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Meet Your President 2006-7 Professor Val Clarehugh
A revealing interview with the new BSP President on her background, plans for her Presidential year and her musical tastes!
Full interview on Page 4

Prizes Galore!
The full list of this year’s BSP prizes and Awards and new changes to the Society’s Awards system
See Page 2 for details

Major New VDP Initiative
Philip Greene on the launch of an important new initiative to encourage younger practitioners to join the Society.
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The latest changes on the BSP Council
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Obituary: The BSP Tree
The time has come, you’ve seen the last of it …… See Page 3

Strong British Presence at EuroPerio 5
The opening ceremony at EuroPerio 5 in Madrid on 29th June 2006. There was a strong British presence at the fifth EuroPerio, both as delegates and on the platform.
See News on page 2 and centre pages

BSP Changes Faces
A new look newsletter (see page 9) and a new display stand (seen here during its first outing at the recent BDHA meeting in Harrogate) together mark a minor, but significant, transformation in the face that BSP presents to the profession. Comments welcome!

BSP/Henry Schein – A New Special Relationship
Simon Gambold, Dental Sales and Marketing Director, Henry Schein writes about the new Partnership Programme with the BSP on page 4

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Growing Membership

This year has seen a consistent growth in the membership - at September 2006, we had 822 members comprising 10 honorary members, 633 full members, 28 postgraduate members, 22 Specialist Registrars, 6 newly qualified (first 4 years) members, 27 associates and 96 hygienist associates. This represents an increase of 3% over last year. We hope to start some new initiatives in the forthcoming year to promote the society and hopefully increase membership further.

EuroPerio5 a great success

EuroPerio5 was held in Madrid from 29th June to 1st July this year. The EFP reports that there were a total of 5873 delegates, including 1814 EFP members, 681 hygienists, over 900 students and 21 EFP Presidents. The UK provided 284 delegates, most of whom were BSP members. There were over 1000 industry guests and exhibitors representing over 140 companies. This was certainly the biggest EuroPerio meeting to date. Ghilaine Ower was on hand at the BSP stand to provide a sterile rest and recuperation service with plenty of iced water for those members in need! Ghilaine also helped to cement the “special relationship” with the American Academy of Periodontology in the stand next door and a picture of Ghilaine and a few BSP members subsequently ended up on the AAP website. We have received some good feedback from the UK delegates on our website and we shall be taking this back to EFP to help develop future meetings. A number of UK and BSP speakers were involved, namely Professors Palmer, Hughes, Kinane, Lewis, Marsh and Chapple and Drs Needleman, Watts and Floyd. We must thank them for representing us so well (see centre pages).

2006 Prizes

The Research Prize this year went to Dr Fiona Clarke from Queen Mary College, London for her project “A proteomic search for prognostic markers of aggressive periodontitis”. The next closing date for this award is 31st March 2007 and details are available on the BSP website. Currently the rules for this award state that correspondence will not be entered into with unsuccessful applicants. However in view of some correspondence with entrants this year, Council have agreed that for future awards, unsuccessful applicants will be given some structured feedback related to their applications, in order to help them strengthen their chances for applications elsewhere. This is in line with the practice of other grant-giving bodies.

The George Cross-Fellowship Award was awarded to Dr Styliani Kourkouta to support a trip to the USA to investigate “Implant therapy in compromised sites”. The Frank Ashley Undergraduate Prize was awarded to Dr Hussein Asaria from Kings College London Dental Institute for his project “The cytotoxicity of agents used in the treatment of peri-implantitis”. Marsh Midda Travel Fellowships were again not awarded this year due to a lack of applications.

Anthony Roberts wins Sir Wilfrid Fish Research Prize

Dr Anthony Roberts of the School of Dentistry, University of Birmingham has been awarded the Sir Wilfred Fish Research Prize at the Autumn Scientific Meeting in London for his project “How periodontal pathogens take advantage of a stressed host”. He was competing against Dr Constantine Ong, whose presentation “The effect of treated periodontitis on implant survival and success in partially dentate individuals – a systematic review” was also of an extremely high standard. Dr Roberts will be presented with his award at the forthcoming Spring meeting.

