It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of our new Chair in Dental Education and Integrated Oral Care, Professor Helen Craddock who joined us here in Aberdeen in September. Some of you will already know Helen who has been acting as one of our external examiners over the last three years.

Helen has previously been Deputy Director of Learning and Teaching at Leeds Dental Institute and comes to us with a wealth of experience in both dental education and as a clinician.

The Research Committee and especially Dr Karolin Hijazi, have been working hard to design and populate the brand new Dental School Research website which can be accessed at www.abdn.ac.uk/dental. All relevant information regarding research staff, their projects and achievements can be found there.

We have some ideas for how to foster a research culture within the Dental School and this includes starting an occasional research seminar series in 2013 to inform everyone of our ongoing work and future plans. The committee however very much welcomes any ideas staff members may have.

Dr Tatiana Macfarlane

New Staff

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Welcome

I am delighted to introduce Issue 1 of our bi-annual newsletter. This will be an opportunity to highlight our activities over the past year such as grant awards, research studies underway and publications. It will also be a chance to celebrate our successes as well as providing information on future plans. It is a means of updating our colleagues as well as advertising externally our activities.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this first issue and especially Dr Sveta Zaric for agreeing to be Editor. We have an enthusiastic research committee and our initial work has identified three research themes on which to focus. These represent areas in which we currently or have the potential to conduct internationally excellent research.

These are:
- Dental Education (led by Professor Helen Craddock)
- Craniofacial Sciences, Infection and Immunity (led by Dr Khaled Khalaf)
- Population Oral Health (led by myself).

Our aim is for each theme to have a strategy and within this to identify opportunities for aligning work with cross-university research themes and the oral health research strategy for Scotland.

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Website

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The Dental School and Hospital has been well represented at international and national conferences this year, with many members of staff taking part in oral or poster presentations and chairing sessions.

**38th Association for Dental Education in Europe Annual Meeting. “Evidence-based dentistry: from bench to clinic” 29 August - 1 September 2012. Lyon, France**

- Pilley A, Richardson GL, Hijazi K and Foley JI. Can admissions data predict subsequent academic and clinical performance in a graduate-entry dental school?
- Foley JI, Richardson GL and Hijazi K. An analysis of admissions data and subsequent OSCE performance in a graduate-entry dental school.
- Hijazi K, Abu Eid R and Foley JI. Can students predict their OSCE performance within a graduate-entry school?
- Hijazi K, Abu Eid R and Foley JI. Analysis of inter-examiner reliability of OSCE assessments.
- Foley JI, Hijazi K and Abu Eid R. Dental students consistency in applying the ICDAS system within paediatric dentistry.
- Richardson GL, Hijazi K and Foley JI. The paediatric dentistry experience of the first cohort of students to graduate from a Scottish graduate-entry programme: have we met the pre-requisites?

**International Association for Dental Research, General Session, June 2012, Iguassu Falls, Brazil**

- Zaric S, Taggart C, Coulter W. ‘TLR9 contributes to induction of chemokine paralysis-Implications in periodontitis’. Dr Zaric was also chairing a session on Immune Responses at this meeting.

**American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting 2012, Chicago, USA**

- Macfarlane TV et al. High pain prevalence is reported by patients with head and neck cancer: systematic review.

**NHS Grampian Endowments Annual Research Symposium, Aberdeen, UK**

- Macfarlane TV et al. Feasibility study of cancer of the head and neck, genetics and environment in Grampian region of Scotland.

**59th ORCA Congress 2012, Cabo Frio, Brazil, 27th - 30th June 2012**

- S. Rollings. ‘The effect of X-ray beam angulation on the accuracy of subtraction radiography for detecting

**PEF-IADR, Helsinki, Finland, 12 - 15 September 2012**

The International Association for Dental Research’s (IADR) Pan European Region (PER) Congress & Exhibition took place September 12 - 15, 2012, in Helsinki, Finland.

More than 1,000 scientists and representatives of the industry convened at the Congress to collaborate and learn cutting-edge research.

- Richardson GL, Drummie J, Hijazi K and Foley JI. To determine the effect of a Clinical Skills Programme on the quality of a composite resin build-up used to restore tooth.
Conference Presentations

- Zarin S, Shelburne C, Coulter W. "Sialylation of Porphyromonas gingivalis LPS and immune system evasion." Dr Zarin also chaired a session on Periodontal Research at this meeting.

Invited Talks

- Macfarlane TV "Epidemiology of cancer of the Upper Aerodigestive Tract (UADT)." Memorial conference on Global problems in oncology, NN Blokhin Cancer Research Centre, Moscow, Russia.

- Zarin S. "Tolerate your oral bugs or lose your teeth". Immunology Seminars, Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Aberdeen.


