Dear Students,

Welcome to the spring 2015 Dental School Student Newsletter. Following recent scaremongering that has appeared in the local press we wanted to spread the word about the real success stories that have been quietly been going on behind the scenes at Aberdeen Dental School.

We are proud of what we have achieved in establishing the new Dental School and of our graduates and current students and have the full support of the University of Aberdeen, NHS Grampian and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) as well as the Chief Dental Officer, Margie Taylor and the Scottish Executive.

The feedback on the contributions of graduates from Aberdeen Dental School continues to be overwhelmingly positive. Significant numbers of Aberdeen Dental School graduates have chosen to work in the North of Scotland, supporting the need for better coverage of dental care in those communities.

As in previous divisional newsletters you will find updates and information we thought it important to draw your attention to, such as the impending Internal Teaching Review and GDC visits. This newsletter is specifically for dental students and I hope that you find the information in the newsletter helpful. We are always happy to receive ideas or short articles from anyone in the school for inclusion in future editions (and the DMDE newsletter is due around Easter). Please email Rob McGregor (rmcgregor@abdn.ac.uk) with ideas.
Patients give a resounding thumbs up to Aberdeen Dental Students

A pilot survey to measure patient satisfaction was carried out for patients attending student clinics at Aberdeen Dental School. The survey took place over a 2 week period commencing 16th February 2015.

A questionnaire was designed to provide feedback regarding patient’s views on the working environment, the dental student experience, and overall levels of patient satisfaction. In addition, patients were encouraged to provide comments and suggest areas to help improve the provision of dental services at the Dental School.

The survey was voluntary and targeted Restorative, IOC, A+E and Paediatric Student Clinics. Student clinics ranged from Year 2 BDS to Final Year 5 BDS students. Of the 100 questionnaires piloted, 67 were completed.

The majority of comments from patients were very positive and complimentary about dental students and the environment. Positive feedback was also reported regarding supervising staff, the dental nurses and reception staff. Bottom line, of the 67 patients who took part in the survey

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<th>Overall</th>
<th>14. Were you satisfied with how you were treated today?</th>
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<td>15. Would you return for further care?</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>16. Would you recommend the school to friends and family?</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Some of the comments

“*I am very happy with my treatment. Beforehand, I was a dental phobic due to childhood experiences but the dental student has been very reassuring and I now feel much more at ease receiving dental treatment*”

“*I am more than happy with the level of professionalism and care.*”

“*Treatment received was good and friendly staff and each step of the procedure explained fully*”

“*The dental student was very patient. You’re doing a great job, thank you.*”

“*I was seen very promptly and dealt with efficiently when I phoned complaining of pain after having a tooth out*”

“*xx made me feel relaxed. I will be happy to recommend the school to family as the service has been great*”

“*First time with the new students and they worked well and made me relaxed and spoke through the treatment explaining as they went*”

The full survey results will be put up on myBDS and Dr Claire Donnachie and Mrs Helen Anderson, who undertook the pilot survey will be reviewing this and taking forward other ways to help us monitor on-going patient satisfaction. Please contact Dr Donnachie or Mrs Anderson if you have any suggestions.
Patient Safety Strategy

A new patient safety strategy has been developed to clarify all of our responsibilities, procedures and protocols for putting patient safety at the forefront of every patient experience in the Dental School.

Dr Sarah Duffy has been leading this and you will already have seen a number of strands coming together in recent weeks, such as the new dental student scrubs which were introduced at the start of February and enhanced reporting and monitoring of any clinical incidents via Datix. The next stage is the introduction of new consent forms and protocols which will be rolled out over the next month and a re-vamped Student Ethical Code. Dr John Cameron (LEP lead) has led a small working group to develop this. This is an extremely important area which we wish to demonstrate to the GDC has been enhanced, and so your co-operation and careful consideration is extremely important to us. A series of training sessions will be provided and it is crucial that all staff and students attend. They will be sent out as diary requests/timetable events.

General Dental Council Inspection – 28/29 April 2015

The GDC panel will be visiting the School again to look at the progress we have made since its last inspection against its Standards for Education. We have been working hard to respond to all of the issues raised in the last report. We will circulate the paperwork to class representatives and will hold a briefing session prior to the visit so that everyone is clear and confident about our processes. The panel will be visiting on 28 and 29 April 2015 and will sit in on the Clinical Progress Committee. There will also be a second visit to coincide with the final clinical assessments for the BDS Year 5 cohort in May.

Internal Teaching Review (ITR) – 24 & 25 March 2015:

An ITR is an “in-house” review of an area of teaching-related activity. ITRs take place every 5 years and consist of a panel made up of staff from the University, a student representative appointed by the Students’ Association, and one or two specialists from other institutions brought in to offer an outside perspective on our teaching activities. The dental expert is Prof Chris Tredwin from Peninsula Dental School and we are delighted that he has agreed to help in this process as he has experience of leading a new Dental School in the SE of England and all the challenges that can bring.