New BSP Awards System

The 2006 AGM confirmed proposals previously approved by Council to modify, with immediate effect, some of the existing society awards. The main changes involve the Frank Ashley Undergraduate Award and the creation of new BSP Clinical Fellowship Awards and BSP Research Fellowship Awards. The Frank Ashley Undergraduate Award will now have a single closing date of 31st July, and the award will be increased to £500. The BSP Clinical Fellowship awards will replace the existing Marsh Midda and George Cross Fellowship Awards and will enable winners to travel to “centres of excellence” recognised by Council or to carry out or complete specialist periodontal training in the UK. The new BSP Research Fellowship Awards will be primarily designed for postgraduate development and training, in the support of research projects and will replace the previous Research Grant, increasing potential funds from £3000 to £5000. Full details of all changes can be found on the website.

Education, Education, Education!

The BSP Educational Initiative continues to be a success, thanks to the efforts of Dr Elaine Giedrys-Leeper and her Regional Advisors, with over 24 regional meetings held during the academic year 2005-2006 for general and specialist dental practitioners and dental hygienists: about two per month! A number of speakers added an additional dimension to their presentations. The BSP Educational Initiative will continue to be a success in 2007.

More Periodontal Specialists?

The Society is pro-active in attracting new members (see the item on the VDP initiative) but we also want to encourage younger dentists to take up specialist training in periodontology, increasing the demand for training places. Drs Viv Ward, Mark Ide and Wendy Turner have therefore been working with PMA, a market research company, to use established commercial techniques on behalf of the Society to identify the perceived and actual barriers to, and attitudes about, periodontology and specialist training amongst dentists in the UK. This will involve a combination of techniques and we are just starting work, having identified target groups. It is hoped to have results to present at next year’s AGM.
BSP and Henry Schein in Partnership

The BSP has entered into a partnership scheme with Henry Schein whereby members of the Society can buy dental products at preferential rates. This scheme will benefit both the BSP and individual members, as well as providing Henry Schein with the opportunity to participate in BSP activities. Simon Gambold, Henry Schein’s Dental Sales & Marketing Director, describes the arrangements in greater detail on page 4.

Expert Witness Specialist List

Following a request from the DDU, Council has agreed to set up a list of registered periodontal specialist members of the Society who are willing to act as expert witnesses. The list would be available to organisations as well as to solicitors. Members should be hearing more about this soon.

British Sporting Success in Madrid

Bristol and Bath-based BSP member, Dr Paul King, was the winner of the Astra-sponsored Fun Run at EuroPerio 5 in Madrid earlier this year. His winning time was 17.03 minutes. The 4.7 km event took place in the Parque Ferial Juan Carlos adjacent to the conference centre on Friday 30th June and attracted just under 100 delegates, all of whom received an Astra Tech T-shirt and towel. The winners were announced at the Astra Tech dinner in the evening and Paul’s first prize was a bicycle, here seen being presented to Paul outside Bristol Dental Hospital.

BSP Makes its Voice Heard

The BSP is well represented on a variety of dental committees to protect the best interests of members. John Coventry sits on the GDC Specialist Lists Review Group, and we have continued to be represented at meetings of the RCS Eng Specialist Practitioner Liaison Group. We have replied on behalf of the society to the recent GDC consultation on Specialist Education in dentistry (see website for our response) and we continue to be a stakeholder in NICE developments. Members of Council continue to play an active role on many external committees; Peter Floyd has represented the Society at the Dental Senate, while Elaine Giedrys-Leeper, Richard Palmer, Will McLaughlin, Paul Baker and Ravi Saravanamuttu have represented the Society on the SAC. A small group of senior members of the Society have also been involved with the Honorary Secretary in submitting applications and recommendations for National Clinical Excellence Awards. The 2006/2007 round for applications is open and can be accessed from the ACCEA website for which there is a link in the news section of the website.

Council Changes

Two members have retired from Council, along with Senior Vice President Dr Bernie Kieser; Dr Ravi Saravanamuttu has provided us with counsel and support from the restorative side of the NHS, and he will continue to represent us on the SAC. Dr Penny Hodge, who has doubled up as a Council member and as Dr Trevor Watts’ Assistant Honorary Secretary, has also effectively been our Scottish representative. Penny and Ravi have also supported Council in several other ways and the Society is most grateful for their efforts. They have been replaced by Professor Nikos Donos, Head of the Department of Periodontology at the Eastman Dental Institute, London, and Dr Sarah Manton, Senior Lecturer at Dundee Dental School.

