



The ultimate Bristol dental student selfie – happy faces and great teeth!

“Editorial”

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Message from Head of School

Dear Students and Staff

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Newsletter, I hope that you are able to take a few moments to look through this edition so you can see what has been happening in the School over recent months.

I am very pleased to report that we have received our report from the General Dental Council following their inspection to the BDS programme last year. Staff and Students are to be commended on their input into this process, and my grateful thanks go Dr Dave Dymock, Mr James Tubman and Professor Jonathan Sandy for their hard work and relentless attention to

detail that resulted in a first rate programme submission. Dr Dymock will highlight some aspects of the report in his section of this newsletter, and a full copy of our report will be published on the GDC website.

In December we saw the results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) which assesses the quality of research carried out in Universities across the UK, and is conducted jointly by the Funding Councils for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The results for the University were outstanding, as it ranked University of Bristol among the top five institutions in the UK for its research. The Dental School achieved an excellent result, seeing an increase in the percentage of world-leading and internationally excellent research. Professor Howard Jenkinson, Head of Research, was delighted with the results for the Dental School. Congratulations to all the staff who were returned in this exercise.

In February, we held the official opening of the refurbished Chapter House Lecture Theatre, where we invited a number of donors including members of the Dental Alumni to come and see our new teaching facility. The Alumni enjoyed listening to what was happening in the School, and hearing about staff and student achievements. The Alumni reinforced its desire to increase its interaction and engagement with the student body, and to organise events where members of the Alumni can meet with staff and students.



I was delighted to be asked to open the School's first 'Scrubs Ceremony' which involves Year 2 students being presented with their clinical uniform, and attending an informative morning of talks and presentations around codes of conduct including professionalism. My thanks go to Dr Patricia Neville and Dr Andrea Waylen for initiating this idea, and I would like to welcome Year 2 to the School and hope they are enjoying the clinical sessions and patient interaction.

With regards to clinical matters, James Tubman and I are working hard with our colleagues in the NHS to make improvements in a number of areas especially around patient flow and student support. We are waiting in anticipation for the introduction of the text reminder service pilot for undergraduate clinics, and meet regularly with colleagues in the NHS to review and improve the patient booking procedures and patient pathways. The increase in frequency of staff student liaison meetings has allowed us to update you on such matters in a timely manner.

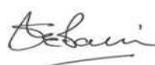
James Tubman is also working with UHBristol to move forward with the provision of a new catering service in the Chapter House. He will be working with the student body to gain feedback on the catering requirements for students in the building, in the hope of selecting a provider who can deliver a range of quality food and drink that represent value for money for students.

We hope you have found us responsive to the issues you have raised, as we are committed to listening and responding to your concerns.

Finally, I would like to encourage our final year students to take part in the National Student Survey (NSS). This is an important opportunity to express their views around a number of aspects of their training and their overall satisfaction with the programme. As a School we pride ourselves on having and maintaining a good working relationship with our students. The feedback that we receive is invaluable and allows us to continue providing a highly regarded dental training programme.

Best wishes,
Sarah Bain

**Interim Head of School
of Oral and Dental Sciences**



General Dental Council visit report

The General Dental Council (GDC) visit to Bristol took place in 29th and 30th April, 2014 and subsequently during BDS Finals in late May/early June 2014. The GDC met with students and staff, and shadowed the exams at Finals.

Initial feedback has since been provided by the GDC, who will publish the final report in due course. However we are able to share with you some highlights from the feedback.

Overall the report indicates the GDC panel considered that the Bristol BDS programme fully delivered 25 of the 29 Standards for Education requirements, and partially met the remaining four requirements. Therefore, there were no requirements which the panel felt that Bristol did not, at least partially, meet.

The GDC inspection team felt that our BDS programme benefits from a "strong, cohesive staff team providing excellent support for students studying in all years". They noted that students praised the feedback they receive from supervisors while at the Dental Hospital and during outreach placements.

The inspection team felt that the transition from working in the simulated clinical environment to working with real patients is managed well by the School and there are clear and comprehensive procedures for gathering patient consent. Students were complimentary about their experiences in outreach, the Staff Student Liaison Committee, and use of Blackboard.

Aspects of the programme which the panel felt to be of particular note included the emphasis placed by the School on issues regarding equality and diversity (the School has achieved a silver Athena SWAN award and is proud of this achievement).

