

periodical

The newsletter for members of the BSP • 2025/26

BSP around the world



BSP around the world

Latest developments in Periodontology

BSP Patient Forum

Early Career Group

Member information

BSP Awards & Prizes

Education & Events



British Society of
Periodontology and
Implant Dentistry

The BSP Team

We are fortunate to have a fantastic team working tirelessly behind the scenes at the BSP to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Paula and Joanne play a vital role in the day-to-day management of the Society, from organising our educational events to keeping our members informed with the latest news and developments. Their dedication and efficiency help maintain the high standards our members have come to expect.

As the central point of contact for all BSP matters, Paula and Joanne are always on hand to assist with any membership or event-related queries. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work, professionalism, and continued support.



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Thank you to our 2025 Partner Sponsors

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our 2025 Partner Sponsors for their generous support this year. Their continued commitment plays a crucial role in helping the Society deliver on its strategic goals and provide meaningful support to our members and the wider dental community.

As a charity, we rely significantly on funding from industry to help us achieve our mission. We are incredibly grateful for the strong and successful partnership we share with our sponsors. Their support enables us to grow and thrive in our mission to advance all aspects of periodontology and dental implantology.

Together, we are able to promote the importance of gum health to dental and medical professionals, undergraduate students, patients, and the public — a goal that remains vital to improving overall oral and systemic health.

Our Partner Sponsors



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Keep up to date with the latest news by visiting our website and following us on social media:

🌐 www.bsperio.org.uk

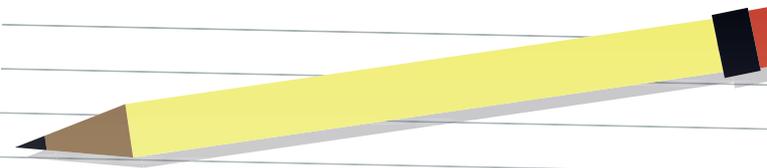
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▶ BSP British Society of Perio & Implant Dentistry

Welcome to the 2025/26 Issue of the Periodical!



Welcome to this year's edition of the Periodical. Our theme takes us far beyond the UK, as we hear directly from members around the world. From Asia to the Americas, Europe to Africa, colleagues share how their membership of the BSP impacts on their professional lives. Their reflections remind us that, while our contexts and healthcare systems may differ, we are all part of a wider global community united by our shared commitment to periodontal health.



The international contributions in this issue are inspiring and give us a real sense of the reach of our Society. They show how the BSP is valued not only at home but also across continents, where our resources, meetings, and networks support colleagues in their work. I hope you enjoy reading these stories as much as I did.

Alongside these global voices, we also include the familiar and valued updates that have become part of the Periodical each year. You will find contributions from our President, Professor Nicola West, a membership update from our Early Career Group Chair, Dr Chandni Shah, and coverage of our awards. This year we held a hugely successful guideline workshop for the management of Dentine Hypersensitivity. Enclosed, there are details of this process along with a reflection from, Rachael Clampin, a member of our Patient Forum who attended the workshop. Each of these sections reflects the breadth of activity within the Society and the energy of our members.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles to

this edition, as well as our Council and management team (the amazing Paula and Jo!) who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure everything comes together. The Periodical is a real team effort and it is a privilege to bring it to you each year.

Please do continue to engage with the BSP through our newsletters, webinars, and social media. We are always keen to hear from members, whether through contributions to future editions, involvement in Society events, or by applying for one of our prizes and awards.

I hope you enjoy this year's Periodical. It reflects not only our work within the UK but also our place in the wider international community of periodontology. Thank you for being part of that journey.

Best wishes,

Alex

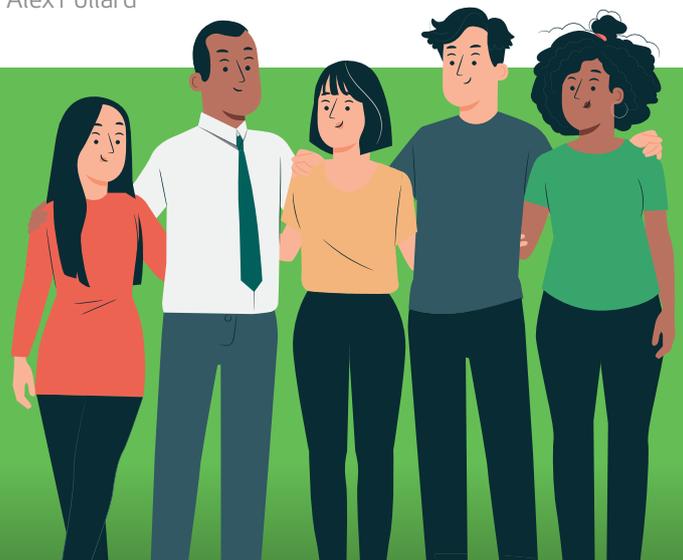
Dr Alex Pollard

Article contributions

Don't forget that we love to hear from you! Whether it be feedback about our work or to share a news story with us. We send monthly e-newsletters to our members and the Periodical is printed annually. If you would like to contribute an article, then please contact us:

Paula Dunn, BSP, PO BOX 261, Liverpool, L26 6WP

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The Future Is Bright



It has been a tremendous honour to lead the Society this year and serve as President. With the unwavering support of the dedicated volunteers on BSP Council, we've worked together to bring our new **Strategic Plan** to life. It has been an incredible year so far and I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved together.

As we look ahead, plans are already underway for next year, and I'm excited about the many projects we have in the pipeline. The momentum we've built is inspiring, and the future of the Society looks brighter than ever.

A Heartfelt Thank You

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

- **BSP Council**,
- The **Early Career Group Committee**, and
- Our **Undergraduate Representatives**

— for your exceptional efforts in advancing so many of our strategic goals this year. You've worked tirelessly across multiple initiatives to promote periodontology and highlight the importance of gum health. The time, energy and passion you freely give to the Society are deeply appreciated.

My thanks also go to **Paula and Joanne**, whose outstanding management of the Society has been instrumental to our success. Their teamwork, professionalism and commitment continue to be invaluable and BSP Council is incredibly grateful for all they do.

Patient Engagement at the Core

We remain deeply committed to working alongside our **Patient Forum**, ensuring that the patient voice is embedded in everything we do. Their contributions at Council meetings, workshops and across various projects have enriched our work and reinforced our focus on delivering truly patient-centred care.

Patient representation is essential. Every aspect of our clinical, educational and research activities is designed to improve the lives of those we serve. I am truly grateful to each and every one of our patient volunteers.

A Growing, Diverse Membership

Our membership continues to grow and with it, the richness of our community. From specialists and generalists to researchers, academics, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental nurses and students — we represent the full breadth of the profession.

Your loyalty, engagement and support are the foundation of our success. We are committed to keeping your interests at the heart of all we do, and I hope you continue to feel supported through our communications, educational offerings and wider initiatives.

Supporting the Next Generation

Our **Awards & Prizes** reflect our commitment to nurturing the next generation of oral health professionals. It is inspiring to read how this support has helped shape the learning journeys and careers of our award recipients. These stories are a powerful reminder of the positive impact we can make by investing in emerging talent.

Looking Ahead

As I prepare to hand over the Presidency at the start of 2026, I do so with complete confidence in the future of the Society. Under the capable leadership of Dr Paul Baker, I know BSP will continue to thrive and build on the strong foundations we've laid.

I already see the rising stars within our membership — the future leaders who will carry BSP forward and help us achieve our mission of:

"Periodontal Health for a Better Life."

Thank you once again for your support and for being part of this incredible journey.

Warmest regards,

Professor Nicola West

**President, British Society
of Periodontology and
Implant Dentistry**



Why Join the British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (BSP)?

By Dr Chandni Shah, Chair of the Early Career Group

There's never been a better time to become a member of the BSP. Whether you're:

- An undergraduate student exploring your future
- A dental care professional aiming to stay ahead
- A general dental practitioner refining your skills, or
- A specialist committed to lifelong learning —

There's a place for you in the BSP community.

Membership Benefits

We're more than a professional society — we're a passionate, welcoming community dedicated to advancing periodontal and implant care while supporting your professional development.

As a BSP member, you'll enjoy access to:

- A **monthly newsletter** and **annual magazine**
- Regular **news and event updates**
- **Free educational webinars**
- **Discounted rates** for hands-on **masterclass events** and our **Annual Conference**
- Full online access to the **Journal of Clinical Periodontology**
- **Awards & Prizes**

Early Career Group (ECG)

The **ECG** is a vibrant committee made up of specialist trainees, general dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists in the early stages of their careers.

