

“Editorial”

In this edition we have:

- Message from Head of School
- ‘You said, we did’
- News from Units
- Library news
- Dental postgraduate education
- South Bristol Community Hospital
- National Student Survey
- Intercalation Survey
- Student news
- Staff news

Message from Head of School

Dear students and staff,

We are at a particularly busy time of year with exams focusing efforts of both students and staff. No doubt everyone is looking forward to a break this summer but there remains much to be done before that can happen for all of us!

Staff will be assessing student feedback for all units within the BDS so please would all students provide this important information when asked for it. Feedback takes an important place within the annual reviews to which each unit within the BDS programme is subjected and units can be developed and improved on the basis of the information students provide.

The School had an ‘away day’ on April 18th attended by over 30 members of staff. Education was an important part of our discussions that day, including how we might improve different aspects of the BDS programme. Of course, it is already highly regarded as indicated by NSS results over several years, and by external audits. The ‘away day’ was very positive with some excellent ideas we can develop to enhance the programme and student experience further.

The General Dental Council were due to visit Bristol to assess the BDS programme in April this year but postponed the visit by a year to April 2014. Staff are focussing now on

preparations for the visit. Students will be closely consulted about this important visit which will last for two days and also include attendance at BDS Finals in May/June.

On 11th April staff met with students in a packed Chapter House lecture theatre to discuss proposals by the Deaneries to incorporate an ‘Educational Performance Measure’ (EPM) into the recruitment process for Dental Foundation training. This will require ranking students for educational performance in Years 2-4 of the BDS programme and a consultation has already begun on how units and years of the programme might be weighted to calculate student rankings. I encourage you to engage with this debate. Speak with your student reps. if you want to know more. The change to include an EPM in Dental Foundation recruitment means it is becoming more similar to the process for selection of medical students to their Foundation training programme. We have noted that medical students who have intercalated can obtain additional ‘points’ towards selection for their Foundation training places, and in anticipation that the dental system might incorporate a similar measure in the future we are interested to know attitudes of dental students to intercalation and the subject areas that might be attractive and useful. This information will guide us in possibly providing new intercalation programmes to ensure Bristol students are as competitive as possible in the national recruitment process. Please complete the intercalation survey (details below within this newsletter), which is open until the end of June, so we can assess demand for, and provide the most appropriate, intercalation programmes.

The School has been successful recently in gaining a Silver Athena SWAN award, the only dental school within the UK to have this accolade. This indicates that the School provides a positive environment in which all staff have equal opportunities to develop to their full potential, and that strategies and support mechanisms are in place to facilitate this. I particularly commend Dr Andrea Waylen for her part in gaining this important award, which now allows our researchers to apply for funding that would not otherwise be available.

It is really pleasing to see new and successful social activities in and around the School. Students recently presented the annual Revue, and staff had a successful bake-off (details of both below). We also look forward to the staff summer barbecue on July 18th.

This will be the last BDS programme newsletter for our current Year 5 students. We trust they feel well prepared by their education here in Bristol and wish them well with results for Finals and for their future careers. We also look forward to them returning in future years for Alumni reunions, and hope they will prove to be fantastic ambassadors for Bristol dentistry!

I hope students and staff enjoy the summer months ahead.

Best wishes,



'You said, we did'

Students are frequently asked for feedback on teaching provided within the BDS programme. Staff review the data and comments obtained and, where appropriate, respond with a view to improving the overall educational experience for students. Recent examples are outlined below.

Course Experience Questionnaire

Since 2004 we have asked final year and dental foundation year students to complete a questionnaire relating to their experience of the BDS programme at Bristol Dental School. The feedback is considered at Annual Programme Review and Unit Organisers are asked to say how they have addressed any comments.

At the last Annual Programme Review meeting in September, Unit organisers gave their responses to the feedback received on the programme, where it affected their Units. Students thought that the course develops problem solving and analytical skills, ability to plan their own work and to be effective in team work. Overall staff who teach the course were praised for their ability to explain things and to motivate dental students. Although dental students experience a great deal of pressure in

the course, this is not necessarily related to a high workload. Over half of the respondents from last year said they were considering a further degree in dentistry.

In response to the question "Could you give examples of where you feel the BDS programme provides good interaction between the pre-clinical subjects and clinical practice?" Biomaterials as highlighted by several students, Human Disease was viewed to link with Pharmacology, Physiology and Anatomy, Oral Medicine linked well to Pathology and Microbiology and to Pharmacology. Students enjoyed Oral Surgery, which linked well to pre-clinical Anatomy. Physiology, Embryology and Oral Biology were also mentioned. The Clinical Skills Lab and early nursing were viewed as providing a strong foundation for beginning clinical work.

