

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF PERIODONTOLOGY AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting
held online on Monday 15th June 2020, via Zoom



Report of the Honorary Secretary

Review of the Year ending December 2019.

Professor West reported as follows:

Good evening. For those of you who do not know me, I am Nicola West, Secretary of the BSP, and I am honoured to present the Honorary Secretary's Annual Report for this AGM, which is based on the year ending 2019.

Taking things in chronological order, we welcomed Dr Mark Ide as President of the Society in January 2019.

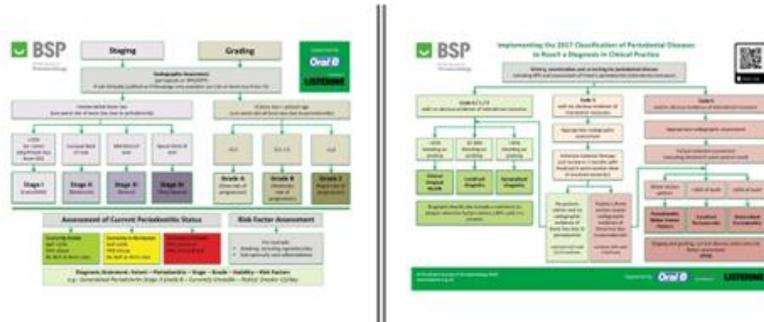


Mark had an incredibly successful year and worked extremely hard for the Society and our membership. I am enormously grateful to him for this work, dedication and the experience and support he brought to the Senior Leadership Team. Thank you, Mark, I felt you were altruistic, and truly furthered the society.

The BSP had an exceptionally busy and successful year under Mark's guidance. The Society worked incredibly hard to achieve many of its strategic aims, juggling several important initiatives to promote periodontology and the importance of gum health. These were targeted to dental and medical professionals, undergraduate students, patients and the public.

One of our most successful campaigns saw us at the forefront of the dissemination of the 2017 Classification of Periodontal Diseases. The World Workshop in Perio was held in November 2017 and included several past and present BSP members – Iain Chapple, Nikos Donos, Ian Needleman, Francis Hughes, Philip Preshaw, Thomas Dietrich and myself.

Implementing the 2017 Classification



Following this workshop, the BSP formed a working group and published the BSP Implementation of the 2017 classification in the British Dental Journal and, to date, we are the only country to have done so. As part of our mission to support the profession, the BSP produced a laminated decision-making flowchart to help practitioners adapt to the new classification. We also distributed the chart to all Undergraduates and staff at UK dental schools.

We are grateful to the many organisations who supported us in this initiative to distribute flowcharts, ensuring that we adequately supported the dental profession in their diagnoses and treatment of periodontal patients. We have so far distributed over 57,000 copies of the laminated version. Johnson & Johnson and Oral-B kindly contributed to the printing and distribution costs. We also worked collaboratively with a considerable number of key lecturers and organised the large mailings with the following organisations, some of whom kindly covered the mailing fees:

- BSDHT
- BADT
- Dental Defence Union
- Dental Protection
- Royal Air Force

I would like to give everyone involved a "big BSP thank you" for this amazing initiative. It has been very well received and has been supported by NHS England. I think we should be immensely proud of ourselves for this successful project.

In addition, the BSP received extremely positive feedback for its series of webinars to promote the 2017 classification systems. The series, scheduled from October 2018 to February 2019, was made free of charge and available for everyone to access.

Our support for members continued with a case study webinar and an article in the Periodical magazine, addressing the most frequently asked questions about implementing the 2017 Classification. We are continuing to evaluate and develop this work, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, to further support our membership and the wider dental profession.

The Society has continued to foster close relations with the European Federation of Periodontology several of us are involved in various committees, as well as good working relations with other dental agencies. These include Public Health England, the NHS England, the Office of the Chief Dental Officer and the British Society of Restorative Dentistry. We have worked with these agencies in an advisory capacity and the voice of the BSP is being heard at the highest level! Again, this demonstrates the commitment the Society and its members have to engaging with all stakeholders as part of its Strategic Plan. I would like to thank all those members of Council who have given their time and expertise to support these links.