They are dedicated to supporting, educating, and representing students and early career professionals — helping to bridge the gap between training and the wider periodontal community.

By engaging with the ECG, you can:

- Build a strong network within and beyond the BSP
- Gain leadership and educational experience
- Participate in tailored events and masterclasses

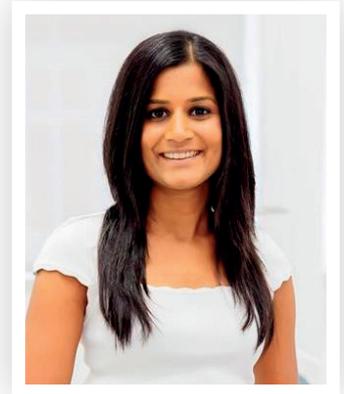
Annual Conference

Our **flagship 3-day Annual Conference** is a must-attend event for dental professionals, featuring:

- A **dynamic scientific programme** with leading national and international speakers
- Sessions designed for **every member of the dental team**

But it's not just about learning — it's also about connecting.

We kick off the event with an **Early Career Group social evening** filled with team games, food and drinks — a great way to unwind and build lasting professional relationships outside the lecture theatre.



Raising Public Awareness: Gum Health Day

Gum Health Day is a cornerstone of our public-facing work. This annual initiative raises awareness of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and their links to general health.

As a member, you're encouraged to get involved — helping amplify the importance of gum health to patients and the public.

Representing You Nationally

We actively represent our members in key policy discussions, including:

- The **Office of the Chief Dental Officer**
- The **General Dental Council**
- Other **national stakeholders**

Our aim is to ensure the voices of **professionals** and **patients** are heard in shaping future oral healthcare policy in the UK.

Masterclass Events

The **ECG** organise an annual hands-on masterclass event and have covered topics including:

- **Mucogingival surgery**
- **Crown lengthening**
- **MINST** (Minimally Invasive Non-Surgical Therapy)

We've also collaborated with the **Specialist Registrars in Restorative Dentistry Group (SRRDG)** for joint study days.

These sessions offer:

- Practical experience in advanced techniques
- Peer-to-peer learning
- A safe space for innovation and skill-building

📅 **Upcoming events:** Stay updated via our **Events Calendar**:

<https://www.bsperio.org.uk/events/bsp-event-calendar>

Join Us Today

Wherever you are in your professional journey — undergraduate, dental hygienist, therapist, GDP or specialist — we invite you to become part of the BSP family.

You won't just be joining a Society. You'll be joining a movement built on **excellence, innovation, and community**.

📄 **APPLY ONLINE TODAY:** <https://www.bsperio.org.uk/professionals/join-the-bsp>

Awards & Prizes

To reflect our commitment to progression and innovation, the BSP awards annual prizes for research into periodontology and implant dentistry both for undergraduate, postgraduate and qualified dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists.

We understand that putting yourself forward for a professional award can feel daunting — especially if you're at an early stage in your career.

However, our awards are designed to **support your development**, strengthen your professional skills and create valuable opportunities to help you **advance your career**.

So, be brave, embrace a little healthy competitiveness and remember: **"You've got to be in it to win it!"**

Visit the website to view all eligibility criteria, application details and submission deadlines: <https://www.bsperio.org.uk/professionals/awards>



Member Case Reports

We invite our members to submit clinical cases to be shared with the wider BSP community. It is our hope that these cases will serve as a valuable focus for discussion and learning.

The BSP is keen to build a growing **library of diverse clinical cases**, which will become an invaluable educational resource for all members, from students to experienced clinicians.

If you have a case you'd like to share, please consider submitting it by following the guidance below. We look forward to your contributions. <https://www.bsperio.org.uk/members/case-studies>

Guidance for Submitting a Case Report

We invite you to submit a patient-centred case report focused on the periodontal care you have provided. Submissions may include non-surgical and/or surgical interventions, though please note that surgical cases are not considered inherently superior. Well-documented, high-quality non-surgical therapy is strongly encouraged and welcomed in both award categories.

Case Report Requirements:

- **Content:** Your report should include:
 - A clear outline of the patient's clinical condition before treatment

- A description of the treatment provided
- The outcomes of that treatment
- A brief reflection on the case
- **Illustration:** Use photographs and radiographs, where appropriate, to support your narrative.
- **Clinical Standards:** Treatment protocols should adhere to UK best practice guidelines wherever possible. Where deviations occur, please justify the rationale clearly.
- **Patient Perspective:** We encourage you to include the patient's perspective on the treatment experience, where appropriate.
- **Length:** Case reports should not exceed 1,500 words and should include references to relevant key periodontal literature.
- **Consent and Confidentiality:**
 - It is the author's responsibility to ensure appropriate, signed patient consent has been obtained for the case and any supporting images.
 - Please do not include any identifiable patient details in your submission.

Prize

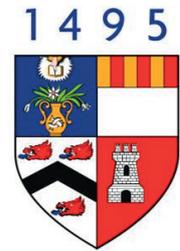
The prize will include a certificate, a cash award of £250 and one-year's subscription as a member of the British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry.

BSP Research Grant

The BSP Research Grant is designed to support postgraduate research development and training. Its primary aim is to enable successful applicants to undertake research projects with a clear and practical application in one or more of the following areas:

- Periodontology
- Achievement and maintenance of peri-implant health
- Management of peri-implant disease

We are pleased to share that Dr Sara Sharaf, recipient of the BSP Research Grant in 2024, has kindly reflected on how the award has significantly influenced and advanced her research journey.



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

Focused investigations into epigenetic regulation in oral microorganisms

by Dr Sara Sharaf



I am honoured to be the 2024 recipient of the BSP Research Grant. My interest in periodontal disease pathogenesis began during my BDS at Misr International University, Egypt, and grew further with an MSc in Oral Biology at Cardiff University. This path led me to a PhD at the University of Aberdeen, where I study host microbial interactions

and environmental triggers that can tip oral microbiota towards a more pathogenic state.

My research focuses on *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, a keystone periodontal bacterium linked not only to periodontitis but also to a range of systemic inflammatory conditions. While its role in disease is well recognised, the epigenetic mechanisms (changes in gene activity without altering the DNA sequence) that drive variation in *P. gingivalis* behaviour remain largely unexplored.

In the Hijazi Lab, we investigate phase-variable Type I restriction-modification system “genetic switches,” which allow bacteria to alter their behaviour through rearranging sections of their DNA rather than making permanent mutations. These switches can influence important traits such as host invasion, immune evasion, biofilm formation and antimicrobial resistance.

The BSP Research Grant was pivotal in advancing this work. It enabled us to expand our experiments, allowing detailed comparison of different recombination-based variants of this system and their effects on bacterial traits. With this approach established, we have begun screening subgingival plaque samples from volunteers to identify these systems in freshly isolated *P. gingivalis* strains from a variety of disease states.

I also attended FEMS Micro 2025 in Milan, my first international conference, where I presented findings made possible through BSP’s support for my research to an audience of researchers from around the world. The event provided valuable feedback, new perspectives on my work and opportunities to connect with fellow microbiologists in the field of bacterial epigenetics.

This project represents one of the first focused investigations into epigenetic regulation in oral microorganisms. By mapping these genetic switches, we aim to gain a clearer understanding of the molecular tools *P. gingivalis* uses to drive chronic inflammation and tissue destruction. These insights could pave the way for new therapeutic approaches and improved clinical outcomes in periodontitis and other inflammatory diseases.

My BSP membership and subsequently the BSP Research Grant has accelerated our progress and laid the groundwork for discoveries with significance for both oral and systemic health.

BSP Clinical Fellowship Award

The BSP Clinical Fellowship Award is designed to enhance clinical training by supporting successful applicants to participate in or attend events that offer a clear educational benefit, with explicitly stated learning outcomes.

We are delighted that Dr Giuseppe Mainas and Dr Pasquale Santamaria have kindly shared their learning journeys with us, highlighting the significant impact that receiving the award has had on their personal training and professional development.

Advanced Bone and Soft Tissue Regeneration

by Dr Giuseppe Mainas



I am a specialist in Periodontology and Implant Dentistry based in London, working in private practice and as a postdoctoral researcher at King's College London. In 2023, I was fortunate to be awarded the BSP Clinical Fellowship Award, which provided me with the opportunity to attend the *3-Day Advanced Bone and Soft Tissue Course* with

Professor Istvan Urban in April 2024, in Budapest, Hungary.