Goodbye Tree

After many years of faithful service the BSP tree is at last being laid to rest and replaced with something more 21st Century. The tree has provided a backdrop to most BSP meetings and has made an appearance at most of the EuroPerio meetings, including EuroPerio 5 in Madrid this year. Council members involved in its transportation and erection around the globe won’t be too upset! Efforts to lose it on Easyjet or in the boot of a Spanish taxi this summer proved fruitless so the decision has been made to retire it gracefully.
The BSP and Henry Schein Partnership Programme

The BSP has devised a scheme with Henry Schein whereby members of the Society can, if they wish, buy dental products at preferential rates. This scheme will benefit both the BSP and individual members, as well as providing Henry Schein with the opportunity to participate in BSP activities. This will be of advantage to all with no additional cost to members. The Society will benefit through an annual donation to our Fellowship Fund from Henry Schein. In addition, there are specific projects on which our two organisations can co-operate that will increase the awareness of Periodontology as a Specialty and promote Periodontology amongst newly qualified dentists.

The scheme is a preferred purchasing programme in which members may participate. This will involve:

1. An initial meeting with a Henry Schein Consultant to set up a bespoke purchasing programme for their practice that addresses the needs of the practice and delivers recommendations on ordering procedure, product selection and a buying plan. This will certainly be cheaper for the practice than ordering at random or to the preferential rates to which participants will be entitled.

2. A discount of 5% on handpiece and small equipment repairs.

We would like to emphasise that joining this scheme is voluntary, there is no subscription, it is solely for BSP members, and will cost you less for all the products you use, not just periodontal products. At the same time the BSP’s charitable activities will benefit greatly at no additional cost to members. Please note that this scheme will entitle a whole practice to participate provided one person is a member of the Society.

If you wish to participate, and we hope you will, please contact:

Valerie Clerehugh

Meet Your President

2006-7 - Professor Valerie Clerehugh

Val, tell us briefly what led you into a career in dentistry?

I was accidentally knocked in the mouth when I was about 8 years old and one of my lower incisors was badly fractured, and the pulp involved. My dentist did root canal treatment and managed to save my tooth, which really impressed me. Even now I still have the same post and core in situ, which is equally impressive! It was always a memorable occasion going to the dentist and I used to love seeing the hand piece with the cables spinning round (yes I am of that era!) and watching his nurse mix the creamy lining - and I recollect the smell of the eugenol!! I can still picture the dental surgery vividly. When I got into sixth form, my dentist arranged for me to visit another practice belonging to friends of his and that reaffirmed my interest in dentistry.

Your background is slightly unusual in that much of your early career and research was in paediatric dentistry. What prompted the move into periodontics?

I had been working in the Community Dental Service in Barnsley for 3 years after qualification from Manchester when Dr Mike Lennon wrote and asked me if I was interested in returning to do a PhD investigating periodontal diseases in adolescents, under his supervision. That provided me with a great opportunity to study two subject areas that I had really enjoyed at Dental School - paediatric dentistry and periodontology. I had a fantastic time at the Dental Health Unit in Manchester completing my PhD, and it so happened that a permanent lecturership in periodontology came up at just the right time in the Turner Dental School. I applied and got the job!

You’ve spent most of your professional career in Manchester and Leeds, is that because of your upbringing or are there other reasons for staying in the north of England?

I liked the friendliness and atmosphere in Manchester as a dental student and I was lucky that job opportunities cropped up that kept me there until 1994. I moved to Leeds when I was promoted to Senior Lecturer and of course when my Personal Chair in Periodontology followed in 2004, that was the icing on the cake!

I was born in Yorkshire and have strong family ties there. Yorkshire is a beautiful county, but as a family we often take advantage of the scenery in Cumbria, the unspoilt coast line of Northumberland and the coves, charm and history of the Isle of Man for holidays. I have family and friends in the south of England too and do enjoy visiting, but if I’m honest, I’m a Northerner at heart.

The BSP has devised a scheme with Henry Schein whereby members of the Society can, if they wish, buy dental products at preferential rates.

The title of your Presidential Address was “Time”, a look at periodontology through the ages. Why did you choose this as a theme?