Students appreciated the changes made to teaching and assessment in Oral Medicine and the new style Finals examinations. Changes in Periodontology were also appreciated; students commented on early clinical exposure in Periodontology and that the scientific interface between endodontic infections and root canal treatment was made very clear. Students noticed that the Dental School keeps up to date with new techniques and materials. Student comments were of a favourable nature in relation to facilities and quality of teaching in the Clinical Skills Lab.

Since then further changes have been made. The School has welcomed new staff, with additions in Clinical Skills Lab and Restorative Dentistry. Paediatric Dentistry report increased access to e books especially Welbury and Andreasen, and increased patient exposure for students. Oral Surgery have formalised year 3 introductory session learning objectives to ensure local anaesthetic techniques are covered well. Critical Appraisal Projects considered the comments about the wiki in Blackboard being difficult to use, and replaced this form of assessment by individual PowerPoint delivery in small group tutorials.

While some students remarked that they may not have enjoyed certain parts of the course at the time, they appreciated them later on. For example one student remarked "Pharmacology practicals - just awful... No, in fact I think they were all character building!". Staff strongly feel

that practical teaching underpins the learning objectives for many of the pre-clinical subjects, and are keen to keep these.

In terms of what students viewed as the things they most liked about the Bristol BDS, the top comments were:

- (1) Staff
- (2) Hands on clinical experience
- (3) Learning methods
- (4) Course structure and organisation
- (5) Ground floor rotations.

We encourage all final year students to complete the Course Experience Questionnaire, which will be distributed shortly. The questionnaire gives us comments we can directly work with to ensure that students value the Bristol Dental School experience.

Dr Angela Hague
Senior Teaching Fellow
Pre-clinical Dean

News from Units

The University has agreed to fund development of eLearning for Dental skills units within the BDS programme. This will be a two year project undertaken by Learning Science Ltd. BDS students are already aware of how useful eBiolabs can be from using it in some units in Year 1 and 2. We see it is an ideal platform to support delivery of the Dental skills units and look forward to making this available upon completion of the project.

Library news

University funding has been approved to develop more study spaces in the Medical Library. This is in recognition of student feedback, which has suggested that additional study space would be helpful. We hope to create 25-30 more study spaces by relocating the Medical History Collection to a more suitable location in the Library Store, which has a controlled environment that can help preserve older printed materials. Users will still be able to find details of this collection via the Library Catalogue and can request it from the Store at any time, for collection at one of the University branch Libraries. We will provide updates on this project as details are confirmed.

The Library has purchased three new eBooks from BDS reading lists recently:

- **Oral medicine.** Michael A.O. Lewis, Richard C.K. Jordan. 2nd ed, 2012.
- **Restorative dentistry, paediatric dentistry and orthodontics.** Peter Heasman. 2nd ed, 2008.
- **Oral and maxillofacial surgery, radiology, pathology and oral medicine.** Jonathan Pedlar, John W. Frame. (eds). 2nd ed, 2007.

A full list of [new books and eBooks for clinical dentistry](#) can be found on the Web. Please use the [Book Suggestion Form](#) if there are books you would like the Library to buy (and let us know if we need more copies of high-demand books), or email the Subject Librarian: emma.place@bristol.ac.uk

Dental postgraduate education

Professor wins prize for new BUOLD name – BUOLD 21C Wednesday 13th February 2013

Professor Robin Matthews – won the prize for giving a name to the new BUOLD programme at the Bristol Dental School Centenary Meeting. His winning suggestion was BUOLD 21C – Bristol University Open Learning for Dentist 21st century version. A new set of blended learning units has been designed to make the most of modern 21st century e-learning technology and use of e-tablets/I-pads by students to access educational material.

Bristol University Open Learning for Dentists (BUOLD) is the most popular dental postgraduate diploma course in the UK. Over 900 diplomas have been awarded since 1994. It is a distance/blended learning programme. It offered students the chance to study over 12 different subjects and completing any three resulted in the award of a diploma.