There is, of course, work that the School can do to improve the delivery of the programme to achieve greater consistency in various areas. In particular, as required based on the findings of the GDC panel, we are working on improving aspects of assessment through development of the ePortfolio, which provides students with more standardized clinical feedback, by increasing our use of peer and patient feedback, and by implementation of standard setting throughout the programme. Undergraduate dental schools are at the forefront of ensuring that our future

dentists adhere to the standards of care and professionalism expected when accessing dental treatment. We, therefore are committed to working closely with all students and academic staff to ensure that we keep the standards high.

The performance of Bristol dental school in the recent round of GDC inspections can be compared against those from other UK dental schools from the following website:

<http://www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Education/Pages/Dentist-qualifications.aspx>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues and students for their help and hard work in preparation and during the GDC visit. Your input was invaluable!

National Student Survey

The National Student Survey (NSS) is now open for final year BDS and DCP students to complete. Students will receive information from the University, including a link to the survey. To match our recent successes in research and the GDC report we really hope 2015 will be a year when our students indicate they are satisfied with the education they have received. NSS results are used by the media in various league tables and are considered by some as an indicator of the quality of the education experienced by students on various courses. In Bristol we pride ourselves on delivering BDS and DCP programmes which have a strong scientific foundation, excellent training in communication and clinical skills, appropriate opportunities to treat patients, and with high quality and innovative teaching in a supportive environment. The evidence from external surveys suggests that Bristol BDS graduates are considered by Dental Foundation trainers to 'do well' for both clinical and non-clinical skills when compared with those from other UK dental schools. We hope too that students appreciate the open and increasingly regular dialogue with staff at various liaison committees and other fora means that issues that affect the student experience are dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Student news

First Scrubs ceremony for Year 2 Students

On Friday 23rd January 2015 the Dental School held its first Scrubs Ceremony for Year 2 students to mark their transition from the pre-clinical to clinical stage of their studies. Members of the Faculty were present to watch 74 students receive their scrubs in the CAL Suite.

The idea for this ceremony was inspired by the White Coat ceremony that medical students have in North America universities. Its aim is to provide guidance



and information to Year 2 students on their responsibilities and role as dental students on clinic.

This event was developed by Dr Patricia Neville, Dr Andrea Waylen and Dr Lisa McNally and is the first of its kind in UK Dental Schools.

Following a Welcome Address by Ms Sarah Bain, Interim Head of School, the students took part in an interactive seminar on dental professionalism and the roles and responsibilities of dental students, including UH Bristol Dress Code Policy. This was facilitated by Dr Patricia Neville: Dr Andrea Waylen and Dr Lisa McNally were also present.

Dr Jane Williams, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry spoke about digital professionalism and offered guidance on how to use social media safely and professionally. The importance of a Dental Student Code of Conduct was also discussed by Dr Neville and Dr McNally to illustrate the importance of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism throughout students' personal and professional lives. Finally, but perhaps most importantly, the students discussed and ratified a Dental Student Code of Conduct drafted by the Scrubs Ceremony organising group.

Once the seminar was completed, students were called up by name and handed their scrubs by Ms Sarah Bain. They signed the Dental Student Code of Conduct before returning to their seats. Copies of the signed Dental Student Code of Conduct will go in each student's file and remain there for the duration of their time at Bristol.

Staff and students commented that it was a very enjoyable morning and there were many smiling faces as students were called up to receive their scrubs. The members of the Scrubs ceremony organising group would like to thank the Faculty and Emily Schoner for their support for and assistance with this initiative.

Students' achievements

Congratulations to one of our Year 4 students, Imogen Proctor, who is in the university kickboxing squad and won these medals last year:

- KWON GRANDSLAM 2014 - silver medal
- WATFORD OPEN – silver medal
- WAKO BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS – gold medal (-60kg) and bronze medal (-65kg)
- CIMAC BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS – gold medal
- TOP TEN BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS – gold medal
- BATH UNIVERSITY LIGHT CONTINUOUS RING FIGHT – win
- G FORCE OPEN – gold medal
- ISKA BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS – gold medal (-63kg) and gold medal (-66kg)
- Qualification for ISKA and WAKO GB teams

In addition, Imogen already had her first competition of this year recently and won silver at the KWON GRANDSLAM 2015.

