



Dental Mirror

Issue 4

February 2008

Onward and Upward

Since the launch of Dental Mirror a year ago, the School has made tremendous progress on many fronts. The curriculum overlap period, which has been such a significant hurdle to leap, will have been completed by this summer and it is a tribute to all staff and students that we have been able to introduce such a radically changed, innovative and successful new curriculum with the resources available.

We now have the exciting prospect over the next few years of being able to further refine and develop the undergraduate programme, to the benefit of our students and the profession. The enrolment of fourteen postgraduate students on the MSc in Primary Dental Care in September 2007 represented the culmination of two years of detailed planning and course preparation. It was also a landmark event in the establishment of a sustainable, high quality taught postgraduate programme, which will expand rapidly with introduction of additional courses for overseas students during the next three years.

This programme significantly strengthens our academic portfolio and will provide valuable financial resource to the School, in addition to satisfying the University strategic objectives of increasing the proportion of both postgraduate and international students.

Last year saw completion of our submission to the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008. The strategic and focused approach to research that we have taken in the School since 2001 was very evident as the documentation was prepared.

The RAE panels have now started to review the submissions in earnest, but we have to wait until December 2008 for the outcome and its implications for funding. Regardless of what that outcome may be, I would like to thank all staff for their involvement in, and facilitation of, our research agenda.

In just the same way that continuing development of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching activities is essential, so too is the ongoing evolution and strengthening of our research programme. The staffing strategy currently being developed by the Dental School Executive seeks to ensure balanced support for all our areas of academic activity.

The recent refurbishment of the seminar rooms and lecture theatres has greatly improved our teaching environment, and their opening by the University Principal last October was a real highlight of the year.

It was a particular pleasure to be able to welcome donors to the Jubilee Appeal, which had funded much of the renovation work. Following discussions with the Development & Alumni Office and Medical Faculty, there is now a Dental stream within the Medical Fund (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/givingtoglasgow/medicalfund/>), to allow donors to continue to support us.

Richard Welbury and I are planning to undertake a four-day sponsored cycle run in June from Workington to Tynemouth (Coast to Coast) this year to kick-start the new Fund. Our travelogue of pedalling, pains and punctures will feature in the Autumn edition of Dental Mirror.

I have no doubt that the momentum behind the successes of recent times will continue to propel us onward and upward in 2008. In concluding, I would like to thank all colleagues and friends of the School for their outstanding and committed contribution to our achievements and I hope that you will enjoy keeping up to date with developments in this, and future, editions of the Dental Mirror.

Jeremy Bagg

Editorial comment

This 4th Issue of the Dental Mirror in our second year of production is providing both interesting articles and informative news and views. The feedback is showing that it is greatly appreciated by many readers both within and out-with the GDH&S. Thank you for your comments. A new feature suggested by a colleague (CM) and included in this issue is 'Dates for your Diary' with a variety of subject and topic matters. Please keep your comments coming so that the newsletter can continue to inform and update for internal and external readers. Best wishes to you and yours for 2008.

An improved (and improving) process for admitting students to the BDS (University Glasgow) Degree Course

For some six years now as Chair the Dental School Admissions Committee I have had the privilege of looking after the admissions process on behalf of the Head of the Dental School at Glasgow University. The Committee comprises approximately 20-30 members made up of members of staff, from all disciplines and visiting dentists from dental practice and other areas of the profession.

During this period it has been my pleasure to have Helen Marie Clayton working with me on the administration front. There have been significant changes in the process for applying to the B.D.S. Course and I will attempt to summarise the current position. On around the 15th October each year we receive the UCAS application forms which contain the following four elements.

1. Personal information
2. Academic record
3. Personal statement
4. Reference

We have established a BDS Person Specification which, like a job description describes both academic and non-academic criteria. Some are described as essential and this is an absolute minimum whereas other parts are described as preferred.

This information is published on the web and widely circulated at Open Day. The first task is to sort out the applicants by the students academic achievements. The applicants are ranked accordingly to the following schedule.

1. Meets essential academic criteria
2. Meets preferred academic criteria
3. Exceeds preferred academic criteria

In years where competition is intense applicants meeting the preferred academic criteria are ranked higher and are more likely to progress to the next state in the selection process. The next stage is to offer the top 300 applicants the opportunity to submit a portfolio, the details of which are again on the web. At this stage we are seeking actual evidence to see how closely each applicant matches the Person Specification. This is essentially evidence of work experience, their caring side, whether they have actually done anything which suggests they like working with others and are capable of some degree of manual dexterity.

