier presentation. Over 50 per cent of patients required more than one practitioner for diagnosis and most tumours presented at T2 or T4 with no metastasis.

In conclusion, delay in treatment of oral cancer exists both in the UK and Malaysia. However, there is a need for studies with a
If you wish to support the Malcolm Jenkins and John Richards Travelling Scholarships endowment fund, please make your gift using the ACM registration form. You may Gift Aid your donation and increase its value by 25 per cent.

Supporting Dental Electives

In the Barts and The London Chronicle, a number of elective write-ups by dental students are featured in each issue. The London Hospital Dental Club Benevolent Fund and the Queen Mary, University of London Foundation are currently able to provide support for up to 15 students each year. Dental students receive grants varying between £150 and £500 each to help principally with travel costs. The outstanding international reputation of the Institute of Dentistry and level and quality of training that Londoner’s receive means that they are welcomed at dental training hospitals and dental schools around the world.

If you wish to support this invaluable part of The London’s dental training programme, you can make a donation using the gift form at the back of the Barts and The London How you can help brochure enclosed with this mailing.

A Gift in your Will

Queen Mary, University of London has produced a brochure for alumni who are interested in leaving a gift to Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in their Will.

If you are considering writing or updating your Will, a gift to the School might be an area you wish to consider after you have made provision for your family and those closest to you.

Recent legacy gifts have supported student scholarship as well as those in financial need.

If you wish to be sent a copy of the brochure, or to be put in touch with someone in the academic area that you are thinking of supporting, please contact Susan Nettle in the Alumni Relations Office on +44 (0)20 7882 7423 or by email at s.nettle@qmul.ac.uk.

Stop Press!

DAME MARGARET SEWARD (q BDS, The London, 1959) has written her memoirs, Open Wide: Memoir of the Dental Dame. Her candour, humour and never failing enthusiasm illuminate many of the landmark events both in her life and the contemporary UK dental political scene and make Open Wide a most enjoyable read.

Priced at £19.95 (£3 p&p) and obtainable from: The Memoir Club, The Courtyard, Arya House, Langley Park, Durham DH7 9XE. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The Memoir Club’. Telephone 01913 735 660 with credit or debit card details.
A new atlas of tooth development and eruption

DR SAKER ALQAHTANI, currently undertaking research for a PhD in Paediatric Dentistry at the Institute of Dentistry, has recently developed an ‘Atlas of Tooth Development and Eruption.’ The atlas is a comprehensive evidence-based map to estimate age using tooth development and alveolar eruption for individuals between 28 weeks in utero to 23 years; it shows a sequence of diagrams representing a continuum of development ages without gaps or overlaps.

Data was collected from the developing teeth of 72 prenatal and 104 postnatal skeletal remains of known age-at-death individuals, which form collections held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Natural History Museum in London. Data was also collected from the archived dental radiographs of living individuals. The median stage for tooth development and eruption for all categories was used to construct the atlas.

The atlas has been developed to assist with identifying disaster victims and asylum seeking minors or in adoption cases. It is also used for teaching purposes in different disciplines and by researchers in many international museums. A further electronic interactive software package is being developed.

Dr Helen Liveridge and Professor Mark Hector, both at the Institute, are supervising Dr Alqahtani’s research project. Further information about the project can be found at:

www.smd.qmul.ac.uk/dental/atlas\%20of\%20tooth\%20development\%20and\%20eruption/index.html.

Dentist awarded IMPACTQM scholarship

Saroosh Shahid (q MSc Dental Materials, Barts and The London, 2005), a PhD student in the Department of Dental Physical Sciences, supervised by Professor Robert Hill, was recently awarded an IMPACTQM scholarship. The scholarship funds a pilot study for developing a new generation of varnishes for glass ionomer restoratives.

Currently resin based varnishes are used to protect glass ionomer cements from saliva contamination during initial stages of its setting. These varnishes easily degrade in the mouth and do not provide long term protection. This IMPACTQM funded study aims to develop varnishes using flake glasses suspended in a resin matrix. Since the glass flakes will overlap each other they will provide a hard coating for long term protection against saliva contamination. PSP Dental Co. Ltd UK have already shown an interest in this project.

The IMPACTQM scholarship is part of a knowledge transfer project, which aims to create a new generation of science and engineering professional – one who is equally at home in both academia and industry. The scholarship consists of two components: career development/professional training activities plus a Collaborative Research Venture (work placement) of up to three months. Further information about the scheme can be found at www.qmul.ac.uk/impactqm.

FiCTION – Filling Children’s Teeth: indicated or not?

STAFF FROM THE Institute of Dentistry are taking part in a study commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment (NIHR HTA) to assess the different methods of managing tooth decay in children’s teeth. Drs Ferranti Wong and Valeria Marinho and Dr Allan Pau (formerly Senior Lecturer at the Dental Institute) are the main collaborators in London on this nationwide study.

Dental decay is one of the commonest childhood diseases affecting more than 40 per cent of children by the time they reach five years old. However, there is no conclusive evidence for the most effective approach to its management.

The £2.87 million study is using a multi-centre trial method in Cardiff, Dundee, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle and Sheffield to assess the benefits of three different methods for treating tooth decay in primary teeth with cavities. The pilot study began in October 2009 and the main study will commence in February 2010.

For more information or general enquiries please contact the Barts and The London Alumni Association on +44 (0)20 7882 7790 or email batlaa@qmul.ac.uk