This intensive programme attracted clinicians from around the world and offered an exceptional combination of live surgery, hands-on workshops, and focused theoretical teaching. Professor Urban's ability to simplify complex concepts was outstanding, making advanced techniques both understandable and immediately applicable to clinical practice.

A major highlight for me was gaining an in-depth understanding of vertical bone regeneration in both anterior and posterior regions of the maxilla and mandible. The course provided a comprehensive repertoire of techniques, from precise flap designs to the strategic use of biomaterials and an emphasis on the interplay between hard and soft tissue management for predictable outcomes.

One particularly valuable component was the detailed training on periosteal releasing incisions on both buccal and lingual/palatal aspects. This skill is crucial for achieving tension-free flap advancement while safeguarding surrounding nerves and anatomical

structures. Having the opportunity to practise these techniques under close supervision was a game-changer, improving both my confidence and precision.

The live surgical demonstrations allowed us to see the integration of these techniques in real-time, with clear explanations of each decision-making step. The hands-on sessions reinforced the theory and enabled us to refine our fine motor skills with immediate expert feedback.

Beyond the academic content, attending the course in Budapest offered a rich networking experience. I met talented colleagues from various countries, exchanged experiences and ideas, and discussed the challenges and innovations in regenerative periodontal and implant therapy. These connections have already led to ongoing professional discussions and potential collaborations.

Budapest itself provided a beautiful backdrop for learning. An evening spent exploring the historic city centre, its Danube-side architecture, and sampling Hungarian cuisine made the experience truly memorable.

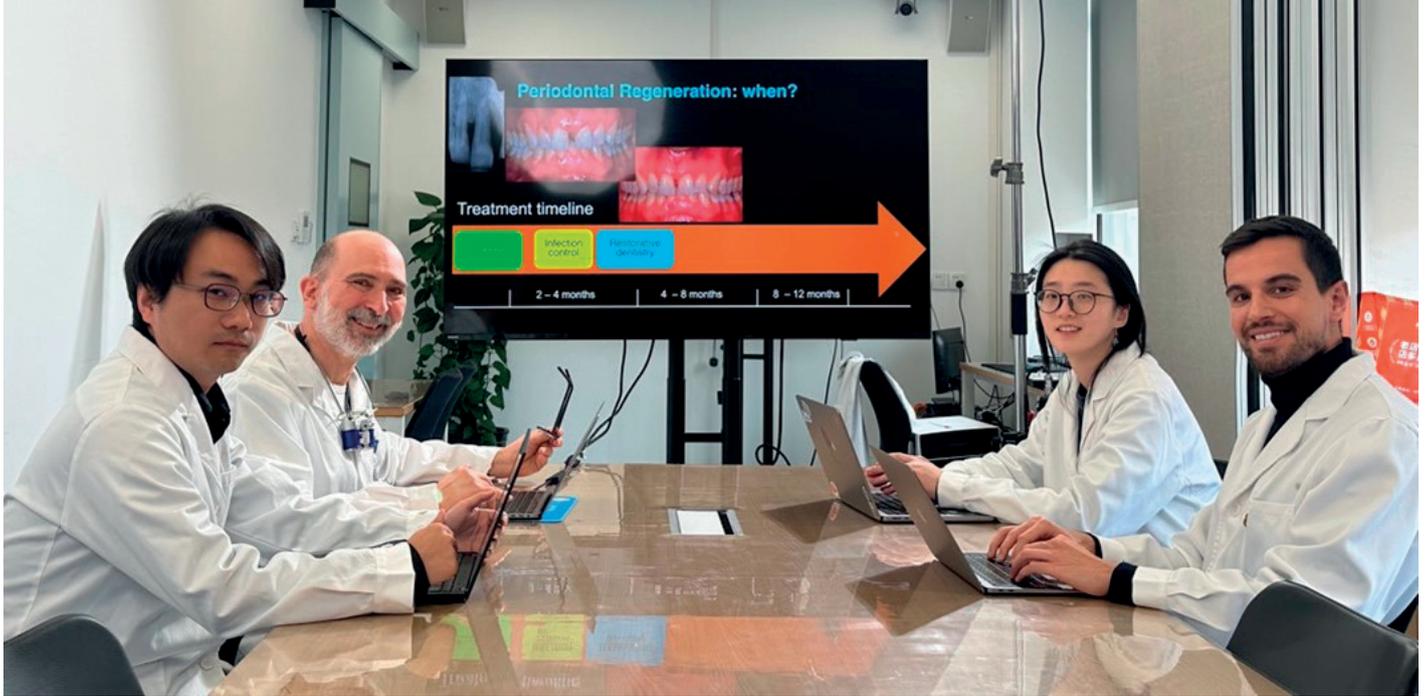


I am deeply grateful to the BSP for supporting my participation in this outstanding programme. The skills, knowledge and professional relationships gained have already had a positive impact on my clinical work and will continue to shape my approach to complex bone and soft tissue regeneration cases.

For any BSP member considering applying for the Clinical Fellowship Award, I cannot recommend it highly enough. It is an unparalleled opportunity to elevate your clinical expertise, broaden your professional network, and bring valuable learning back to your patients and peers.

Full application details are available on the BSP website:

www.bsperio.org.uk/professionals/awards



Excellence Centre for AI and Periodontal Diagnosis in Shanghai

by Dr Pasquale Santamaria



At the end of February, I had the incredible opportunity to spend two weeks at the Excellence Centre for AI and Periodontal Diagnosis in Shanghai, under the expert guidance of Professor Maurizio Tonetti, Director at the Perio-Implant Innovation Centre of Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital,

Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine; College of Stomatology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. This centre represents a true hub of innovation, where clinical expertise and cutting-edge technologies merge to transform the way periodontal diseases are diagnosed and managed. Throughout my stay, I was immersed in an environment where different diagnostic modalities such as clinical photographs, panoramic radiographs, salivary biomarker analysis, and microbiological plaque profiling were seamlessly integrated, often through sophisticated artificial intelligence systems. These approaches offered a comprehensive and futuristic vision of periodontal diagnosis, aimed at improving both early detection and long-term monitoring of gum disease.

One of the most enriching aspects of this experience was the opportunity to participate in dynamic meetings with PhD researchers. Under the skilful guidance of Professor Tonetti, we were constantly encouraged to find connections between our individual projects, promoting a collaborative atmosphere that stimulated new ideas and interdisciplinary innovation. His

visionary approach to periodontology, always looking toward future applications, set the tone for all of our discussions.

What made my time in Shanghai even more special was the personal attention Professor Tonetti dedicated to my work. He generously arranged several one-on-one meetings during which he reviewed my research ideas, provided thoughtful comments, and shared invaluable advice for my future development as a researcher. In our discussions, we explored how different clinical goals would require different diagnostic strategies. We examined in detail how combining diagnostic tools, such as the aMMP-8 salivary test, AI analysis of OPGs, clinical questionnaires and advanced proteomic analyses, could significantly strengthen diagnostic capabilities.

This experience in Shanghai was transformative. It provided me not only with technical and scientific skills but also with a renewed passion for research and innovation. The mentorship I received, the collaborative spirit I experienced and the exposure to some of the most advanced diagnostic technologies in periodontology will serve as a foundation for the next steps of my academic career.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry for awarding me the BSP Clinical Fellowship, which made this incredible opportunity possible. Their generous support has been instrumental not only in allowing me to attend this exceptional training programme but also in helping to shape my future career in academic periodontology.

BSP Leads Global Effort to Develop S3 Level Guideline on Dentine Hypersensitivity

In a landmark initiative led by **Professor Nicola West**, the **British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (BSP)** has spearheaded the creation of a global **S3 Level Practice Guideline on Dentine Hypersensitivity (DH)**. This ambitious project aims to equip oral healthcare professionals worldwide with clear, evidence-based therapeutic pathways tailored to individual patient diagnoses and make recommendations on specific interventions to improve care outcomes for patients suffering from dentine hypersensitivity.