On the European stage, I was delighted to be appointed as Secretary General to the EFP. I am enjoying this role and believe it further strengthens the BSP's relationship with Europe. We look forward to meeting with our European colleagues at EP10, to held in Copenhagen in 2021.

Supporting Dental Events



The Society has continued throughout 2019 to support dental events around the UK, including The British Dental Conference & Dentistry Show and the BSDHT Oral Health Conference and Exhibition. These events are the main opportunities during the year to promote the Society to a wider audience. This encourages membership and showcases the Society's invaluable educational material from a growing library, produced by the combined efforts of Council and Early Career Group members.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all those involved with the creation and updating of these resources. They remain the "go to" point of reference for all members of the dental team, aspiring to provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based practice for their patients.

Each year the Society is involved in the Pan European campaign to raise awareness of the importance of gum health. Gum Health Day 2019 took place on 12th May, and the campaign was based around the slogan "Healthy gums, beautiful smile". The focus was on how healthy gums contribute not only to better oral and overall health but also to good dental aesthetics, self-confidence and improved quality of life.

BSP Undergraduate Group



One of our strategic aims last year was to further support undergraduate students and help them develop their knowledge of periodontology and implantology. Our long-term goal being to support all levels of members from the cradle to the grave.

We have undergraduate membership and annual awards and prizes for research, thereby reflecting our commitment to progression and innovation. In addition, we have now appointed 2 Dental Students and 1 Hygiene/Therapy Student from each UK Dental/Hygiene School to be BSP Representatives. Led by their Chair, Dominic Clark-Robertson, they have all done a fantastic job over the last twelve months of promoting the Society and the importance of good oral health.

In March we hosted the first webinar "by Students, for Students," and were delighted with the success of the event. We were incredibly proud of the student team from Bristol University for working so hard on this initiative and presenting such a professional and informative webinar. We had 700 listening live on the night, with many dental schools screening the webinar to groups of students in lecture theatres. I am particularly proud of my Bristol students who trail blazed this initiative, led by Dom.

Reflecting on the incredibly positive feedback, the BSP further encouraged these educational practices of peer learning in which students interact with each other to develop their understanding and knowledge of periodontology and have since hosted several more student webinars. Thank you to the students from the University of Dundee and the University of Birmingham who also presented fantastic webinars, and best of luck to the students from Manchester University who have their first webinar on the 2nd July.

BSP Conference 2019



In April 2019, the Society held its Annual Conference in Brighton. Dr Mark Ide presided over a superb event entitled “Is this the Modern Way”.

The Conference reflected that much has changed in society, healthcare and dentistry since the BSP was founded in 1949 and we have progressed to what, we believe, is an evidence-based, science-driven model of patient management.

In keeping with the Society's traditions, topics at the meeting ranged from the use of new technologies for diagnosis, treatment planning and delivery of periodontal treatment, through cost-effectiveness and reasonable expectations of treatment (and what this means for clinician and patient). It also included the local, systemic and other impacts of some of the daily interventions we use in dentistry and medicine. The Conference even addressed whether we are, in fact, still using 70-year old strategies for the management of complications of the most modern restorative treatments.

Brighton provided a spectacular backdrop to the Conference Dinner as guests were treated to a flight in British Airways i360 pod. On “landing” we enjoyed our meal and danced the night away to a wonderful live band in true BSP style.

Dr Ide was delighted to present Professor Francis Hughes with Honorary Membership of the Society and thanked him for his outstanding contributions to Periodontology in the UK, Europe and globally.

We were also delighted to welcome Patient Forum member Neil Almond to the Conference. He chaired the morning session on day three and delivered the Patient Forum report.

BSP Patient Forum



In 2017, the British Society of Periodontology took the innovative step of involving patients in their work by setting up the BSP Patient Forum. Led by Professor Ian Needleman, the Patient Forum has already proved to be a huge success. This provides a voice to the patient community to help shape the future of gum health in the UK and to work closely alongside the Society.