The personal statements from UCAS forms are all too often misleading and at this stage we are offering applicants the opportunity to back up any statements they have made on their UCAS forms with actual evidence. The portfolios arrive in the school around the end of November and are then assessed against the published criteria by two members of the admissions committee independently.

The next stage of the process is to offer the top 250 ranked students the opportunity to attend for interview. Interviews take place from January to March and involve two different members of the admissions committee, these interviewers again rank the candidates independently against the same published criteria. Once the interviews are completed each candidate has four separate scores, which we can then aggregate and this allows offers to be made with the candidates application having been assessed by four different individuals.

Last year for the first time we were involved in the UKCAT (Clinical Aptitude Test) which is a national exam for candidates for medicine and dentistry where applicants sit a two hour computer based test of their problem solving abilities, critical thinking etc. This test then gives a score which we can use to help differentiate candidates whose other scores are identical.

Another limb of the admissions process is the non-academic requirement for the course and this will comprise health checks, criminal conviction checks among others. Our aim at the time of writing is to fill 87 home places with an additional 3 overseas places. Once the offers have been made there is a quiet period before the school exam results are published in August. Tension then mounts as we discover how many of the candidates who have been made conditional offers have achieved the desired grades. There is an element of guesswork in the number of offers made in order to achieve the correct number of candidates on the course and if this goes 'pear-shaped' I will be on a flight out of the country!

Until fairly recently I was helped to run the admissions process by a very able deputy admissions officer in the person of Steve Creanor who has now left for the Peninsula Dental School. I enjoyed enormously working with Steve and I am looking forward to the appointment of a replacement.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work of Helen Marie Clayton who has now left us for a two year secondment to the International Office at the University. All the team would like to wish her well in her new role. I would also like to thank other members of the school office for their invaluable help – Linda McGinness, Jennifer Thomson and of course Martha Millard.

Lastly I would like to thank all members of the admissions committee for their unstinted help and support in attending meetings, assessing portfolios and conducting interviews. My particular thanks go to those individuals from outside the building who give of their time voluntarily and give a different and hugely valuable input to the process.

David M Still
Admissions Officer

Staff News

Staff Appointments

Ms Kate Cassels,
Clerical Assistant for Childsmile, COH Research Group.

Ms Lynne Currie,
Clerical Assistant, Prosthodontics Laboratory.

Mrs Jacqueline El-Ashker,
Radiography Assistant/Darkroom Technician.

Ms Wendy Harvie,
University Secretary.

Mr Stuart Hutchinson,
Administrative Officer.

Mr Anto Jose,
Research Technician, Infection & Immunity Research Group.

Mr Ross Jones,
Locum Consultant in Orthodontics.

Mr Jamie Kidd,
Clerical Assistant for Childsmile, COH Research Group.

Dr Alex McMahon,
Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology.

Mrs Alison McCormack,
University Secretary.

Dr Carlos Miguel,
Senior University Teacher in Oral Biology.

Dr David Shaw,
Lecturer in Ethics in Relation to Dentistry.

Ms Wendy Skinner,
Educational Resource Technician.

Mr Cameron Smith,
Lab Technician (MTO1), Prosthodontics Laboratory.

Dr Andrea Sherriff,
Lecturer in Statistics.

Congratulations

Dr Vincent Bissell who has been appointed as *Chief External Examiner* for the GDC's Overseas Registration Examination.

Dr Marie-Therese Hosey who has been appointed to the *Chair of Paediatric Dentistry* at Kings College London. She will take up her position on April 1st.

Dr Hosey was appointed *Senior Lecturer in Child Dental Health* at Glasgow University in 1997, and promoted to *Reader* in 2007.

Miss Catriona Walker who has won the '*Scottish Dental Nurse of the Year*' for 2007. Sponsored by Kerr (UK), and the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) Scotland.

Donald Cameron EdD *Teaching Dental Technology To Dental Students - A Comparison Of Approaches*

David Conway PhD *The epidemiology of oral cancer from a socioeconomic perspective.*



Catriona Walker is second from the right.

Publications 2007 - part 1

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ABAOMS annual meeting Cameron House Hotel

The Association of Academic Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons' conference was hosted by Glasgow University Dental School in November 2007 in the sumptuous surroundings of Cameron House Hotel on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. Academic oral surgeons came from all over the UK for the event which is held annually and gives us the chance to meet and exchange ideas on clinical work, teaching and research.

