

Dr Nik Pandya



It is with deepest sadness that we report the loss of Dr. Nik Pandya, who was a stalwart of the British Society of Periodontology, and the BSP President Elect for 2021.

Nik qualified in dentistry from the University of Newcastle in 1983 and after time in general dental practice, completed the MSc in Periodontology at Barts & The London in 1992. Nik was a great postgraduate student whose enthusiasm and eagerness to learn was combined with great clinical skill and judgement which he had acquired since qualification. He was much loved by his peers, his teachers and other staff in the department, for his sense of humour, cheeriness and calmness combined with his obvious high standards of professionalism.

After completion of his MSc he set about establishing his practice restricted to Periodontology and Implant Dentistry in Colchester, Essex. He was admitted to the GDC specialist list in Periodontology at its inception in 1988. From relatively modest beginnings he built up a thriving specialist practice which today boasts 8 dentists on the staff and built a strong reputation for clinical excellence amongst both his patients and referring dentists in the area.

In addition to his specialist practice, he also took on the role of part-time Specialist Clinical Teacher at Barts & the London, where his skill, patience and enthusiasm have been so highly regarded by specialist trainees ever since. Indeed, over the years, quite a number of his old students have joined him working in Colchester where they have benefitted greatly from his continued support, mentorship and friendship.

Nik was passionate about clinical periodontology and was in great demand on postgraduate courses to GDPs. His teaching was always clear, brilliantly thought out and laced with practicality for his audience. He was a great disseminator of BSP educational material whenever the opportunities arose. He contributed enormously to the BSP as Regional Representative, Chairman of the Practitioners' Section but sadly will not now get the chance to be President, an honour that he was particularly thrilled to be asked to take on. He was also a tutor on the MSc in implant dentistry at the University of Warwick and held programme lead appointments at the University of Essex and at BPP University, and was a National Faculty Board member at the FGDP

Those of us who knew him will particularly recall his great cheeriness, humour and kindness together with a down to earth modesty that belied his achievements. He was, however, always very proud of his achievement of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. He was a keen follower of cricket and enjoyed golf and karate. He will be fondly remembered for bringing together local dentists and

assorted oral surgeons for much enjoyed Wednesday evening cricket matches- which were a chance to socialise, and find fun and familiarity, especially for some colleagues who were far from home.

Although Nik had been unwell for some time, he was uncomplaining and simply got on with it. His sudden passing will be a shock to us all. He was always a very strong family man and our deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Neena, and his children, Shivanjali (final year at Manchester Dental School) and Krishan (just started clinical at Newcastle Dental School), at this difficult time.

Prof. Francis Hughes

Dr Robin Ratcliffe