The Forum is made up of a group of volunteers who meet regularly to share their experiences, ideas and provide an invaluable insight into the challenges faced by patients.

Whilst previous meetings have been held in London, I am pleased to report that this has now been extended to Scotland.

BSP 70th Anniversary



Founded in 1949, the British Society of Periodontology celebrated it's 70-year Anniversary in June. We combined business with pleasure and enjoyed an afternoon

of CPD at King's College, London, followed by a tour and celebration dinner at the Houses of Parliament.

The BSP was delighted to welcome three esteemed international speakers, Prof Søren Jepsen (University of Bonn), Prof Rob Allaker (QMUL) and Prof Nagihan Bostanci (Karolinska Institute), who presented lectures on subjects relating to contemporary periodontology and practice.

The meeting also coincided with the retirement of Professor Francis Hughes and was a wonderful opportunity for the BSP to recognise his contribution to the Society, the specialty and the profession. Each of the speakers had links with Francis and it proved to be a wonderful celebration of his work and career.

The party then moved to the Palace of Westminster where guests experienced an in-depth and educational tour, including both Chambers, Division lobbies, Westminster Hall and St Stephens Hall.

Sir Paul Beresford kindly hosted us for a sumptuous dinner following which, Isabel Oakeshott provided an interesting insight into the world of politics.

It was a wonderful event to celebrate our achievements and say "thank you" to everyone who has contributed to the BSP and made it a success over the last 7 decades.

The first BSP undergraduate meeting took place on the 14th June at King's College, London and was a huge success. It was a great opportunity for the newly appointed representatives to meet each other, learn more about the BSP and talk about periodontology.

BSP Educational Programme



Date	Type of Event	Title	Presenter
24 th January	Webinar	The management of gingivitis and periodontitis using the 2017 classification and UK Implementation guidance: case studies	Prof Anthony Roberts
31 st January	Hands-on course	Regenerative surgical techniques course	Dr Richard Tucker and Dr Hassan Maghaireh
19 th February	Webinar	2017 World workshop classification of periodontal diseases- peri-implant diseases and conditions	Prof Nikos Donos
19 th March	Webinar	The new periodontal classification, by students for students	Dominic Clark-Robertson, Bethany Revert, Natasha Coleman, Megan Hines and Lottie Spooner
9 th April	Webinar	Periodontal disease management: modifying diagnostic and communication behaviour for better oral health outcomes	Prof Nicola West
24 th -26 th April	Annual Conference	Is this the modern way? The Grand Hotel, Brighton	Dr Mark Ide (President) and esteemed colleagues
20 th May	Webinar	Non-plaque induced gingival conditions: systemic diseases and conditions that manifest in the periodontal tissues (non-plaque induced); and periodontitis as a manifestation of systemic diseases	Prof Iain Chapple

14 th June	70 th Anniversary Academic Meeting	Contemporary periodontology and practice, including the microbiome and development and diagnosis of disease around teeth and implants.	Prof Soren Jepsen, Prof Rob Allaker, Prof Nagihan Bostanci and Prof Francis Hughes
25 th June	Webinar	Managing your periodontal patients within the new classification: a practitioner's perspective	Dr Manoj Tank
25 th September	Webinar	Making the most of the patient encounter in order to support patient behaviour change	Dr Koula Asimakopoulou
1 st November	Study Day	Joint BSP and HEE Study Day for Foundation Training	Dr Mark Ide, Prof Francesco D'Aluto & others
31 st October	Webinar	SDCEP Changing patient behaviour, by students for students	Matthew Wright, Lizzie Briggs, Gamze Eroglu (University of Dundee)
13 th November	Webinar	Addressing mouth care needs within hospital and community setting: barriers, supporting approaches and collaboration	Mrs Christine Goodban
2 nd December	Webinar	Periodontal care: possible futures?	Prof Jennifer Gallagher

The Society continues to be extremely active in delivering education across the UK. In 2019 we hosted 10 educational webinars, an ECG hands-on course, an Annual Conference, our 70th Anniversary CPD afternoon and a joint study day with HEE. I would like to thank our Education & Events Manager, Tamsin Lawson, for the fantastic job she does in organising these events.