“Time” has many different connotations that fascinate me. Our individual biological clock influences our daily pattern of activity and whether we get up with the lark and are lively in the morning, come to life at night like the owl (that’s me!), or are somewhere in between the two. The study of sleep and sleep deprivation is intriguing. Are we a sleep-deprived society? It has been suggested that many of us can and do get away with less sleep than the traditionally held minimum of 8 hours per day without apparent ill effects. One useful tip I have come across recently if you want to stay awake but you’re feeling a bit sleepy is to have a cup of caffeinated coffee and then a 15 minute snooze – that duration of snooze is great for refreshing you and by the time you wake up from it, the caffeine will have started to work!!
Time management courses and books have become popular in academic institutions, across businesses and in individuals who seek the support of life style coaches. But what do we do with the time we save – spend it wisely or cram even more into our already busy working lives?

I was browsing in a bookshop many years ago when I saw a magnificent book “Dentistry. An illustrated history” by Malvin E Ring which gave me a historical glimpse through time of how people used ornate golden toothpicks and wondrous remedies for tooth cleaning activities thousands of years ago. It showed teeth with gorgeous jewels inlaid and how the basic shapes of our modern day scalers had not changed all that much over the centuries! It was a must-have text which I purchased then and still treasure.

And then there are the cumulative and chronological effects of time from younger to older people which are evident from the periodontal perspective. These are embraced in the theme of my meeting “Periodontology through the Ages”. So in a nutshell, I loved the title “Time” because it allowed me to legitimately indulge some of my own pet themes!

Your publications and research suggest that you have a special interest in how periodontal problems affect various age groups. What are you hoping that people will learn from your two themed meetings this year?

I would like the Autumn meeting to have raised the awareness of periodontal problems that can affect children and adolescents and to look beyond the mouth to the bigger picture of child management and child protection issues. I want this to lead seamlessly into the Spring meeting at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (10th -11th May 2007) which will focus on the older age groups in a holistic way. The national and international array of speakers will increase awareness of the interface between periodontal diseases and systemic, genetic, metabolic, hormonal, nutritional, dietary and restorative influences.

What are your main interests outside dentistry?

As a family we love being in the hills and lakes, and I particularly enjoy the bit afterwards. For fun, the scones are marked out of 10 and compared with the gold-standard of my mum’s baking!

I like swimming and up until quite recently went to evening classes to learn some slightly more advanced skills than breast stroke. At least I can now keep up a bit better with my daughter Mary who is a very good swimmer.

Cookery is a favourite pastime that I dabble in. I’ve often fancied going on one of those cookery courses that are advertised, so maybe I’ll treat myself one day!! When my husband, Tony, has an abundance of raspberries, blackcurrants and plums from his allotments, I’m often to be found in the kitchen at midnight (yes, I’m an owl) making and bottling jam. It’s very therapeutic and great to enjoy home-made produce.

What are your 8 desert island discs?

March of the Mods – Joe Loss Band 1964. It was one of the records we used to play at the parties my mum and dad held when my sister, brother and I were young and this always got everyone up dancing! It was played on our first proper record player too, which my niece still has!

Nights in White Satin – Moody Blues 1967 and Whiskey in the Jar – Thin Lizzy 1973. These two records take me back to my time at University and the great discs I went to in those days with my friends.

Chansons D’amour – Charles Aznavour. This was one of the songs played in a club in Huddersfield where I used to go to with Tony in the mid 1970s before we got married and it reminds me of the fun we had there!

Fernando – Abba 1976. I used to love Abba and this was one of my favourites.

Nessun dorma – The Three Tenors in Concert Rome 1990, José Carreras, Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti. They have fabulous voices and it was memorable to hear them sing this together at the end of a superb concert.


Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves – from Nabucco opera by Verdi 1842. This is just a beautiful, moving piece.

Are there any areas of research that you are particularly interested in at the moment?

Yes, I am especially interested in the periodontal problems that affect young patients with diabetes and the interrelationships with their diabetes control. Recent data indicate that up to 80% of youngsters with diabetes fail to adequately control their diabetes, which may predispose them to diabetes related complications later on. I am also involved in research in primary dental care and studies on interdental cleaning.

You’ve been a member of the BSP for many years, what are the main changes you’ve seen and where do you see periodontology going in the future?