An expert working group was formed to develop **Systematic Reviews and PICO(T)s** across seven key areas:

- **Group 1: Aetiology Tooth wear DH** (Led by Prof Anderson Hara, Indiana USA)
- **Group 2: Aetiology Recession** (Led by Prof Anton Sculean, Bern, Switzerland)
- **Group 3: Trial Design (Stimuli DH)** (Led by Dr Alex Pollard, Bristol, UK)
- **Group 4: Lived Experience** (Led by Prof Koula Asimakopoulou, Oxford Brookes, UK)
- **Group 5: QoL and pain** (Led by Prof Barry Gibson Sheffield, UK)
- **Group 6: Home Treatment of DH** (Led by Dr Alex Gormley, Bristol, UK)
- **Group 7: Professional Treatment** (Led by Dr Joshua Twigg, Leeds UK)

A Global Collaboration

In **September**, the BSP convened a two-day **consensus meeting** at the scenic **Kew Gardens**, bringing together a diverse and inclusive panel of oral healthcare professionals. Attendees included dental nurses, dental hygienists, dental therapists, general practitioners, academics and specialists from both private and NHS sectors. The discussions also benefitted from the input of experts in medicine, behavioural science, pain management, and quality of life, as well as key stakeholders and members of the BSP Patient Forum.

We were honoured to welcome **Professor Ina Kopp** as moderator. Renowned for her expertise in international guideline development, Professor Kopp's insightful leadership and facilitation played a vital role in shaping the consensus.



Reflecting on the event, **Professor Nicola West** remarked:

"It was wonderful to have so many experts generously give up their time to attend the workshop. Colleagues who were unable to travel also joined us online from as far afield as UAE and China, making valuable contributions to the discussions. It was fantastic to witness the enthusiasm, passion and collaborative spirit in the room as we worked together to achieve our goal."





Moving Forward

A follow-up virtual meeting in October was held to finalise voting on the recommendations. The team is now drafting a comprehensive paper summarising the findings, with publication planned in Perio 2000 (Open Access) in January 2026.

Dr Devan Raindi is leading the BSP dissemination strategy, focused on:

1. Extending the reach of the evidence-based guideline
2. Improving clinical application of research findings

3. Empowering patients to understand and engage with the evidence

With the generous support of **Partner Sponsor Haleon**, the BSP will produce a suite of freely available resources, including:

- Infographics for **dental professionals**
- Infographics for **patients and the public**
- **Information videos**
- **Real-life patient case studies**

These materials will be downloadable from the BSP website and can be used in dental practice settings or shared directly with patients. Additionally, educational webinars are planned for 2026 to further embed the guidance into clinical practice.

Representing the Patient Forum at the Dentine Hypersensitivity Clinical Practice Guidelines Consensus Meeting

As a member of the **BSP Patient Forum**, a group of volunteers who meet regularly to share experiences and ideas, I was honoured to represent the Forum at the Dentine Hypersensitivity Clinical Practice Guidelines Consensus Meeting, held in the beautiful setting of Kew Gardens.

The Forum plays an important role in giving a voice to the wider community, supporting the BSP, and helping to shape the future of gum health in the UK. As a school teacher, I was fortunate that the event took place just before the start of term, making it possible for me to attend.

Preparing for the Workshop

In preparation, **Professor Nicola West**, President of the BSP, kindly sent me background reading from the Journal of Clinical Periodontology and the Journal of Dentistry. All delegates also received systematic review documents to read in advance. So, armed with my notes and a good dose of curiosity, I set off for Kew.

Diving Into Discussions

There were more than 60 participants, with a few joining online from across the globe. We were divided into three working groups — mine focused on 'Lived Experience and Quality of Life', which felt like a perfect fit from a patient perspective.

With so many experts in the room — including the past, present, and future Presidents of the BSP — I did wonder if I'd be able to contribute meaningfully. Some of these individuals had even authored the articles I had studied. It felt a bit like meeting "dental royalty"! But any nerves were quickly put to rest. Everyone was warm, welcoming and genuinely interested in patient input.

Our group atmosphere was inclusive and informal. Every voice was heard and my contributions were valued. During breaks, lunch, and dinner, it was great to chat with people about not just oral health but normal everyday life too.

Making a Difference

We worked from 9am to 6pm on the first day, with plenty of lively and thoughtful discussion. I was able to share my own experiences, speak up on behalf of patients and respond to questions from the group. I truly felt I was representing the Patient Forum in a meaningful way.

What stood out most was seeing firsthand just how rigorous the Clinical Guidelines development process is. The level of expertise in the room was remarkable and every statement was carefully debated and refined until consensus was reached. It was a reminder that, as patients, we really are in safe hands.

A Rewarding Experience

It was hugely rewarding to see the BSP not only include the Patient Forum in such a significant process but actively seek out and value our input. We're not just a token body — we are part of the conversation and our experiences genuinely help shape the future of dental care.

I would strongly encourage my fellow Forum members to put themselves forward for future workshops. This was an enlightening, empowering, and thoroughly worthwhile experience — one I'm truly grateful for.



Thank you Rachael Clampin for sharing such a thoughtful and authentic reflection — it beautifully captures the experience of representing the BSP Patient Forum.

BSP Around the World: Showcasing Our Global Impact

Many people may not realise that the British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (BSP) has a truly international reach, with members in over 36 countries across the globe. This global community is a testament to the Society's reputation for excellence and its commitment to advancing periodontal education and care worldwide.

As part of this special feature—*BSP Around the World*—we invited some of our international members to share their experiences and the benefits they've gained from being part of the BSP. We've been delighted to receive stories that speak to the value of membership, from access to high-quality educational resources and clinical guidance, to networking opportunities and involvement in global initiatives.

We hope this collection of member insights will not only highlight the far-reaching impact of the BSP but also celebrate the way the Society continues to unite professionals around the world who share a passion for periodontology, regardless of where they live or practise.



CPD carried to the Caribbean

By Dr Shaun Ramlogan

Warmest greetings from Shaun Ramlogan in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies!

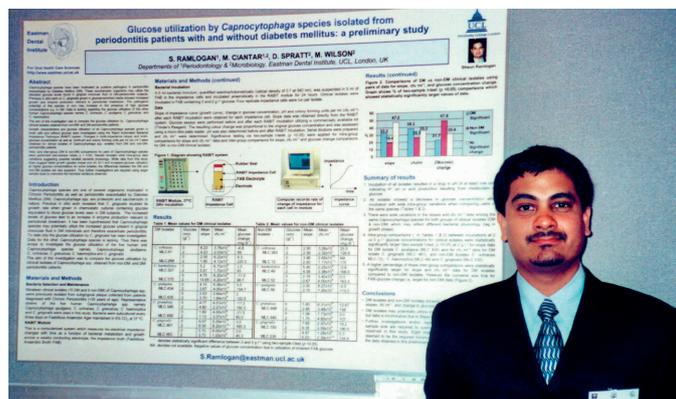
In 2001, I graduated from Eastman Dental Institute (UCL) attaining both an MSc and MClin Dent in Periodontology under the astute leadership of Prof Maurizio Tonetti and Prof Gareth Griffiths. Since then, I have been engaged in private practice and the lead lecturer in undergraduate periodontology at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad, with near future aspirations of postgraduate periodontology training.

In the same year I was encouraged to join the British Society of Periodontology (BSP) by my charismatic research supervisor, Dr Marilou Ciantar. My inaugural BSP meeting with my first

poster presentation was in Glasgow (2001). This laid the foundation for my continued BSP relationship over the next 25 years.

In Trinidad, challenges to practicing periodontology relate to the limited support from industry, poor mindset against speciality care or referral and the limited patient financial resources, mostly dictated by their dental insurance allowances. Hopefully, my contribution to the UWI dental graduates' education eventually sees this required shift in the practitioners' mindset through the critical mass effect.

BSP directly and indirectly through membership with the European Federation of Periodontology has aided in providing updated guidelines via online, publication and meetings/conferences. This serves me well in my capacity as the educational resource person for the English-speaking Caribbean producing dental graduates for Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, Bahamas, Grenada, St Vincent, St Lucia, Antigua, Anguilla and Montserrat. The BSP flowchart for the 2018 periodontal disease classification provided an important summary schematic for my teaching portfolio. Additionally, my invaluable BSP membership has allowed me to translate best practice to my patients within the Caribbean. Both students and patients are frequently referred to the BSP online resources.



BSP Spring Meeting Glasgow 2001
Dr Shaun Ramlogan

The inability and reluctance to travel during the COVID epidemic years were ameliorated by the many online webinars. These continue to feature many of the lead reference people in the related subjects and provide excellent updated continuing professional development (CPD) globally.