Date	Type of Event	Title	Presenter
24 th January	Webinar	The management of gingivitis and periodontitis using the 2017 classification and UK implementation guidance; case studies	Prof Anthony Roberts
31 st January	Hands-on course	Regenerative surgical techniques course	Dr Richard Tucker and Dr Hassan Maghaireh
19 th February	Webinar	2017 World workshop classification of periodontal diseases- peri-implant diseases and conditions	Prof Nikos Donos
19 th March	Webinar	The new periodontal classification, by students for students	Dominic Clark-Robertson, Bethany Revert, Natasha Coleman, Megan Hines and Lottie Spooner
9 th April	Webinar	Periodontal disease management; modifying diagnostic and communication behaviour for better oral health outcomes	Prof Nicola West
24 th -26 th April	Annual Conference	Is this the modern way? The Grand Hotel, Brighton	Dr Mark Ide (President) and esteemed colleagues
20 th May	Webinar	Non-plaque induced gingival conditions: systemic diseases and conditions that manifest in the periodontal tissues (non-plaque induced); and periodontitis as a manifestation of systemic diseases	Prof Iain Chapple
14 th June	70 th Anniversary Academic Meeting	Contemporary periodontology and practice, including the microbiome and development and diagnosis of disease around teeth and implants.	Prof Soren Jepsen, Prof Rob Allaker, Prof Nagihan Bostanci and Prof Francis Hughes

25 th June	Webinar	Managing your periodontal patients within the new classification: a practitioner's perspective	Dr Manoj Tank
25 th September	Webinar	Making the most of the patient encounter in order to support patient behaviour change	Dr Koula Asimakopoulou
1 st November	Study Day	Joint BSP and HEE Study Day for Foundation Training	Dr Mark Ide, Prof Francesco D'Aiuto & others
31 st October	Webinar	SDCEP Changing patient behaviour, by students for students	Matthew Wright, Lizzie Briggs, Gamze Eroglu (University of Dundee)
19 th November	Webinar	Addressing mouth care needs within hospital and community setting: barriers, supporting approaches and collaboration	Mrs Christine Goodban
2 nd December	Webinar	Periodontal care: possible futures?	Prof Jennifer Gallagher

Membership Figures
(December 2019)



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Honorary	9	11	11	13	14	18	19
Emeritus	1	1	1	2	2	3	2
Full Members UK	658	682	594	674	710	762	784
Full Members O/S					58	22	21
Full Members DH/DT	148	170	167	181	218	257	307
Postgraduate/ StR	61	66	74	97	72	80	67
First 4 Years	44	40	55	45	20	24	6
Undergraduates	9	11	11	26	74	115	338
Associated Retired	24	26	25	24	31	11	11
TOTAL	957	1007	967	1061	1199	1292	1555

We have seen a growth in our membership figures, which peaked at 1555 in December 2019. The magic number is 1000 and we are well over this now and hope it stays there!

The current membership status is:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Honorary	9	11	11	13	14	18	19
Emeritus	1	1	1	2	2	3	2
Full Members UK	658	682	594	674	710	762	784
Full Members O/S					58	22	21
Full Members DH/DT	148	170	167	181	218	257	307
Postgraduate/ StR	61	66	74	97	72	80	67
First 4 Years	44	40	55	45	20	24	6
Undergraduates	9	11	11	26	74	115	338
Associated Retired	24	26	25	24	31	11	11
TOTAL	957	1007	987	1061	1199	1292	1555



We care passionately about retaining our members. As a Society, we recognise that good, effective communication is key and essential for us to achieve and maintain strong, lasting working relationships at all levels of the organisation. It is, also, an integral part of membership growth and collaboration with other health professionals. The BSP is committed to developing our communication channels and we work extremely hard to serve our members and provide the latest updates in the world of perio.