Imogen's photo also appeared in MARTIAL ARTS ILLUSTRATED magazine recently. Fantastic achievements, Imogen! Well done!!!



Another one of our students, Daniella Bailey (Year 5), represented Great Britain in the Senior Mixed Category at the Team Gymnastics European Championships. The championships were held in Reykjavik, Iceland in a stadium with 2500 capacity in October 2014. The event was televised across Europe. Overall, GB came 6th in the Final. Congratulations to Team GB!!!



UBDSS News

(from the President of UBDSS Rafik Mikhael)

So far the UBDSS calendar has been really eventful. The BDSA sports weekend in Birmingham was a fantastic event uniting dentists from all universities. Each university competed in football, hockey, netball and rugby. Bristol dentists played extremely well and reached the finals in men's football and semi-finals in



women's football! The nights out were very fun and included a t-shirt bar crawl and Halloween themed fancy

dress. More on the socials, the Committee have been busy organising! After the recent success of the Halloween



themed party and charity cake sale, we also had Christmas party and Christmas clinical meal held for both the student and clinical staff. Other events in the pipeline include the annual Bristol-Cardiff event which we look forward to hosting this year and the revue show! Also, as one of the

last schools in the UK that still has its own dental bar, we open twice a week to provide a great venue for staff and students to socialise and enjoy a drink at massively discounted prices. September brought us the 'Back to School' late bar, October brought us the spooky Halloween late bar and December gave us the festive Christmas late bar! Currently we are preparing for dental review 2015 which will take place in mid May.

Finally, trying to extend our activities beyond social and sportive sides, we have been hosting various academic events. We hosted Integrated Dental Holdings to talk about corporate careers as well as recruitment representative for the army in addition to a welcoming event for our freshers. Moreover, we are in the process of organising our first ever trade fair In Bristol, hosting many of the leading companies in April. Also in preparation for the DF interview we will have BDA coming to give an interview skills session to our final year students.

So in total the year has been going really well so far and we are really looking forward to more and more activities.

Research opportunities - INSPIRE

For students wishing to gain experience in research opportunities such as taster days, bursaries for summer research projects, and elective prizes are available within the INSPIRE initiative. Please note that although it might appear as though this initiative has been set up for medical students dental students are strongly encouraged to apply for all these opportunities. Further information from:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/staffstudents/student/inspire/>

Writing support for students

Dental students can access 1:1 support for your writing skills from two Royal Literary Fund fellows, Tania Hershman (tania.hershman@bristol.ac.uk) and Rachel Bentham (egrpb@bristol.ac.uk). Tania and Rachel can provide advice and support on written work and help students develop the structure, style and clarity of their writing. The demand for the Fellows last term was very high so if you feel you require support in this area make sure you contact the Fellows well in advance of the

submission of any written work you are undertaking.

For further information see the Fellow's page at: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/fmvs/teach/rlf-writing-fellow/>

Other information for students

It is now possible for students to print documents from personal devices and collect them from the printer outside the CAL Suite or from any Print Release printer around the University. Either add the colour and mono Print Release printers to your laptop or send documents via email, (mono only). More details at:

bristol.ac.uk/it-services/applications/printing/byod

We have 12 new books at the request of the student body to add to the existing texts. Funded by the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust Library we are grateful for the support of Emma Place (UoB) and Bennett Jones (UHBT) in making this project successful:

- Scully C: Oral and maxillofacial medicine: the basis of diagnosis and treatment
- Whaites E; Drage N: Essentials of dental radiography and radiology
- Soames JV; Southam JC: Oral pathology
- Mitchell L: An introduction to orthodontics
- Jepson NJA: Removable partial dentures
- Finbarr Allen P; McCarthy S: Complete dentures : from planning to problem solving
- Lewis MAO; Jordan RCK: Oral medicine
- Welbury R et al: Paediatric dentistry
- Van Noort R: Introduction to dental materials
- Eley BM et al: Periodontics
- Scully C: Scully's medical problems in dentistry

SWAN

In June 2013, the School of Oral and Dental Sciences received a silver Athena SWAN award. This award was made in recognition of the School's commitment to advancing women's careers in dental education. The Athena SWAN charter is underpinned by the belief that oral and dental science will only reach its full potential when women and men benefit equally from the

educational, research and career opportunities therein.