My most recent BSP conference was the excellently delivered 2023 meeting in Birmingham, organised by Professor Mike Milward and his team. It was clear to me that the BSP conferences have continued to mature over the years, consistently reaching higher standards in both content and organisation, networking opportunities and rekindling friendships are important at these meetings.

It is always a pleasure to meet up with the many dynamic persons from my UCL past, including Dr Ulpee Darbar, Prof Ken Eaton, Prof Gareth Griffiths, Prof Ian Needleman and Dr Phil

Ower. At the 2023 BSP meeting, I was pleasantly surprised to meet Dr Ciantar who first introduced me to it all.

My invaluable undergraduate educator in periodontology and mentor Prof John Sweet first reached our shores in 1993, Prof Richard Palmer (undergraduate and postgraduate external examiner) and Prof Jeremy Rees (collaborator) have all left memorable reunions through the years and laid the influence of BSP in Trinidad.

Inclusion through BSP was an avenue for CPD in periodontology that could be disseminated to all within the Caribbean. I trust that many members can reflect on similar experiences and will maintain their links with such an illustrious Society.

Thank you BSP and the lovely support team!

Practising periodontology in Hong Kong

By Dr. Dae-Hyun Lee

Over the past two decades, I have been a member of the British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (BSP). Currently, I am a private specialist in periodontology practising in Hong Kong, a city renowned for its multiculturalism and captivating skyline.

I obtained my bachelor's degree in 1993, followed by a master's degree in periodontology and a Doctor of Philosophy degree. In addition to my private practice, I hold the position of Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Hong Kong, a globally recognised dental school ranked by QS World University Rankings. Furthermore, I serve as an Honorary Consultant in the Dental Service of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority (HA).

Initially, I joined the BSP with the intention of expanding my knowledge of periodontal advancements in the United Kingdom (UK). Instead, I was provided with connections to specialists in the UK and the rest of Europe, allowing me to share and gain insights into different ideologies, methodologies, and practices. Not only that, the BSP website continuously provides up-to-date information, including newsletters, webinars and summarised guidelines, which have proven invaluable in my daily clinical practice, particularly in the field of periodontics.

Currently, a few of the challenges to dentists in Hong Kong are socioeconomic changes and new requirements from the Hong Kong Department of Health. Recently, the more affordable treatment fees in mainland China have impacted private practices in Hong Kong, particularly following the reopening of the border between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, a nearby

special administrative region. While this situation may not be entirely disadvantageous for Hong Kong dentists, it prompts us to explore ways to enhance and differentiate our extensive dental knowledge and skills accumulated over many years.

Additionally, new regulations for hospitals and clinics, encompassing all medical and dental facilities, will finally come into effect at the end of this year. I eagerly anticipate witnessing a significant milestone in dental practices in Hong Kong, which could elevate clinic standards and improve the quality of services we provide. Overall, I express my sincere wish for the BSP's continued growth and provision of opportunities for dentists like me who possess a keen interest in periodontology.



BSP benefits in Boston

by Dr Maja Sabalic-Schoener

I am an international BSP member based in Boston, Massachusetts. I currently work as a postdoctoral researcher at the ADA Forsyth Institute (AFI), which has recently made the exciting move into a new building in Somerville, just north of Boston. The relocation has provided us with modern facilities and brought new opportunities for collaboration. At AFI, I have the privilege of contributing to new developments in oral health through research and being immersed in a vibrant environment of scientific advancement and innovation. As a member of Dr. Thomas Van Dyke's laboratory, I enjoy participating in basic science and translational efforts aimed at developing treatment approaches for resolving inflammation and promoting periodontal regeneration. Besides research, I am also involved in teaching and I practise at the ADA Forsyth Faculty Associates Dental Clinic.

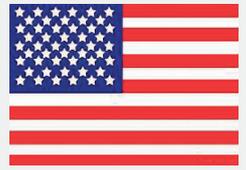
Although I am now based in the US, my formative years in the profession were spent in the UK, where I completed my PhD at King's College London and specialty training in periodontology at UCL Eastman Dental Institute/UCLH. I became a member of the BSP when I started my specialty training. Over the years, the BSP has supported me in continued education with well-structured guidance for clinical practice and numerous opportunities for learning and connecting with

the professional community. I also find BSP publications very useful in supporting discussions with patients about their periodontal and overall health. One of the most valuable member benefits for me is the online education. Webinars are highly relevant to my clinical practice and have become an integral part of my continued education. Given the time difference between the UK and Boston, I greatly appreciate that webinar recordings are made available to members.

My connection to BSP goes beyond education. I have fond memories of attending BSP annual conferences with my clinical department, as well as events organised by the BSP Early Career Group.

I now look forward to attending future BSP events and reconnecting with colleagues who share the same commitment to excellence in patient care and advancing our field. Until then, I remain grateful for the opportunities and resources the Society provides and look forward to staying involved with the BSP for many years to come.

Maja Sabalic-Schoener, Boston, Massachusetts, USA



BSP Educational Webinars

The BSP continues to deliver a dynamic and varied **educational webinar programme**, covering topics that appeal to all members.

All webinars are **free for members**, but please remember to **register in advance** via the Events page. Once registered, you can watch **live on the night** or **on demand for up to six months after the event**, with **CPD** available.

Our website also offers a range of useful features to help you manage your BSP activities:

- **Bookings** – Review your event bookings and print confirmations for your records.
- **Payments** – Access and print invoices or receipts for subscriptions and event fees.
- **Certificates** – Complete course evaluations and download your historical CPD certificates anytime.

Visit the BSP website today to explore our latest educational opportunities and make the most of your membership benefits!

 <https://www.bsperio.org.uk/events/bsp-event-calendar>



Joining BSP has impacted my professional career

By Dr Baiju R M

I live in the picturesque southern end of India, Kerala, the place popularly known among visitors as, "Gods own country." I received my masters in Periodontics from India way back in 1999 and am currently affiliated to the Government Dental College Kottayam as Professor.

I joined BSP in 2020 during covid and I consider this decision as one of the most impactful in my professional career. Passing the Royal Colleges membership in Periodontics examination was a long-time ambition of mine. My friend, Dr Jumoke Adeyemi (Senior Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Periodontology at the University of Liverpool School of Dentistry) advised that I consider joining the BSP to get familiar with the UK protocols for managing periodontal diseases, as this would be of benefit whilst preparing for the exam in addition to utilising the scientific resources. BSP's highly informative webinars and publications helped me pass the membership examinations of all three royal colleges in the UK with good scores.

Since joining the BSP, my outlook towards the practice of periodontics has changed. Now it has become more preventive and conservative, more integrated with other restorative specialties and more importantly evidence based. I have great appreciation for the BSP's leadership and vision in implementing the 2018 classification and simplifying it for general dental practice. It has revolutionised the way periodontitis is diagnosed and managed globally.

Treatment decisions are hard to make in advanced cases

of periodontitis as it calls for an interdisciplinary approach. In this regard, BSP has made life easy. I routinely utilise the BSP criteria and the BSP adoption of the EFP clinical practice guidelines for providing care for my patients as well as for teaching students. The BSP flowcharts are hugely popular in this part of the world as well.

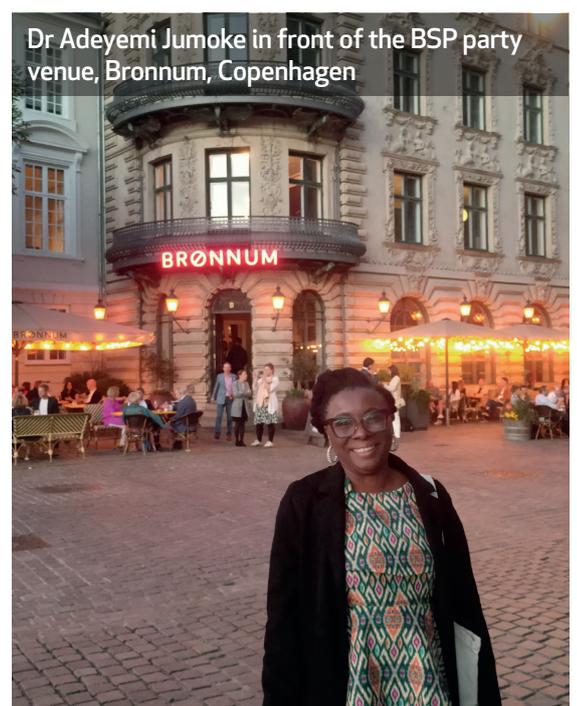
I have attended the last two Europerio conferences (Copenhagen and Vienna) and presented e-posters. Although I had booked for the BSP social events on both occasions, I could only attend the BSP evening in Copenhagen. This social event, along with the EuroPerio conference, is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members of the Society, especially for overseas members like me.