You will always hear our news first on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, followed closely by our website news page and then via our e-newsletter, which we send out to members every month. The Periodical is an annual summary of the year's main events and Society activities. We put a lot of effort into this mix of communications in the hope of always keeping our members, the wider dental community and patients up-to-date.



Prizes Awarded in 2019

PRIZE	Award
<u>Audit award</u> <i>Not awarded</i>	£500
<u>Sir Wilfred Fish Prize</u> Ana Caetano <i>"Mapping Human Gingival Tissues at Single Cell Resolution"</i>	£1000
<u>Fellowship award</u> James Chesterman	£4,000
<u>Frank Ashley Undergraduate Prize</u> <i>Not awarded</i>	£500
<u>Research grant (in conjunction with RCEngland)</u> Tanya Cerajewska	Up to £5,000 per award

<p><i>“Bacteria, pathological markers of neurodegeneration and inflammation in blood and saliva from periodontal patients”</i></p> <p>Cher Farrugia</p> <p><i>“Studying the mechanism of cardiovascular disease initiation by periodontal pathogens using novel in vitro 3D microvascular and in vitro zebrafish systemic infection models”</i></p>	
<p>Poster Prize</p> <p>Clinical:</p> <p>Mohsin Mughal</p> <p>Research:</p> <p>Jelena Taylor</p>	<p>£500 each</p>

I would like to thank all applicants for their support and contribution to the Society and, in particular, the individuals nominated for the awards. Entry criteria and deadlines for all prizes are available on the BSP website.

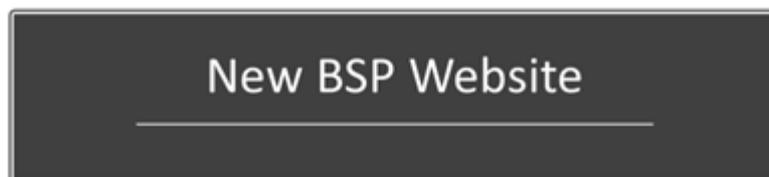
During 2019, we held 4 Council meetings and a Vision Day meeting. In addition to our long-term strategic aims, Council regularly meet to reflect and evaluate our achievements and identify key objectives for the following 12 months. These objectives reflect elements of our strategic aims and keep the BSP focused on delivering the best service to our members, the wider dental community, the public and patients.

It is vitally important that we continue to build on what the Society has achieved over the last 70 years. We are always striving to meet the needs of our membership and to stay at the forefront of research and education in the area of periodontology and dental implantology. We are continually exploring how we can develop, grow, and set ourselves challenging targets over the coming years.



BSP Faculty was an educational initiative to create a 'virtual faculty' recognising a group of educators within the UK periodontal community that can deliver high quality, evidence-based education in periodontology and implant dentistry. This register of recognised BSP speakers underpins the delivery of our educational plan across the UK and, where relevant, internationally.

In 2019, the accolade of Faculty status was awarded to Dr Claire Storey, Professor Giles McCracken, Professor Luigi Nibali, Professor Wendy Turner and Dr Veronica Booth.



Our website is an extremely important part of our work (and will become more so) and offers key information on periodontal disease for both patients and dental professionals. It also offers key management functionality that the society uses for event booking and maintenance of the membership.

As you know the BSP and, in particular, Paula and Tamsin have been working extremely hard with Optima to launch our new website. As I am sure you remember, we have changed from Canterbury Web, which was run highly successfully by Steve Disleris-Beck, due to retirements. I would like to say a big thank you to Steve and Canterbury Web.

The website holds our databases, Conference and webinar registrations, course feedback and CPD certificates and is fully GDPR compliant. In addition, the site also contains case reports, publications, resources, a jobs section and all our newsletters.

Since discovering that Canterbury Web are intending to cease trading, we have worked closely with our new web provider, Optima, to create a more modern website that will support our ever-developing educational programme and membership needs. We are hoping to launch the new site in July 2020 and are excited to share with you the improved member functionality and modern interface.