The Panel will meet with staff individually as well as examining the documentary evidence provided. They will be looking at the overall quality of the teaching provided and may give advice on any improvements that they feel necessary in order to attain best practice. Students are also given the opportunity to comment on the quality of teaching and learning. The ITR will look at teaching across the Division, for medical, dental and physician associate students. A group of dental class representatives will meet the panel on the afternoon of 24th March.

If you would like to find out more please contact Dr Christine Kay, c.d.kay@abdn.ac.uk
Congratulations to our first graduate to enter higher specialty training in Restorative Dentistry

Will Anderson, who graduated in the first cohort of students to complete the Aberdeen BDS programme in 2012, has been appointed to one of the two highly sought after Speciality Training posts in Scotland in Restorative Dentistry. Will completed his VT training locally and attended training days at ADS where he got a taste for Secondary Care Dentistry working with the Aberdeen Restorative Consultants. He will take up his post soon, this shows that Aberdeen graduates can compete with graduates from all the established schools and have the skills and maturity to win through.

Dr Donncahie and Dr Barker were both delighted to welcome Will to their team which has also expanded recently with the appointment of Dr Sam Rollings as the third Consultant with a remit of establishing a network of enhanced practitioners for the north of Scotland. We wish Will every success in his future role.

Claire Lowe leads an Aberdeen Dental School group to GoMAD

Claire Lowe (BDS4) has been taking part in a project with the Go Make a Difference (GoMAD) charity for some time and is leading a group of staff and students to take part in a dental clinic in rural Tanzania in July 2015. Seven members of the School will be helping in a clinic in Musoma for two weeks, with Dr Rosa Lopez, Ms Abbie McGowan (dental nurse) and Heather Leighton (BDS, Aberdeen 2014). Current students Mohammed Al-Khairulla (BDS 5), Catriona Taylor, Alice Hamilton and Clare herself (all BDS 4) are all taking part in this exciting and challenging project. Clare will spend five weeks in rural Tanzania setting up a rural health education programme, Cheka Zaidi (or smile more!). 11 primary schools are taking part in the project and she will work alongside the local health promotion team, and help train them up to give good preventative advice. Clare has already received support from Henry Schein in the form of toothbrushes for all the children, but any students or staff who wish to help with the project in any way – for example with fund raising - should get in touch with Clare: clare.lowe.08@aberdeen.ac.uk
Post-graduate students update

Welcome to our new PhD student based in the School.

Hadeel Abbood, BDS and MSc (Periodontics) from Iraq joined us at the beginning of 2015 and becomes our first full time dental PhD student to study at Aberdeen Dental School under the supervision of Dr Tatiana Macfarlane and Dr George Cherukara. Hadeel will be undertaking a study of the relationship between periodontal disease and spodyloarthropathies.

Our first PhD student, Kieron Smith is now in the third year of his study under the supervision of Dr Karolin Hijazi and Dr Georgina Hold. Kieran is based up in the IMS building and is working on an EU funded collaborative study aimed at developing improved microbicides against HIV1.

Paediatric Postgraduate Certificate Success

Congratulations to Dr Emmanolis Roditakis and Dr Mohammed Majid who both successfully completed the Postgraduate Certificate in Paediatric Dentistry programme at Aberdeen Dental School in December 2014. Emmanolis is a Dental Officer working in Shetland and part of the growing network of dental practitioners in the north of Scotland who are linking in with Aberdeen Dental School and gaining enhanced skills for the benefit of patients and for their own personal professional development. The postgraduate programme has seen another of our recent students, Dr Deirdre Balfour who return to the School where she now undertakes paediatric patient care and teaching on a part time basis.
Dr Rosa Lopez: We were delighted to celebrate with Rosa Lopez recently as she celebrated being awarded an Excellent Cum Laude following the presentation of her PhD entitled “Oral health Survey of a Population living in nursing homes in Catalonia”, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Spain, 2014.

Staff Achievements

Further congratulations also go to:

Dr Archana Kavi who gained her MSc in Oral surgery from UCLAN Dental School in 2014.

Dr Karolin Hijazi who was awarded the prize for the best oral presentation. British Society for Oral Medicine Winter’s meeting. Birmingham, 6th Dec 2014.

Dr Sarah Duffy who gained her PG Diploma in Medical Education from Dundee University in November 2014

New Appointees

The School would like to welcome all of our new staff members from recent months:

Martin Gallagher, Clinical Teaching Fellow;
Serena Sinclair, Clinical Teaching Fellow;
Jane Smith, Clinical Teaching Fellow
Phil Weildon, Project Manager;
Chris Cowan, Graduate Trainee Administrator;
Mark Palmer, Aiden McKenna, Graham Cunningham, Deirdre Balfour local GDPs who are all new clinical supervisors on student clinics.