The new programme offers students the choice of studying three units per annum to gain a certificate or a diploma over two years, with new smaller units. Seven units will be offered from the autumn of 2013 and more will be added in future years. From 2013 units in:

- Law & Ethics
- Local anaesthesia
- Anxiety management
- Surgical Skills 1 & 2

- Periodontology
- Endodontics

The new units are available via virtual learning environments and incorporate the latest in formative assessment, use of video, and on-line resources supported by study days in Bristol. They should be ideal as proof of knowledge for Dentist with Extended Skills contracts in the future.

www.bris.ac.uk/dentalpg/buold



We are continuing to recruit patients and are getting plenty of work for the students. We have successfully been appointed as a foundation training practice and have a new DF1 starting in August who will carry out a mixture of special needs and routine primary care. We will be helping the next year 5's to prepare for their DF1 interviews in November of this year.

SBCH is holding a street fair on Saturday 8th June, where there will be an open day for the local community - we hope to get some of the students involved in this.

Dr Louise Nash
Clinical Lead, Community Based teaching



Professor Robin Matthews (right) receiving the prize from Dr Nigel Robb of the University of Bristol, BUOLD 21C programme director, outside Bristol Dental Hospital.

South Bristol Community Hospital

SBCH recently hosted a visit from Ashton Park school students and as you will see from the pictures below, they appeared to have a great time.



As you can also see, the dental students embraced the challenge and really enjoyed working with them on their oral health education.

National Student Survey

The survey closed at the end of April. The response rate for the BDS programme was 79% (up 2% from last year). In recognition of this relatively high response rate the University's Education Support Unit has provided £500 to put towards a student-focused event, details of which will follow. 2013 NSS results first become available in mid-August and we expect to provide further information, hopefully continuing last year's very good scores, in the autumn edition of this newsletter.

Intercalation survey

Message from Dr Dymock, Head of Teaching:

I'd be hugely grateful if dental students would complete an online survey we are undertaking to understand attitudes towards intercalation. We'd like to understand why so few dental

students intercalate whereas around 40% of medical students at the University of Bristol undertake an intercalated degree. Are the choices offered at Bristol for dental students for intercalation not of sufficient relevance or interest? Are there not the same incentives to intercalate for dental students as for medical students where 'points' gained through intercalation can increase competitiveness in the foundation training recruitment process? Or is a career in dentistry so different from that in medicine that intercalation does not offer the same advantages to dentists as it does to doctors? (For those of you who do not know anything about intercalation at Bristol please click on this [link](#)).

And if you have intercalated or are intercalating we'd like to know why you chose to do so and the reasons you selected the intercalation programme you did. We'd also like to know similar information for those of you who might be thinking about intercalating in the future.

The recruitment process for dental foundation training is becoming much more competitive and if intercalation was to provide an advantage for students in this process in the future we want to be providing the best and most appropriate options we can for Bristol students. Therefore, part of the survey is to find out what you might be, or might have been, interested in studying as an intercalated degree. We are trying to assess future demand for intercalation and, if there is a demand, ensure we are providing the best options for our students.

I appreciate you are at a busy time of year but the survey will only take a few minutes to complete. We will keep it open until the end of June and I hope you will not mind if I send a couple of reminders to complete it in the coming weeks. The survey can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/meded/dentalintercalation>

We are undertaking a similar survey with medical students. It is **really** important we get responses from as many dental students as possible - those who intercalated, those who are currently intercalating, those who might intercalate in the future, and, just as importantly, those who have no intention of intercalating. The higher our numbers of respondents the more robust will be the data we can analyse once the survey closes, and then we can have

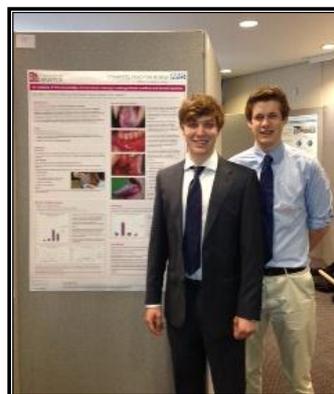
greater confidence about our future decisions about intercalation, and what we offer students here in Bristol.

Many thanks to those of you who complete the survey.

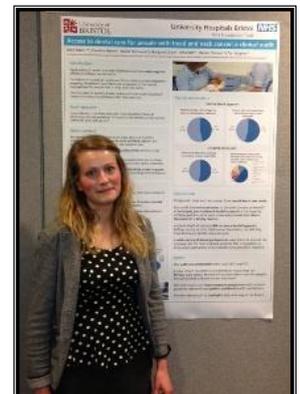
Student news

The School was well represented at the recent British Association of Head and Neck Oncology annual scientific meeting in London. Staff and students from the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery presented a total of nine posters and one oral presentation on topics including enhanced post-operative recovery, peri-operative feeding, melanoma, impact of a diagnosis of oral cancer on patients and partners, oral cancer arising from lichen planus and unusual oral lesions including metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma and post-transplant disease.