As a charity, we rely on funding from organisations to enable us to succeed in our aim to advance all aspects of periodontology and dental implantology, promote the importance of gum health to dental and medical professionals, undergraduate students, patients and the public.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to our 2019 Partner Sponsors who have provided the Society with funding and support for many of our activities this year. We successfully completed several initiatives in 2019 and recognise that their support enabled us to achieve our strategic aims and objectives for our members.

We are extremely grateful to Acteon, GSK, J&J and Oral-B for their support and have very much enjoyed our successful working relationship. We were delighted that they all wished to continue to partner with us in 2020 to help us achieve our strategic aims.

I would like to thank Dr Mark Ide, Paula Dunn, Tamsin Lawson, members of Council and the Early Career Group for the support and encouragement they gave me last year.

I would also like to give special thanks to our longstanding Treasurer, Mike Milward. Mike has been Treasurer for the last 6 years and his high ethical standards, analytical ability, diligence and attention to detail will be a hard act to follow.

Mike, I have worked closely with you as Treasurer, myself as Secretary, for over 8 years. You have been such a pleasure to work with and I will really miss it - we have been a team for years! You have done a fantastic job and leave the BSP is in credit by a couple of pounds, as we will see shortly! You are thorough, accurate, transparent and always put the membership first. We wish you well as President-Elect and for your Presidency in 2022.

Mike stepped down from his role at the end of 2019 and we now have a new Treasurer, Dr Aradhna Tugnait, who I am sure will do an equally excellent job. We welcome Aru.

Please join me in thanking Mike for his service to the Society and let's give him a virtual round of applause! I had hoped to present Mike with a gift today, as a token of our appreciation for all of his hard work, however, due to lockdown, I am looking forward to doing this at our Annual Conference in December. In the meantime, I will look after it for you.

We wish Aru well in her new role. I know Mike will always be there to give help and advice in the background.



I would like to thank Tamsin, our Education and Events Manager, for all her input this year. Tamsin is always enthusiastic, flexible and, I am sure you all agree, runs a great education and events group. She has also spent a lot of time working on our new website which you will love! Education and events are growing rapidly and particularly recently they have a virtual twist. Tamsin, I would like to thank you, both on behalf of Council and myself, and would ask for another rapturous virtual applause please!

**BSP Executive
General Manager**

Paula Dunn



I turn now to Paula, our Executive General Manager. Paula is the hub of the BSP. She is brilliant! Always available (I seem to be talking with her every day at the moment – in fact the one day I didn't phone her, I even emailed her to say I hadn't phoned her!) Paula is always friendly, always has her legal head on (which is great for the BSP and especially me), efficient and very reasonable when I can't find/missed/cannot remember an email and she has to send it again. Not only does Paula live BSP every day at work, but then we ask her to work on BSP matters with her husband! She never gets away from the BSP! Paula, I thank you so much. I love working with you and I will truly miss not working as closely with you next year! Paula, I would like to thank you on behalf of the BSP, you are the engine (electric) which gets us out of the blocks so quickly and powers our success.

I would like to thank the whole of Council for their support this year and indeed the support of the whole membership.



Report of the President

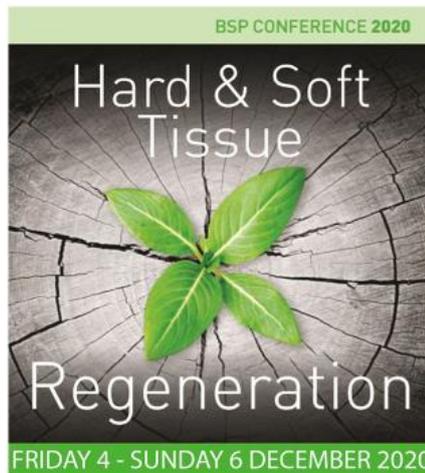
Professor Nikos Donos reported as follows:

Good evening everybody.

It was a great privilege to be invited to serve as President of the BSP.