How is the School working towards equality for women and men?

- We have an Athena SWAN working group that meets termly to consider and act upon equality issues within the School; current members are Sarah Bain, Michele Barbour, David Dymock, Rebecca Harrison (Y4 rep), Vicky Layton, Lisa McNally, Dorette Morgan, Patricia Neville, Helen Price, James Tubman and Andrea Waylen (Chair). We would like to recruit both a Y3 and a post-graduate representative too! If you are interested in taking up either of these positions, please contact Dr Waylen.
- We're taking steps to improve awareness of culture and gender equality (gender equality is being added to the standing items of committee meetings across the School including School Executive meetings and Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings so that issues can be raised and discussed)
- We are in the process of organising events in which we can identify and exemplify cultural and gender role models and also highlight career opportunities and pathways (developing appropriate training and support for students and staff at all levels)
- We are working to ensure that organisational structures and practices within the School promote cultural and gender equality (for example committee representation, appropriate and flexible workloads, support for those returning to study or work after a career break)

We don't want to be complacent: while we received good feedback about the equality of opportunities when putting together our first application, we need to ensure that we continue to identify and address any equality challenges that might arise and, in doing so, we need to demonstrate the positive impact of our actions.

In April 2015, the Athena SWAN charter will merge with the Gender Equality charter mark – this will expand our remit to ensure that equal opportunities are provided for both women and men, in academic, professional and support roles.

We will be applying to renew our silver award or, potentially, to upgrade it to gold in 2016 and so it is important that, as a School, we are confident that everybody can and does benefit from equal opportunities. If there are any issues that you would like to raise, or if you are interested in

representing either Y3 or the post-graduate students,

please contact helenf.price@bristol.ac.uk or andrea.waylen@bristol.ac.uk.

Staff news

School Administration Team

We would like to welcome Michelle Alexis-Delbridge to the School. Michelle will be joining us at the end of February as Interim Student Administration Manager for one year to cover Sveta Sargent's maternity leave. Michelle has a lot of experience in Higher Education and we are confident that she will be an asset to the team.

We will update you again once Michelle is in post.

The Statistics Team

Dr Sam Leary reports there are now three members of the Statistics Team within the School, all based in the Biomedical Research Unit in Nutrition, Diet and Lifestyle: she is a part-time Senior Lecturer in Statistics (s.d.leary@bristol.ac.uk), Dr Andrew Wills is a part-time Lecturer in Applied Statistics (a.k.wills@bristol.ac.uk), and Dr Chris Penfold is a full-time Research Associate in Statistics (chris.penfold@bristol.ac.uk).



Dr Sam Leary



Dr Andrew Wills



Dr Chris Penfold

Teaching: For the BDS students the team lead a Research Methods course as part of the Unit of Personal and Professional Development in the 2nd year, and also provide sessions on data entry and analysis for Elective projects in the 4th year. Most students should then be in a position to complete their own analyses for their projects, but if more advanced statistical methods are needed as agreed between supervisors and students, support can be provided on an individual basis. Sam also runs Research

Methods courses for postgraduates (MSc in Dental Implantology and DDS in Orthodontics) and staff (BRU Nutrition Unit).

Research: The team members have wide ranging research interests, but most of their research support work falls into the following categories: Sam works with members of the Lifecourse Epidemiology and Oral Health Research Group and also within the BRU theme of Sedentary Behaviour, Andrew works within the Cleft Research programmes, and Chris works on the Head and Neck Clinical Cohort, and also within the BRU themes of Perioperative Nutrition, Prostate Cancer, and Childhood Disorders.

Consultancy: There is a set of e-lectures covering basic study design and statistics which are available to all staff and students within the School; please ask Chris Mills if you would like access to these. If you require help with preparing research proposals for submission to peer-reviewed, national funding competitions for applied health or social care research please contact the Research Design Service (rds@uhbristol.nhs.uk). If you still need statistical guidance, and your work does not fall into any of the categories outlined in the section on Research above, please contact Sam who will allocate appropriate support.

Conclusion

We hope you have enjoyed reading this Newsletter and have found the information provided to be useful. There will be another edition next term. We particularly would welcome further student news. Please send items you wish to be considered for inclusion to me at the following email address:

D.Dymock@bristol.ac.uk.

David Dymock
Head of Teaching
Faculty Undergraduate Education Director