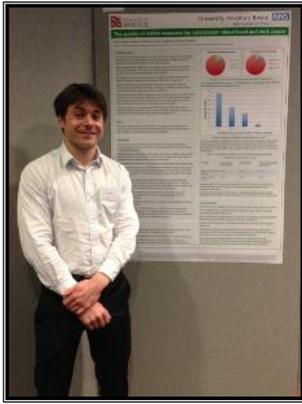
Of particular note are three posters reporting results of work carried out by undergraduate students and supervised by staff from OMFS and other specialties in the school. Final year students Paul Davies and Michael Hutchings presented a poster on undergraduate medical and dental student knowledge of risk factors and early presentation of oral cancer. Caroline Newell and Maria Nickowski, also in the final year, presented a poster of their audit on the provision of dental care for head and neck cancer patients. Third-year student Frans Banki successfully presented a poster on his work looking at the quality of on-line information for people diagnosed with oral cancer.



Final Year students Paul Davies and Michael Hutchings



Final Year student Caroline Newell



3rd Year student Frans Banki

All five are to be congratulated on this achievement at this early stage in their careers. It is also a reflection of the high-quality projects undertaken by students during their elective periods. The posters will be displayed outside the OMFS staff offices in the near future.

A Pizza Party was held on 8th March to celebrate the Excellence in Biomaterials competition which takes place in year 2. Three prizes, which are sponsored by dental biomaterials manufacturer Heraeus Kulzer (HK), are awarded to the three students with the overall best performance in the Health Sciences: Dental Biomaterials Unit taught in Year 2 by Dr Michele Barbour. This year, Mary Fowler won first prize, Savan Patel came in second and Tom Saunbury took third place. All three students were heartily congratulated for their outstanding achievements and all of year 2 (and the staff!) enjoyed pizzas and pop courtesy of HK!



Congratulations again to Mary, Savan and Tom, pictured here with HK rep Phil Jones

The Annual Revue 2013

The Annual Revue 2013 which took place on Friday the 17th May was met with a raucous audience made up of students and staff from Bristol Dental Hospital. The show held its usual eclectic mix of amusing anecdotes, high quality sketch comedy, dental-lyric pop songs (with One Dentition singing, 'Little blue o-rings') and live dances.



One Dentition singing, 'Little blue o-rings'



The dating game of the Century



The Egg Head Challenge

There was a terrific turnout from both students and staff and the night raged on till the early hours, down at the dental bar. It was a lovely evening for everyone, and reminded the whole dental school how much the current fifth years will be missed.

Staff news

£119.50 raised in Bristol Dental Bake-off for Above and Beyond charity

The Bristol Dental Bake Off came to Bristol Dental School on Wednesday 10th April 2013. This fundraising event was in aid of Above and Beyond, and involved bakers from around the School and Hospital entering a range of cakes into the categories of Victoria Sponge, Cheese Cake and Cup Cakes.



Some of the 'Yummy' exhibits.

The event was successfully organised by Lindsay Dutton (Research Technician, Oral Microbiology) with 30 entries into the competition. There was a fantastic turnout, both from University and NHS staff.



Enjoying a lunchtime get together!

Toni Parslow (Dental Nurse, Oral Surgery) demonstrated her skills as a master baker, fending off strong competition to win in the categories of Victoria Sponge, Cup Cakes, and "The People's Vote". Jayne Purdy (Dental Nurse, Restorative) took the prize in the Cheese Cake category.

A big thank you to those who organised, supported, competed, judged, and ate in this lunchtime event. In total, we raised £119.50 for Above and Beyond.

Staff Announcements

We are delighted that Judy Caesley and Christine Flenley have recently been appointed to roles of Student Administration Manager and BDS Clinical Scheduler respectively. These are important positions within the changing BDS administration structure.

Chris Mills has also become established as a Technology Enhanced Learning Developer (Dentistry) within the Faculty eLearning team and we look forward to his continued involvement in BDS eLearning and eAssessment.

Christine Ashdown recently left the School to take up a new position as PA for the Director in Commissioning. She had been Head of School PA and DDS Course coordinator. We wish Christine all good wishes in her new role.

Conclusion

We hope you have enjoyed reading this Newsletter and have found the information provided to be useful. There will be another edition at the beginning of next term. Please send items you wish to be considered for inclusion to myself (D.Dymock@bristol.ac.uk) or to Judy Caesley (Judy.Caesley@bristol.ac.uk).

David Dymock
Head of Teaching
Faculty Undergraduate Education Director