There has been an increased understanding of the pathogenesis of the periodontal diseases and the role of risk factors like smoking and diabetes. Interestingly, the trends in support of periodontal surgery and some of the regenerative techniques have waxed and waned over the years. We now have a wider, more sophisticated range of power and manual brushes than we did years ago and there is a bewildering array of dentifrices, mouthrinses and interdental cleaning aids to choose from. Statistical analysis and data management models have advanced and improved the handling and interpretation of such research data for use in clinical practice.

I believe that periodontology is one of those disciplines in which there will continue to be a lot of high quality research activity. Technological advances will lead to improved therapeutic developments and I think two potentially exciting areas for change will involve host modulation and nutrition. I would like to see remuneration for the periodontal therapy undertaken in NHS general dental practice more closely linked to actual costs of provision as an encouragement for dentists and dental care professionals to undertake the periodontal treatment and advice that their patients need.

… and your book (apart from the Bible and Shakespeare) and luxury?

My book would have to be a photograph album compilation of pictures and news snippets of my family and friends, with an odd few pages of Sudoku puzzles (fiendish level) tucked into the leaves of the album here and there!

Either that or “A beginner’s guide to boating” ………………….!!

My luxury would be a tea bush that I would plant in the hillside of the desert island and I would keep taking cuttings from it until I had nurtured my own tea plantation. I’d make use of the Ray Mears survival tips to light a fire and boil my water. I’d alternate between tea with coconut milk and tea with lemon, probably in a coconut shell!!!
Spring Meeting
25th March 2006, Keble College, Oxford

“Blame the bugs or blame the patient?”

That sweet city with her dreaming spires”, a description of Oxford attributed to the poet Matthew Arnold (Professor of Poetry at the University 1857-67) in his 1886 poem “Thyris”, was the location for the short visit that the BSP made in March for a single day scientific meeting (this being a EuroPerio year) and dinner. The weather was unseasonably fine for our visit to Keble College, which provided a dramatic setting for meeting, accommodation and dinner. The Chapel (see above) of the college also provided an opportunity for members to enjoy a magnificent organ recital by our own Ian Needleman.

The meeting itself was held in a purpose-built conference venue adjacent to the old college and the programme attracted a great deal of interest among the Society’s members, with not an empty seat in sight. An adjacent building hosted a well supported trade show.

After a brief welcome to delegates, Dr Trevor Watts, President of the BSP, presented Honorary Membership to an old colleague of the BSP, Professor Ubele van der Velden. Professor van der Velden said he was delighted to accept the accolade of Honorary Membership of the BSP, as well as the bottle of Laphroaig.

The President and our newest Honorary Member were then joined on the platform by 2 existing Honorary Members, Dr Bernie Kieser and Professor Roy Page, also a speaker later in the day.

The scientific programme looked at the relative importance of microbial and patient factors in periodontitis and peri-implantitis. The first two presentations were by 2 well known faces to the BSP, Professor William Wade, Professor of microbiology at King’s College, London and Dr Mike Martin, consultant microbiologist at Liverpool University. They were followed, in the afternoon session, by Professors Tord Berglundh and Ubele van der Velden and the meeting was closed by Professor Roy Page.

Professor Wade described the uniqueness of periodontitis as an infection and pointed out the difficulties that microbiologists have in cultivating the oral microflora. He went on to describe his involvement in “CHOMP” (Complete Human Oral Microbe Project) and the ways in which more of the human microflora can be identified. Dr Martin took on the subject of whether we end up with the bugs we deserve, looking at how the local environment influences the biofilm in the periodontal pocket and thus pathogenicity. As well as being introduced to the concept of quorum sensing we were also delighted to meet his newly born grandchild, plus agar plate, who, as he showed us, was able to produce a cultivable oral microflora within minutes of birth.

Professor Berglundh concentrated on peri-implantitis and peri-implant mucositis, and the treatment methods for each. He pointed out both the similarities (particularly in terms of risk factors patient susceptibility) and differences between peri-implant conditions and periodontitis and described his preferred treatment approaches for peri-implant disease.