I am a frequent visitor to the website and a regular attender of the BSP webinars. One of my interesting cases was published by the BSP and is now available to view on the BSP website under Case Reports: <https://www.bsperio.org.uk/members/case-studies>

It has been 5 years since I became a BSP member and I cherish every occasion to connect with colleagues in the UK and elsewhere through the platform.

I take this opportunity to thank the ever-helpful BSP admin staff, especially Paula, for making communications to the society hassle-free.

Huge thanks for this opportunity to pen a few words.



BSP Membership: A Lifelong Anchor in Periodontal Practice from Nairobi to the World

By Dr. Tonnie K. Mulli, PhD

Jambo, (greetings) from Nairobi, Kenya. My name is Dr. Tonnie K. Mulli, and I am honoured to serve as a senior lecturer in Periodontology and Implant Dentistry at the University of Nairobi Dental School. I am also the founder and lead consultant at *The Periodontist Dental Centre*, a specialist practice located in Muthaiga, Nairobi. Additionally, I serve as an expert consultant with the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council, the regulatory authority for dental and medical practitioners in Kenya. Through these roles, I am privileged to contribute to clinical care, academic advancement, and professional regulation in my country.

I became a member of the British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (BSP) in 2007, during my postgraduate studies at Queen Mary University of London, under the magnanimous Prof Francis Hughes. That period was foundational for my career and BSP became a critical source of professional nourishment, helping me deepen my academic and clinical perspectives.

In Kenya, managing periodontal patients presents some unique challenges. For instance, I have observed a higher frequency of aggressive periodontitis than I did during my time in the UK—likely due to both genetic predispositions and delayed presentation. Another major hurdle is limited access to care: many patients are unable to afford specialist services and, unfortunately, insurance providers often exclude vital therapies like scaling and root planing, misclassifying them as cosmetic. To compound this, public awareness about gum disease is low, with many assuming that tooth loss due to periodontal conditions is simply part of aging.

Although the BSP cannot directly address these systemic issues within our local healthcare framework, it provides

invaluable support through its scientific content, educational resources, and clinical guidelines. Thanks to the BSP's consistent output of evidence-based materials, I remain up to date with the latest developments in periodontal diagnosis and therapy. This helps ensure that my practice in Nairobi meets global standards of care.

Resources from the BSP—such as Gum Health Day materials, patient education videos and infographics—have been essential tools in patient communication. They help demystify gum disease, promote prevention and build trust. I often share these resources with my patients during consultations, especially when explaining the importance of maintenance therapy or the chronic nature of periodontal diseases.

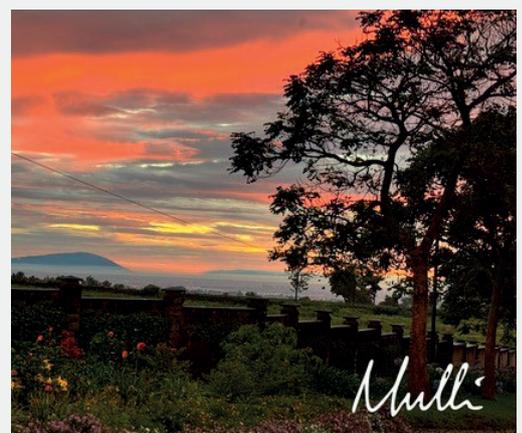
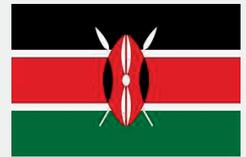
The BSP's online webinars have become an indispensable part of my ongoing professional development. While time zone differences sometimes prevent me from attending them live, I make it a point to watch the recordings later. They offer a convenient and reliable way to stay informed.

I last attended a BSP Conference in person in 2012 during my time in the UK, and I truly look forward to participating again, once a few logistical matters are resolved.

Some of my fondest memories with BSP were forged at these conferences—meeting leading minds in periodontology and implantology, engaging in inspiring academic discussions and presenting my own work to an appreciative, knowledgeable audience. These experiences were not only educational but also affirming and they laid the foundation for lifelong professional relationships.

BSP continues to be a global beacon in my professional journey, guiding my commitment to periodontal health here in Kenya and beyond.

Asante sana.



BSP has provided the light

by Dr Matthew Hunter

Hello Friends,

My name is Matthew Hunter and I am a specialist periodontist in Sydney, Australia. I trained at UCLH and completed an Anatomy degree at UCL on scholarship. After hospital training and Fellowship, I completed specialist training in Periodontology at King's College London as a specialist registrar to Prof. Richard Palmer. I moved to Sydney, Australia to run the undergraduate and specialist periodontal training programs as a consultant and Senior Lecturer at Westmead Hospital and The University of Sydney. I have a lifelong interest in molecular biology, molecular genetics, morphology and stem cell culture which I introduced to the research programs.

I married a fashion designer, Julia, and after our family grew, I moved to private practice and founded a private specialist practice called the Gum Sanctuary, dedicated to gentle periodontal care and regeneration, and ran courses.

I first became aware of the Society in the 1980's when I entered the BSP essay competition on periodontal probing, having had some luck with the Harty essay. I joined the Society in 1995 as I was completing Fellowship whilst researching tissue engineering at UCL/Eastman and had set off down a pathway for periodontology. The BSP was absolutely marvellous in forming an understanding of the field. The BSP was fully integrated into all aspects of the specialist training and also made it a lot of fun. The Society promoted useful opportunities to meet and visit other units and teachers in the field, and to a degree internationally.

For day-to-day specialist practice I constantly use the superb BSP protocols, which are quality assessed and upgraded. I trust implicitly correspondence from the Society and find the clarity of communication to be simply precise. I recall from Guy's the intense meetings of the BSP seniors assessing definitions and public statements explaining periodontology and the effort that went into weighing terms, phrases and words for accuracy, which was eye opening. I have seen firsthand, even from a younger age, the dedication required to run a professional society in the UK, I have a deep appreciation for the hard work and loyalty of the BSP's administrative staff. Their commitment is truly remarkable

and speaks volumes about the Society's ethos. It's not uncommon to receive replies to emails well outside of GMT hours—testament to a team that genuinely goes above and beyond to support its members.

The challenge of being so far away is considerable. Whilst I was excited to transfer the model of the specialty to students at all stages of dental education; there were few opportunities to visit the UK and Europe due to the usual constraints of academia and family. During this period the correspondence of the Society was absolutely central to skills development and teaching philosophies, particularly in ways to present new updates to the restorative models and EBD. The integration of the BSP with Wiley and the EFP has always been fantastic and is central to this process, but the BSP provided the light and I do not think it would be possible to develop without the live pipeline of guidance the BSP generates.

I have taught many students and practitioners on courses empowered by the models set by the BSP, which makes it easy to promote membership. Being so far away the Society is invaluable and has never failed in its support. The advent of the webinars and media was transformational in credentialing the BSP guidelines and for emerging trends of education. What particularly comes across very quickly to newcomers is the gentle teaching of the BSP and the kind help to members. The best event provided by the BSP is the annual meeting which I attended frequently before moving. Valued friendships and networks were renewed, and a warm sense of collegiate progress and teamwork was imparted by the Council.

My absolute best memory is being unable to move in socials at Brighton Hotel and the Royal Society with so many colleagues talking in such jovial high spirits. The Europerio

BSP event is also highly anticipated. I always enjoy these memories and hope to gather more!

Kindest regards,

Dr Matthew Hunter

Website: <https://thegumsanctuary.com.au/>

Instagram: [thegumsanctuary](https://www.instagram.com/thegumsanctuary)



Dr Matthew Hunter with former student Dr Natalie Leow at the BSP party in Vienna, EP11

Reflecting on my time as a BSP member

By Frederic Joachim

I am Dr Frédéric Joachim. I live in Villeneuve D'ascq and practice in Lille, both located in the north of France, close to Belgium.

My practice is limited to periodontology and implant surgery since 1986.