I am only part-way through my term and I have already been struck by how hard BSP Council works and how passionate they are about promoting periodontology and implant dentistry. BSP continually makes significant effort to raise awareness of the importance of gum health to the public, patients, dental and medical professionals.

I have greatly valued the support of my fellow Council members and our Administrative Team. Together, we have developed several important initiatives this year, some of which are yet to come!



Even before I took up office, I was quickly set to work by Tamsin Lawson, our Education & Events Manager, who worked tirelessly to help me organise my Annual Conference and co-ordinate National and International expert speakers for what promises to be a wonderful 3-day event. I was very pleased that there was such a great response to this event. The set-up of the annual conference is different this year with emphasis being placed on both periodontitis and implant dentistry related treatment, together with hands on workshops which have proven to be popular with our members. It was disappointing that this had to be postponed but I am delighted that there remains great enthusiasm to attend this event, now being held in December.

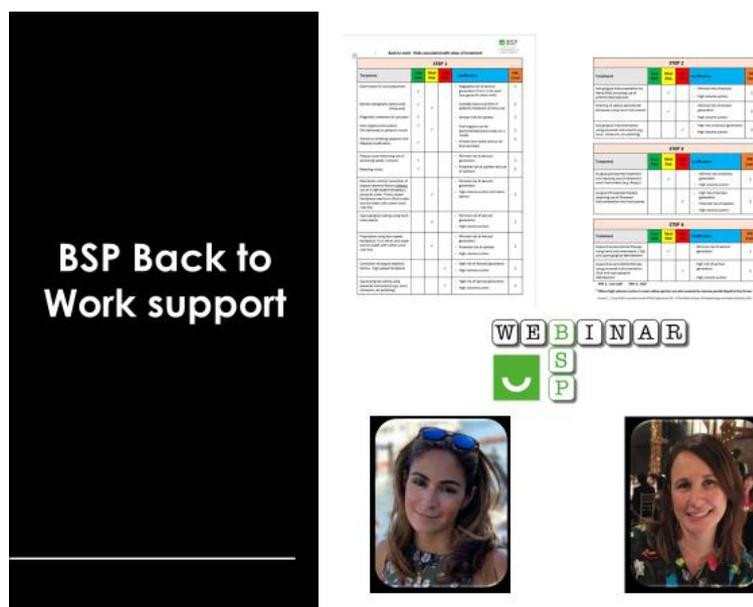


The start of my Presidency coincided with us changing the name of the Society to "**The British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry**". I think it is appropriate that the Society name change accurately reflects the work we do, by including implant dentistry within the specialty. It now recognises the role that periodontists play in the placement of dental implants and the management of peri-implant

diseases. In addition, it also puts us on a par with other countries, as research surrounding peri-implant diseases is carried out in Periodontal Departments throughout the world.



In planning the Educational Webinar Programme for this year, I chose speakers to focus on the provision of treatment of periodontal and peri-implant diseases. It was important to focus on treatment modalities of different types of defects but also bring in topics such as soft tissue regeneration around implants. I am delighted that they have been popular topics with our membership, and I would like to thank the speakers and webinar hosts who have made them such a success.



It goes without saying that 2020 has been an extremely challenging year. On the 11th March, The World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic and we all

found ourselves in an unprecedented situation with the world battling an outbreak of COVID-19.

As a profession, we were placed in an exceedingly difficult predicament. Whilst some colleagues were redeployed to support the frontline NHS staff, many in the profession found themselves unable to practice and some had the added financial pressure of not qualifying for Government support.

As a Society we worked behind the scenes, engaging with the relevant stakeholders and doing everything we could to support the interests of our members together with the wider dental community during this challenging time.

BSP Council is delighted that many of you have found the "Risks associated with steps of treatment" flowcharts so helpful to you in practice and that there has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the "BSP Back to Work Hand Instrumentation Masterclass" webinar series.

As a leading society in implant dentistry we are now considering the potential need for a flowchart for implant surgery and treatment of periimplantitis. We accept, of course, that in such challenging times, this type of documents should be frequently updated and modified as necessary.