He emphasised the importance of pocket elimination by surgery and the need to have to accept an impaired aesthetic result in order to assure implant survival. Professor van der Velden explored whether we can predict periodontal destruction from the clinical or microbiological findings, or both. He described in detail the project with which he has been involved in Java (1987 – 1994), highlighting the differences between risk predictors, risk determinants and risk factors. Interestingly, no relationship was found between smoking and disease progression in this subject cohort, nor was plaque found to be a risk factor!

Professor Page closed the meeting with a controversial and riveting exploration of the relationship between host factors and the microflora in periodontal disease. He proposed that in the future treatment strategies may involve the use of drug therapies to influence the host response, rather than, as at present, bacterial control.

With the meeting closed, and prior to dinner in the magnificent dining hall of Keble College, those who made their way over to the Chapel (and many did, it was good to see) were treated to a superb recital by Dr Ian Needleman on the Chapel’s magnificent organ.

Ian’s programme lasted a full hour and he was ably supported by the page-turning Francis Hughes. His selection of pieces was epic in scope and many of us were bowled over by his artistry. His Messaien had the rafters shaking, as did his encore of Bach’s D minor Toccata. Future meetings will have to be held at venues with organs!

Following a champagne reception, dinner was held in the Pottery-inspiring surroundings of the Keble College Dining Hall and provided the opportunity to dine with friends in great style.

The President did not disappoint with the after-dinner entertainment, providing his own version of a Bernard Cribbens song, suitable for periodontal ears.

Thanks go to our major sponsors for supporting a highly successful and well-attended meeting – Oral B Laboratories, Pfizer, Philips Oral Healthcare and Straumann Ltd – as well as other trade exhibitors.

Phil Ower
Professor Denis Kinane overcame jet-lag admirably (having arrived that morning from Louisville, USA) and gave a fascinating presentation on the differences between periodontal and dental education in the UK and the USA. Denis spoke of the almost military-like discipline which seems to exist in some periodontal residency programs in the US, which tend to be technique oriantated, heavily focussed on the literature, and don’t always offer the same challenges in problem solving that face restorative or periodontal trainees in this country. He also spoke of the difficulties in treatment planning for a patient with multi-disciplinary restorative treatment needs in a system in which there is no equivalent of the UK’s restorative consultants. A major advantage for academia in the US, however, is that grant opportunities are far greater, thanks to NIDCR, in which funding for dental research is separate from medical research and is therefore protected.

Following this, Dr Wendy Turner and Dr Nick Pandya discussed a BSP-led initiative to gather data relating to outcomes of periodontal treatment. This audit aims, by surveying periodontal outcomes, to establish measures that can be set as standards for practitioners to achieve. The plan is for a web-based form that can be completed easily, focussing on key periodontal parameters such as plaque, bleeding and numbers of diseased pockets before and after treatment. Further details will be circulated in the near future as the system is established. This represents a great opportunity for the BSP to take a lead in defining outcome measures and standards in periodontal treatment.

Finally, Dr Geoff Sharpe gave an extremely interesting summary of his research into attitudes of GDPs towards specialist periodontal referral, which was funded by the BSP Research Prize in 2005. A common theme was that GDPs feel they don’t have enough time or funding to treat periodontal diseases adequately, but on a positive note, GDPs had very favourable perceptions of the treatment provided by periodontal specialists in practice.

The Autumn scientific meeting on 22nd September 2006 was entitled ‘Periodontology through the ages – the early years’, and this theme was established by our new President, Professor Val Clerehugh in her Presidential Address entitled ‘Time’. Professor Clerehugh took us on a fascinating journey through time, from the earliest recorded evidence of periodontal treatment to the present day. This was followed by a comprehensive discussion of the classification of periodontal problems in children by Professor Denis Kinane who recommended that whenever we see a patient with aggressive periodontitis, we should make arrangements to screen the rest of the patient’s family, which led to much discussion.

Dr Marie Hosey from Glasgow Dental School described a variety of psychological approaches for managing children, learned from many years of experience of treating children who don’t want to be treated. Marie described the fears that children have, and how they display anxiety differently from adults, and through amusing examples of good and poor communication with the audience, demonstrated how we can communicate better with children.

This was followed by an authoritative presentation by Dr Aradhna Tugnait from Leeds Dental Institute on the practicalities of treating children and adolescents, including issues of consent, practical tips for improving oral hygiene, and how to sequence treatment. She also reaffirmed the importance of regular periodontal screening in younger children using the BPE.