I joined the BSP at the end of 1987 when I started my M. Sc. at the Eastman Dental Hospital under the supervision of Professor Hubert. N. Newman (we loved so much to have very long English/French discussions about France and U.K.). Mr Dermott Strahan, a true gentleman, was the wonderful head of department. At that time, Mr Bernie Kieser was the first person who told me about the BSP. He spoke to me about BSP after one of his "strong review of literature" lectures (which started at 8 a.m. at the Eastman and finished in a pub sometime around 5 p.m.!). Eastman and London was a very great time for my perio education, for the English way of life, and for the human and social connections.

Nowadays, I still practice periodontology, the way my professors taught me and called at that time, "non-surgical therapy" (the oldest readers will understand what I mean). Results are so nice and conclusive at more than 35 years follow-up... the patients are so happy with the "soft" clinical treatment and pleased to keep their natural teeth.

I do have a fear that many younger generation dentists now prefer to treat advanced and severe periodontitis by simply removing teeth and putting in implants. This is certainly not my philosophy. I am a great believer that "the best implant for the patient is the natural tooth and our duty is to do all the treatments possible to keep it functional as long as

possible on the arch." I am absolutely convinced that the original tooth with its periodontal tissues is the best long-term solution and implants should be regarded as the last resort solution.

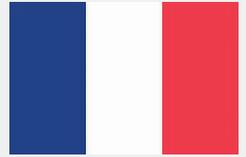
To keep this way of thinking, BSP helps me a lot because the Society keeps the line of "true periodontology" and has, for almost 35 years now, taken the lead in maintaining my periodontal education.

However, I have to confess that as an old periodontist, I am not a fanatic of webinars. I prefer the human contact. That is why I try to participate as much as possible by attending the meetings organised by the BSP. The last event I attended was in May this year, organised by the EFP in Vienna. That was again a great meeting and the BSP social evening party was truly excellent.

Reflecting on my time with BSP has me recalling my very first meeting which took place in Liverpool in 1988. At that time, Liverpool was a dangerous city and we were told to stay in this huge hotel built by Queen Victoria!!!! Another one comes to my mind, it was in London, and the gala evening was on boat on the Thames River... really fantastic! And there are so many others...

Finally, and for the many reasons I have explained, I would like to thank the BSP for its serious organisation, its quality and up to date knowledge shown during its meetings. I would like also to thank all the people who are involved in the organisation of the BSP, the meetings and the gala evening parties.

Merci beaucoup à vous tous.



Bridging Borders: Global Perspectives on Periodontal Care in Malaysia

By Dr Jeanette Chua & Dr Kuok Yew Jhin

The landscape of periodontal care in private practice in Malaysia has evolved significantly over the past decade and a half. Periodontology remained largely confined to public institutions and universities, with limited visibility in private care, as only a handful of periodontists were in private practice. This circumstance shaped how we approached our practice at Artius Dental Specialists, not only as clinicians treating complex cases, but as educators integrating periodontics into the daily workflow of general dentistry.

The lack of awareness and understanding of periodontal disease among Malaysians back then motivated us, as a group, to draw from our respective training backgrounds, including from the US and the UK, to develop a framework empowering our colleagues to carry out periodontal diagnostics confidently and accurately. And the influence of BSP and AAP to this philosophy, while subtle, helped to underpin that consistency.

Fast forward to today, in an ever-evolving global landscape where patients are more informed, mobile and discerning; Kuala Lumpur holds a thriving international community and a growing middle class, that have come to expect the highest standards of dental care using the best of global standards. For patients seeking comprehensive periodontal care here in Malaysia, especially those who have lived or trained abroad, this continuity of care offers reassurance.



The BSP's modified 2018 World Workshop Classification for example, provided us with clarity and consistency in diagnosis. It is a system that is simple enough to use across the team, yet robust enough to guide evidence-based decisions. Similarly, the Basic Periodontal Examination (BPE), while simple, works well in a busy clinical setting in the event a full 6-point periodontal chart needs to be deferred. These practical and easy-to-use tools have helped us embed periodontal care into general practice.

Better patient communication is another area where every clinician yearns to improve on. The BSP's visual resources, in particular, have helped us explain the links between gum disease and systemic health, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in ways that are accessible and evidence based. These tools have improved patient understanding, trust and treatment adherence.

Remaining part of the BSP community as overseas members has also allowed us to stay aligned with global standards. Conferences, webinars and continuing education, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, kept us connected and current, reinforcing the idea that periodontal care is a dynamic, lifelong discipline.

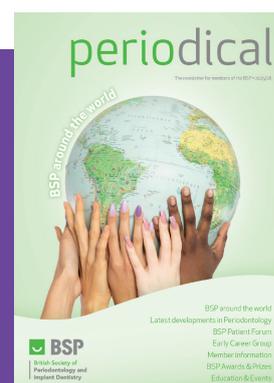
What started as a personal return home has become a shared mission: to make periodontology integral to everyday dentistry in Malaysia. With the help of global guidance and local commitment, we're proud to have contributed to a shift in how periodontal care is practiced and perceived. And through the ongoing support of professional bodies like the BSP, we continue to bridge borders in pursuit of better care.

Website: <https://www.artiusdental.com/>



A heartfelt thank you to all our overseas members who contributed to this year's *Periodical* magazine.

Your insightful stories and experiences highlight the strength of our international membership and reinforce our shared commitment to promoting periodontal health around the world. We are proud to have you as part of our professional community.



An interview with... Dr Shazad Saleem



1. What is your position in the BSP and what does this role involve?

I work within the BSP as Joint Chair of the Education Advisory Committee (EAC) and sit on Council. I see my role in two key lights.

Firstly, I am committed to driving forward the Society's educational mission—planning and delivering high-quality educational resources not only for our members but also for the wider dental profession and the public. This aligns closely with the BSP's strategic goals of promoting periodontal health through robust, evidence-based knowledge and guidance.

Secondly, I aim to represent the voice of general dental practitioners, particularly those working within NHS primary care. It is vital that the challenges faced by GDPs in delivering front-line dental services are understood and considered when developing guidelines. I strive to ensure that any recommendations from the BSP are not only evidence-based but also practical and implementable in everyday practice.

As the only non-specialist currently serving on Council, I would strongly encourage more GDPs to engage with the BSP. It is an incredibly forward-thinking organisation, and it is leading the way in the UK when it comes to the development of robust, evidence-based clinical guidelines. There is a real opportunity for GDPs to contribute to this progress and help shape the future of periodontal care.

2. Where do you live?

I live in Cheadle in Greater Manchester with my wife and three sons. My two eldest children have just started dental school at the University of Glasgow—returning to my birth city, which makes it all the more special.

3. What inspired you to be a dentist?

In all honesty, I had always aspired to enter the medical profession, but circumstances led me toward dentistry, which at the time felt like the next closest path.

Early in my career, I seriously considered pursuing a career in oral and maxillofacial surgery, including the possibility of returning to medical school. However, I ultimately chose to go into general practice—a decision that has since opened up a rewarding and varied career path, particularly in the areas of periodontal care and education.

4. Where are you based during your working week?

I have three partners and we operate three dental practices within the North West. I am currently working 3 days clinically at our practice in Glossop, which is predominately an NHS practice. As well as this, I teach about perio throughout the year on various platforms. More recently this has been with Acteon, who have been great in supporting Healthy Gums DO Matter with the HGDM Roadshow.

5. Which aspect of your job do you most enjoy?

One of the most enjoyable and fulfilling aspects of my work is making a meaningful difference in the lives of my patients. I find it particularly rewarding to treat high-need individuals—helping to stabilise their periodontal disease



and ultimately improve their quality of life. While this has often been challenging within the constraints of the NHS, it's incredibly satisfying to see these patients return over 10 years later and know I've played a part in their dental journey.

Another area I am deeply passionate about is teaching and education. Being involved in initiatives such as Healthy Gums DO Matter has allowed me to support and empower fellow clinicians to enhance the quality of periodontal care in primary practice. It is genuinely rewarding to hear from colleagues who say that these resources have positively impacted their clinical approach.



6. What is the career highlight you are most proud of?

A key highlight of my career has been the work I have led on Healthy Gums DO Matter. What began as a local project in Greater Manchester in 2013 has grown into a nationally recognised initiative that has helped drive significant improvements in periodontal care—particularly within the NHS. It has been incredibly rewarding to see the positive impact it's had, and I am grateful for the invaluable support I've received along the way. Without that, it wouldn't have come as far as it has.

That said, there is still much more to do. I was especially honoured to be awarded an In-Practice Fellowship from the NIHR as part of this journey, which gave me the opportunity to carry out my own research project as part of a Master of Research (MRes) degree.