The event was well attended and our first session was on alcohol. The key speaker was Detective Chief Superintendent John Carnochan QPM, Head of the Violence Reduction Unit in Scotland. John is a familiar face to those of us working with the VRU on the alcohol and facial injuries research project. John painted a graphic portrait of violence in Scotland and the innovative initiatives the VRU is employing to make Scotland a safer place for all of us. He showed some graphic footage of violence in deprived areas in Glasgow taken by the photo journalist David Gillanders and accompanied by a poignant voiceover from the Polmont All-Stars, a group of young men incarcerated in Polmont prison. This was received in stunned silence.

There followed presentations on the current alcohol research theme by Dr Christine Goodall and our research nurse, Fiona Oakey. Our next main session focussed on 3D imaging and Professor Ashraf Ayoub, Dr Sunny Khambay and Professor Adrian Bowman outlined key developments in this area including the development of 4D imaging and the virtual human face. Professor Bowman gave an illuminating account of the statistics involved in trying to make sense of 'shape' which was fascinating.

Two key sessions followed the next day. In the session on Healthcare Improvement, we were very fortunate to hear from Dr Harry Burns, the Chief Medical Officer, who outlined the links between deprivation and health in Scotland in his

talk 'the Biology of Poverty'. He also told us about our 'extra organ' known to most of us as our beer belly which seems to get up to all sorts of physiological things on it's own. He was followed by Dr Jason Leitch who spoke about improving healthcare based on his experiences at Harvard University as well as about his new role as National Clinical Lead for Patient Safety in the Scottish government.

In our last session on Education Dr Justin Durham of Newcastle Dental School outlined the on the development of undergraduate competencies in Oral Surgery, something the education group of ABAOMS have been working on for some time now. This seems to be coming to fruition and we hope soon also to have a national undergraduate oral surgery curriculum.

There were a number of free papers, prize for the best presentation was won by Dr Kate Taylor of Leeds Dental Institute for her paper on 'Induction of oral epithelial cell migration by host defence peptides' and second place went to Dr Bethan Thomas of GKT for her paper on 'Genetic patterning of the craniofacial region'.

We treated the delegates to a feast of Scottish entertainments and were entertained on Wednesday night by the Guty Slippers an alternative pipe band and on Thursday by a ceilidh from Haud yer Lugs and display of Highland dancing. Mr Colin Forbes a recent dental graduate was persuaded out of piping retirement to pipe the company in to dinner on Thursday. I think a good time was had by all on the bonnie bonnie banks of Loch Lomond and we were especially grateful for the services of Alison McCormack our new secretary who joined us just in time to get landed with a large part of the organisation.

Dr Christine Goodall
Oral Surgery Department



Mr David Still, Professor Ashraf Ayoub, Dr Harry Burns, CMO, and Dr Jason Leitch at ABAOMS

Student Matters

This year's Pantomime was "Peter Panavia and the Revenge of Captain Drill", held for the first time in the Vic Bar of the Glasgow School of Art, it was a brilliant success. All the staff and students involved on stage, in the band as well as behind the scenes contributed a lot of valued time and effort.

The star studded event contained exerts from Slade, Justin Timberlake and our very own rapping Dentists in Black. The singing, dancing, improvising extravaganza that is our annual panto raised a record-breaking amount of £2,000 for the chosen charity, SKIP. A special thanks to Preeti Jauhar in final year who wrote the script and directed the cast, plus Mike Broad for keeping the show on the road.

SKIP Glasgow is branch of a nationally registered charity,

Students for Kids International Projects. SKIP works towards sending healthcare students from UK medical schools to work with children in developing countries. Branches are working from many UK universities, supporting projects all over the world.

The Glasgow branch is in the process of establishing a project in Lilongwe, Malawi. They have registered the children and are beginning to record their health status as well as giving advice to their parents. The dental students involved keen to improve their oral hygiene as well. Therefore they have plans to use their funding to build a hand-washing station, which can be used to give oral hygiene instruction as well.

Preeti Jauhar, 5th Year BDS

The Glasgow Dental Hospital Clinical Audit Committee

The primary role of the Hospital Clinical Audit Committee is to keep a record of the hospital's clinical audit activity. Its re-establishment has taken on an importance in light of the formation of the Clinical Governance committees including:

- i) The Glasgow Dental Hospital Clinical Governance Committee
- ii) The Oral Health Directorate Clinical Governance Committee.

As a component of clinical governance it is a requirement for clinical audit

to be both carried out and a record of the audit activity maintained. The current chairman of the hospital clinical audit committee is Mr. Philip Benington (Consultant orthodontist) and the secretary to the committee is Mr. Joseph Sherlock (FTTA in orthodontics).