Finally, Professor Richard Welbury from Glasgow Dental School delivered a moving lecture on child abuse. He reminded us that approximately 60% of cases of child abuse involve oro-facial signs, and that the dental team is extremely important in being observant for signs of abuse. The remit of the dental team is to observe, assess, record and refer, and dental neglect is also a form of abuse, once the diagnosis and treatment plan have been explained to parents. This emotionally-charged lecture brought an extremely stimulating meeting to an end.
The ‘new’ BSP website has been up and running for just over a year and it’s had over 500,000 hits. Contrary to popular belief the Honorary Secretary was not responsible for most of these (so he says). The website is now the highest placed periodontology website in the Google ratings, higher in fact than the American Academy of Periodontology.

Liam Addy, BSP webmaster, says: “The study case pages are back and we have some very good cases worth looking at. We have four case reports but there is plenty of room to accommodate more, and we would dearly welcome any suitable material. Good practice cases, or those used for Membership or Fellowship exams would be ideal. You will be paid, so fame will be accompanied by something remotely approaching fortune. More will be added in the coming months so keep an eye out for these.”

BSP Honorary Secretary Mark Ide finds the site invaluable: “The online CPD and meeting appraisal has been a great success, allowing members to easily give feedback and obtain their certificate at a convenient time, but also allowing the Conference Advisory Committee to assess good and bad points about meetings, so that we can make them better for the future.”

Coming soon is a new Jobs Section which will be an additional service available to BSP members who want to post jobs available at their practices, or for members who are looking for positions.

One major advantage of the new website is that we can send global emails to groups or to the whole membership. However this will only work if we have correct email addresses: those of you with incorrect email addresses on the database will not be getting the full benefits of membership. Please check your email details on the website.

We are always aiming to keep the site as alive as possible. One aspect of this is by updating the news section, supported where necessary by emails to members alerting them to matters of interest. We are always trying to add new material, so if you have any ideas or news, please let us know!

Contact Liam Addy on addyld@cardiff.ac.uk

www.bsperio.org.uk

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**Website Grows**

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**Catch ‘em Young!**

Phil Greene

The BSP is initiating an ambitious new project to raise the profile of the society among new graduates. In addition to reducing membership fees for the first four years after graduation the campaign’s aims are:

- To boost membership of the BSP by showing final year students and VDP how the BSP can help them to become better dentists and, for some of them, specialists;
- To ensure that new graduates really believe in the need for and effectiveness of periodontal therapy in GDP;
- To help new graduates to become competent in perio therapy;
- To show new graduates how to find and work with the perio specialists that are available to them;

The project, led by Education Committee member Philip Greene, will target dentists on Vocational Training Schemes through the lecturers who present sessions on Periodontics to the VDPs. Regional Representatives are being asked to help by setting up links with VT Advisers and providing welcome packs (supplied by BSP) to VDPs. They would then follow up by making contact with the VDPs after the (hopefully inspiring) perio lectures have been given.

If you think you can help in any way with this project, please contact Philip Greene via the BSP Website or by e-mailing him on perio@malthousedental.net.

“The BSP has less than a thousand members,” says Philip, “and that’s not enough for a society dedicated to the promotion of the most fundamental of the dental sciences. We need to increase it at least five fold in order to have the status the specialty deserves, and to ensure that we have enough new specialists to guarantee the strength of the specialty in the future.”
Welcome to the new look BSP News. Why the change? Well, if we want the BSP to grow and develop in the future we need new blood in the society and the younger practitioner has to be our main target, hence the VDP initiative being developed by Philip Greene (see opposite). Like many BSP members I’m often talking to VDP groups about perio and encouraging them to think about joining the BSP. At a recent VDP meeting I heard one new graduate remark: “….this looks boring!” when thumbing through our last issue of the Newsletter (for which I was responsible) so I was determined to start producing a publication that wouldn’t provoke this response in future. I want BSP News to reflect the spirit of the BSP as a pro-active and forward-thinking organisation, and be an integral part of the proposed "Welcome Pack" for new graduates. As it happens, this year sees the start of a new partnership between the BSP and Henry Schein so I have been able to take advantage of their resources for the production of a radically different publication.