It was disappointing that our planned public events on Gum Health Day could not go ahead in May. Despite having to postpone them, we did not allow Gum Health Day to simply pass us by. As many of you will have seen on social media, we held a Gum Health Day lockdown challenge on our social media platforms, which proved to be a huge success in engaging the profession.

We invited you to create an image or short video illustrating, "Taking care of my gums whilst at home." We were overwhelmed with the amazing response and were certainly kept busy sharing and posting the entries. Dental professionals responded with a range of creative ideas, including paintings, pictures, posters, embroidered images, fun and informative videos, with one even using British sign language to convey the important message, "Say No To Bleeding Gums".

Our BSP Undergraduate Representatives certainly helped us to create a real buzz on social media and were extremely proactive in spreading information about Gum Health Day and maintaining oral hygiene. We very much look forward to re-scheduling our public events in the future, with the support of our Undergraduate Representatives and GSK.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who supported this initiative and the many dental professionals who posted their own Gum Health Day messages. I would also like to thank Ian Dunn for co-ordinating the events during lockdown.



Putting aside the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is now confronting the important subject of racism.

As a Society we try to regularly evaluate our practices and ask ourselves how we can do better. I think that this is an important question that all organisations should ask themselves, not just in terms of race, but also considering many other factors.

It is something that we haven't always got right. Many years ago, it was pointed out to us that one of our infographics was not inclusive or reflective of the diverse community we serve. Following that awareness, we endeavoured to ensure that we embedded equality and diversity into all our infographic work.

Some years ago, BSP Council agreed the terms of our **Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy**, as we recognised the importance of having a Council of Officers who are equal, valued and whose diversity reflects the dental community we serve.

To clarify these terms that are often bandied about:

By **Equality** – we do not mean treating everyone the same; it is about ensuring that access to our services and opportunities are available to all by considering people's differing needs and capabilities and making appropriate adjustments to ensure equal opportunities for everyone. As an example, we have ensured there are loop

facilities in place for member's attending a Conference with hearing difficulties and a private room available for breastfeeding mothers.

By **Diversity** – it's about us recognising and valuing people's differences regardless of age, disability, sex, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment pregnancy/maternity or marriage/civil partnership and valuing the opportunities that this can bring to our Society.

By regularly considering these important matters, we believe we now work differently and are a more inclusive Society. We were recently asked to take part in a study that looked at the gender balance within Societies and we were proud that we were able to cite many positive actions we have taken to encourage women in dentistry.

We believe that through understanding the diversity of individuals and by embedding equality and diversity into our work we will improve our effectiveness as a Society and provide an inclusive and supportive environment for our staff and our members. The BSP shall continue to be committed to equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

We all have a responsibility to consider equality, diversity and inclusion. If you have not read our Policy, I would encourage you to visit the Policy page of our website.



We are continuing to work on our strategic aims for the benefit of our membership, which also sees members of BSP Council representing Society views at meetings with other organisations. We shall endeavour to keep you updated on developments and matters that affect our speciality.

To support dental professionals, we are currently updating the Good Practitioner's Guide to Periodontology. The Society is extremely grateful to the many authors who are currently putting the finishing touches to their sections. We recognise how valued this resource is in practice and we shall advise you as soon as the new publication is available.

We are also working hard to review the EFP's Evidenced-based Treatment Guidelines which were recently published. Led by Prof. Nicola West and Prof. Moritz Kepschull, we have working groups comprised of dental professionals, medical experts, stakeholders and BSP Patient Forum members, who are moving rapidly to ensure the European guidelines are suitable for the UK healthcare system.

As always, the interests of our members remain at the centre of everything we do and, I hope, that you have felt supported through the many initiatives we have undertaken so far this year, in particular, during the COVID-19 situation.

We shall continue to keep you up to date with the latest news, developments and events via our newsletters, website and social media platforms.

I wish those of you returning to work well, as you adapt to the changes currently in place. I look forward to meeting you at our Annual Conference, which takes place in London in December when, hopefully, we shall be able to socialise more freely and enjoy good times with our friends.