A simple record-keeping system has been introduced. This involves an audit representative for each department. Each representative is responsible for completing a simple form to register an audit and a separate form to register

the completion of the project, along with any other recommendations.

An electronic record will be kept by both Joseph Sherlock and Paul Saunders (Clinical Effectiveness co-ordinator) at The Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Mr. Sherlock's role is to ensure that as complete a record as possible is being maintained through this system. The responsibility for recording the individual departments' activity lies with the departmental audit representatives.

Joseph Sherlock

Dates for your diary

Thursday 6th March

BSPD – British Society of Paediatric Dentistry

Postgraduate Travellers Bursary Award

Speaker: Mrs Antoniella Naudi

Specialist Registrar in Paediatric Dentistry

Glasgow Dental Hospital and School

Title: Dental management of a patient with factor VIII inhibitor

Student Elective Prize

Speakers: Nyla Abraham, Ruairidh Dall & Anne Johnson

Title: Bringing dental care to the city of Eternal Spring

Thursday 1st May 2008

Speaker: Professor Nigel Pitts

Professor of Dental Health

Dental Health Service Unit, Dundee

Title: Caries Research

Meetings are held in the West of Scotland Centre for Postgraduate Dental Education, Lecture Theatre 1, Glasgow Dental Hospital and School, commencing at 7.30pm.

Student activities where staff are invited to participate.

Saturday 1st March

The third year half way dinner, Millennium Hotel, George Square

Friday 7th March

Pool and Quiz night, Garnethill Community Centre

Friday 4th April

The Final Year Dinner in the Cardrona Country Club Hotel by Peebles

Saturday 21st June

A provisional date for the Staff v Final Year soccer match and BBQ at Garscube

Personal Reflection - Visits to an Orphanage in India

As many of you know, Jason Leitch and I visit an orphanage in India every two years. We visit as part of a mission medical team and screen over 1200 children at each visit. The missionary organisation (India Rural Evangelical Fellowship) houses over 1000 children in the main orphanage and school in the town of Repalle, which is in the Southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

They also have several smaller orphanages in the more rural areas surrounding the town. Although there are many genuine orphans the majority of the children are economic orphans, i.e. they have parents in the rural villages who cannot afford to keep them and have left them at the orphanage.

You can imagine how difficult it is to feed, clothe and educate such a large group of children and medical/

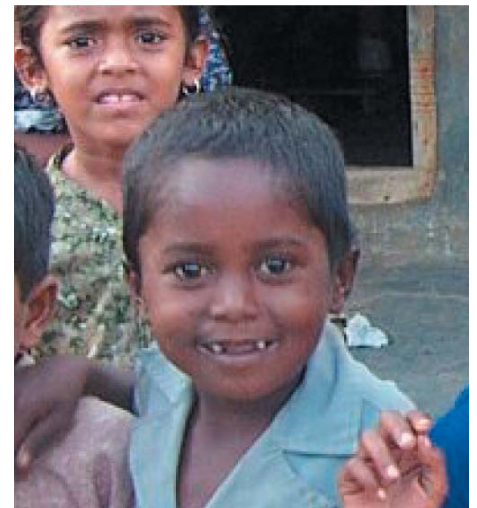
dental care is a costly luxury. Our team comprises several nurses, three dentists, two dental nurses and an optician, +/- a doctor and a pharmacist (depending on availability). We spend just over a week working in the main orphanage and during the remainder of our time we go out to the smaller rural orphanages to see as many of the kids as possible.

Each child is weighed, measured and screened for scabies, head lice, vitamin deficiencies, worms, ear problems, respiratory problems, heart defects and any other obvious medical problems. We then treat simple problems such as scabies and organise medications, vitamin supplements etc. And yes, I have spent the occasional afternoon treating infected scabies while Dr Leitch was called away on urgent business (to the spice shop!!).

After medical treatment the children come to the dental station. It's here that the fun begins! They are screened for caries and calculus, followed by extraction of all carious teeth and scaling when time and staff numbers permit. This is carried out under LA so you can imagine how popular I am! Extraction of all carious teeth may sound fairly extreme but there are no facilities for restorative procedures and it is very costly to take the children to see a dentist. We often end up working outside in a village in the dark with someone shining a torch over our shoulders!!!

Despite the lack of material possessions the kids are always smiling and are extremely appreciative of any attention at all. Their response makes the visit very rewarding and I think we often receive more than we give! We will be there again from January 26th to February 8th 2008.

Aileen Bell
Oral Surgery Department



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