7. If you could do any other job, what would it be?

I think this would be in logistics and operational planning. I really enjoy working out solutions to problems and how to make things more efficient.

8. How do you spend your leisure time?

I am a keen Tennis player and try to play a couple times a week. I enjoy cycling in the summer and train with a personal trainer a couple of times a week.

I am also always on the hunt for new authentic pizza restaurants and take my pizza seriously! The Italian pizza tour is on my bucket list of things to do.

9. Do you have any pets?

No, unfortunately, I do not have any pets. We did have a cat for a short period of time.

10. What was the last thing you read in digital or in print?

I enjoy reading the Journal of Clinical Periodontology.

11. What has been your most memorable vacation and why?

This is probably the vacation this summer to Northern Pakistan and Skardu and Hunza Valley with the family. It is something I have wanted to do for a long time and is a place of outstanding beauty where the Karakoram, Himalayas, and Hindu Kush Mountain ranges meet.

12. What is your favourite hobby?

I have a real passion for perfumes and enjoy collecting different scents. I'm always on the lookout for a unique oud-based fragrance, and over time, this hobby has become something of a guilty pleasure—I've now amassed a collection of well over 50 perfumes!

Looking for Answers

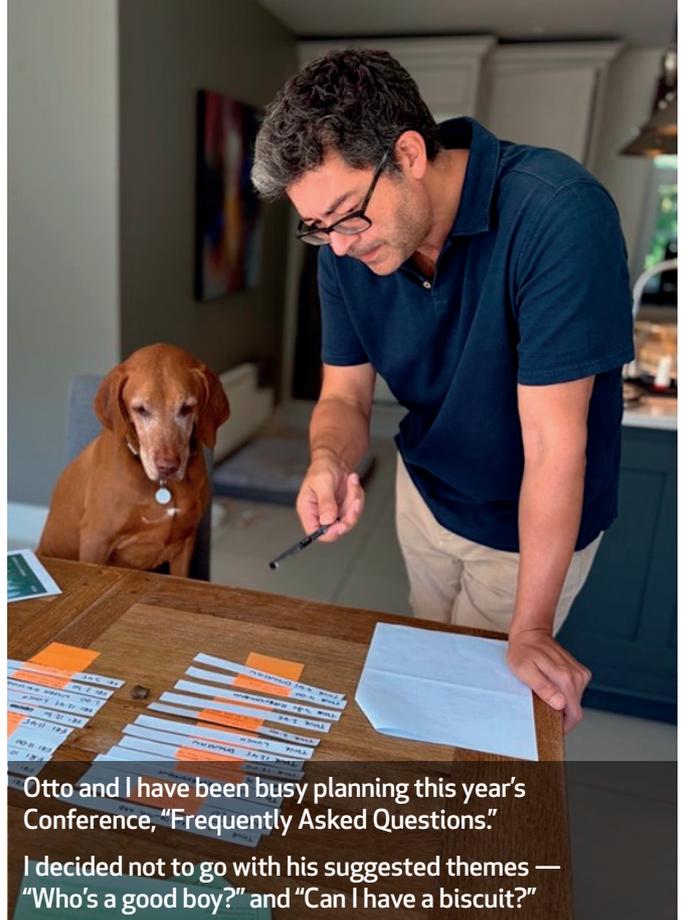
By Dr Paul Baker, BSP President Elect 2026

I still can't quite believe someone is trusting me with the BSP! I have sat on Council enough years to have witnessed the same disbelief in other President-Elects, people far more capable than me. However, I know that the Society will still be in good hands in 2026, those of the Management Team - Luigi, Ian, Paula & Jo - the true back bone of the Society. But what if I drop it and it breaks?

I finished my specialist training in 2000. We were the first year to come out with a specialist title following a recognised monospecialty training pathway. On finishing my specialist training, I was offered a job by one of my tutors, Peter Floyd, at the oldest periodontal practice in the UK. I have reflected on how that developed me as a clinician. John Zamet had studied periodontology in the US in the late 60s, a very forward thing to have done at the time. Peter Floyd is still the best periodontal surgeon I have seen and I continue to judge myself by his standards. I was also fortunate to start working in practice with Ian Needleman, who I still work with to this day, some 25 years later.

I can't fully express what an incredible opportunity that was — but I'm sure you can imagine. As a newly qualified specialist, my head was filled with all things perio: journal papers, textbooks, conferences, lectures. What I lacked, more than anything, was hands-on clinical experience. To then have the opportunity to treat both periodontal and implant patients, with direct access to such an exceptional group of professionals — individuals with a wealth of both academic insight and practical expertise — was truly invaluable. I will be forever grateful for the role they played in shaping my professional development.

It was Peter who first encouraged me to get involved with the British Society of Periodontology — and I'm so glad he did. What I discovered was that the ethos of help, encouragement, and support runs right to the heart of the BSP. From the undergraduate group to specialist-level courses, from the Patient Forum to the treatment guidelines for practitioners, the BSP is committed to supporting all its stakeholders. That ethos is something I hold firmly in mind as I begin planning my Annual Conference.



Otto and I have been busy planning this year's Conference, "Frequently Asked Questions."

I decided not to go with his suggested themes — "Who's a good boy?" and "Can I have a biscuit?"

The theme for my conference is 'Frequently Asked Questions – Unpicking Periodontal Practice'

The aim is to tackle some of the common clinical challenges that arise in everyday periodontal care — especially those where the answers aren't always clear-cut. By exploring these frequently asked questions, we hope to shed light on areas of uncertainty, share practical solutions, and support clinicians in navigating the more complex aspects of periodontal practice.

Questions arise constantly in everyday practice. Patients come to us seeking our expertise and guidance — but that doesn't always mean we can give them definitive answers or predict treatment outcomes with certainty.

Often, a new issue might be a variation of something familiar, something we've read about but never encountered in person, or occasionally, something that defies our clinical expectations altogether.

In planning this conference, I've reflected on the types of questions I regularly discuss with my team in practice, or with friends and colleagues — the real, day-to-day dilemmas we all face. My goal has been to bring together speakers who cannot only shed light on these complex topics but also help us move closer to the answers we're all looking for.

The Conference will be held at The Milner Hotel in York — the very location of my first BSP Conference nearly 30 years ago. York is a fantastic destination, rich in history and charm, with plenty to see and do for those who wish to make the most of their trip. It's also extremely well connected, making it easy to access from across the UK and beyond.

I very much hope to see you there.



SAVE THE DATE

BSP CONFERENCE 2026

“Frequently Asked Questions – Unpicking Periodontal Practice”

**WEDNESDAY 7TH – FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2026
THE MILNER, YORK**

PRESIDENTS INTRODUCTION

My Conference next year is titled “Frequently Asked Questions – Unpicking Periodontal Practice.” The title was intentionally broad, allowing me to draw on topics from across the full spectrum of periodontal and implant clinical practice.

I have aimed to identify key questions that arise in patient care — from the management of periodontitis and medical conditions affecting dentistry to surgical approaches and implantology — with the goal of creating a programme that appeals to the entire clinical team.

On Wednesday afternoon, following the Sir Wilfred Fish Research Prize presentations, we will host a dedicated session on Education in Periodontology, building on the outcomes of the recent European Consensus Workshop. This session will explore the current landscape in undergraduate education, specialist training, and continuing professional development.

The main programme will begin with an ‘Any Questions’-style panel discussion, focusing on real-world clinical questions submitted by the audience. This will be followed by two days of clinically relevant lectures, covering a wide range of topics — and, of course, the Conference Dinner, which promises to be a highlight of the event.



British Society of
Periodontology and
Implant Dentistry

Dedicated to promoting public
and professional awareness
of periodontology and implant
dentistry to achieve our vision of

**“Periodontal Health For
a Better Life”.**



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- Courses, meetings, networking and exhibitions
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- Case Studies
- Early Career Group
- Undergraduate Group

“Joining the BSP has had a significant impact on my professional career. It has provided access to high-quality educational resources, connected me with a network of like-minded professionals and opened the door to opportunities in teaching, research, and guideline development.”

“Being part of such a progressive and supportive community has not only deepened my clinical knowledge but also helped shape the direction of my career in a meaningful way.”

Our members are a rich mix of perio specialists and trainees, GDPs, dental hygienists, dental therapists, postgraduates, undergraduates, nursing staff and dental technicians.