I am very grateful to Simon Gambold of Henry Schein, and also to Mark Lewis, Creative Services Manager, and his team of graphic designers. Please tell me what you think of the changes or I shall keep doing my own thing and, as ever, please use BSP News to air your opinions and views (philip.ower@btopenworld.com).

Phil Ower
BSP News Editor

The First Perio DwSIs

Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Deanery has, in collaboration with Mid Sussex Primary Care Trust (MSPCT), funded the first training programme for Dental Practitioners with a Special Interest (DwSI) in Periodontology. The week-long programme was held at the Chichester Medical Education Centre during April 2006.

BSP members Bernie Kieser, Graham Smart, Phil Ower and Ulpee Darbar, amongst other clinicians, contributed to the course. The objective of the DwSI Service is to provide NHS periodontal care in the form of a local clinical network between the primary and secondary sectors. The service will be run through MSPCT under the auspices of David Cheshire, Consultant in Restorative Dentistry. Forty expressions of interest were received for the 5 posts on offer. The applicants were assessed against the competency framework produced by the BSP and the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) for the attainment of the Faculty’s Key Skills. Nine practitioners were interviewed by representatives of the PCT, KSS Deanery, the FGDP and Phil Ower representing the BSP. The 5 successful candidates are now members of the Society and are accepting referrals from local practitioners.

Caption Competition

Thanks to our conference manager Ghilaine for capturing this moment on the London Eye the night before the 2006 Autumn Meeting. Pictured are BSP Treasurer, Peter Heasman (left), in conversation with Anne Hallowes and Denis Kinane.

Members are invited to put some words in the Treasurer’s mouth. Answers to the editor please (philip.ower@btopenworld.com). The best entries will be posted on the website and there will be a prize for the overall winner.

The Editor’s decision is final!
Future Meetings

Spring Meeting 2007

Periodontology Through The Ages - The Later Years

Edinburgh International Conference Centre,
10th & 11th May 2007

The meeting will address the epidemiology, aetiology and management of periodontal problems and associated complications in later adult life, and speakers will include Panos Papapanou, Jonathan Bodansky, Phoebus Madianos, Evanthia Lalla, Philip Preshaw, Robin Seymour, Angus Walls, Roy Taylor, Paula Moynihan, Thomas Dietrich, Mike Milward and Martin Addy.

The Conference Dinner will be held on Thursday 10th May 2007 in the magnificent and historic Main Hall of The Royal Museum in the centre of Edinburgh. Dinner will be preceded by a drinks reception in the contemporary Hawthornden Court and the Kingdom of the Scots Gallery in the Museum of Scotland where we will have the opportunity to view some of the collections.

On-line registration: www.bsperio.org.uk

For more information go to www.bsperio.org.uk

or contact the Conference Manager: Tel: +44 (0)1730 890478 - email: ghilaine.ower@btopenworld.com
Autumn Scientific Meeting 2007

The Autumn Scientific meeting in 2007 will be combined with the UK Dental Pan-Society Conference, a new and exciting venture involving the BSP, BES, BSRD and BSSPD. The meeting, entitled “Dilemmas & Decisions in Dentistry”, will be held at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham 16th–17th November 2007. The first day of the meeting will involve parallel sessions by specialty while the second day will be a combined series of sessions. For further information go to www.pandental2007.org

Spring Meeting 2008

“Confusion, Confounders and Compliance”

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

13th–15th April 2008

Dine under the wings of a B52 in the American Air Museum, Duxford, to the sound of the John Miller (his nephew!) Band
Money Matters

The Society remains financially sound and continues to prosper mainly as a consequence of successful scientific meetings. At 31st December 2005, the main operating account balance was £58K, the Education account £36K, the Marsh Midda account £10K and the National Savings Reserve account £145K (the long term target being £150K).

The Marsh Midda account remains the Society’s only restricted fund whilst the Education account is now categorised as designated funds. Whilst the Regional Education Initiative has been enormously successful over recent years, it is essential that the Society continues to resource regional meetings so that these designated funds, predominantly accrued through the surplus from the Spring Meetings, are directed into education. It is also anticipated that income from the new relationship with Henry Schein will be put into the Education account. At present, the effective cost of running the Society is almost breaking even. As a result, there will be no change in subscription levels for 2007.

Peter Heasman

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