Evidence Base Craniofacial Care

On Saturday 22nd September 2012, Dr Marilou Ciantar and Dr Tatiana Maclarlane attended a one-day symposium on evidence based craniofacial care. The symposium, sponsored by the Scottish Cleft Lip and Palate Association (SCALP) and held at the Thistle Hotel, Glasgow was organized to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the inception of SCALP. The lectures were given by international and national expert speakers who reviewed current evidence and collaborative research in the area of craniofacial care.

The topics in the morning session covered advances in cleft surgery, imaging and care of cleft lip and palate patients. The afternoon session included two debates which focused on the timing of cleft repair and treatment via distraction osteogenesis vs osteotomy. The symposium was well attended with participants coming from all over the UK.

In the evening, the annual SCALP charity ball was held at the same venue. The event was very well attended and a great evening was had by all.
Symposia

Generous contributions given by sponsors and attendees helped raise funds for the charity.

SCALP is a charity the aims of which are:

1. to ensure that children born with clefts in Scotland receive the best available care.
2. to ensure that Scotland contributes to research into the cause of cleft lip and palate and
3. to enable research to find better ways to improve the quality of cleft care.

This year Marilou has produced another SCALP calendar for 2013 with the theme “bridging the gap” in keeping with the theme of the symposium. The calendar is unique as it has scenes of bridges in Scotland and Malta.

Should you wish to purchase a copy of the calendar in support of the charity, please do not hesitate to contact Marilou (marilou@ciantar.freeserve.co.uk or m.ciantar@abdn.ac.uk). A minimum £6 donation would be greatly appreciated and all proceeds go to SCALP. Should you wish more information about SCALP or to make a donation, please visit the website www.scalp4kids.org.

Research Grants 2012

Congratulations to staff on their success in securing big research grants for the Dental School:

  Funding awarded: €578,000.

- Hijazi, K. “Fragment-based Screening for Development of Inhibitors Preventing HIV-I Entry”. Project in collaboration with the Kosterlitz Centre for Therapeutics, University of Aberdeen and the Drug Discovery Unit, University of Aberdeen for development of novel HIV-I entry inhibitors.
  Funding awarded: £19,000 (Scottish Universities Life Science Alliance), £9,890 (University of Aberdeen Knowledge Transfer Fund).

  Funding awarded: £10,000.

- Macfarlane, T. “Role of human papillomavirus infection and other co-factors in the aetiology of head and neck cancer in Europe”.
  Funding awarded: €20,000 (IARC).

Publications 2012

- Foley JI and Drummie J. Handpiece and bur skills evaluation during an introductory clinical skills programme in a graduate-entry dental school: a pilot study. Eur Arch Paed 2012; 13: 149-151


• Wirth T, Macfarlane TV et al. Can Alcohol Intake from Mouthwash be Measured in Epidemiological Studies? Development and Validation of Mouthwash Use Questionnaire with Particular Attention to Measuring Alcohol Intake from Mouthwash J Oral Maxillofac Res 2012 (Jul-Sep);3(3):e1


• Barker D. Implant Assessment. Dental Update 2012; 39: 128-134

• Hutchison C, Morrison R. Oral and Maxillofacial Trauma and the Use of Telemedicine in the Grampian Region of Scotland: a Retrospective Study. J Oral Maxillofac Res 2012 (Jul-Sep);3(3):e2


Students’ Projects

BDA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Programme 2012

Ross Saunderson represented the dental school at the BDA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Programme 2012 in February. Ross presented his work on “Comparing a traditional and novel approach to dietary analysis: what do the patients think?” supervised by Dr J Foley. Dr E Pryde represented the staff of the Dental school at the award ceremony.

MSc

Godwins Okagbo Echejoh ‘Genetic factors in the aetiology of head and neck cancer’. Supervised by Drs T Macfarlane and Z Miedzybrodzka.
Students’ Projects

Ye Zhang ‘Immunomodulatory effects of viral TLR ligands on response to bacterial infections’, supervised by Dr S Zaric and Dr I Crane.

Carnegie Undergraduate Vacation Scholarship 2012

John Miskelly, currently a 4th year dental student, was awarded a Carnegie Undergraduate Vacation Scholarship, which is a competitive award across the whole science and medical faculty at the University of Aberdeen. John has carried out a research into the prevalence, aetiology and associated dental anomalies of hypodontia in the Grampian region under the supervision of Dr K Khalaf and Dr T Macfarlane.

Honours Student Research Project

A research project entitled “Demineralization of tooth enamel (White Spot Lesions) following fixed appliance orthodontic treatment” was carried out at Aberdeen Dental School and Hospital by Kim-Weng Tan (a Biomedical Honours student) and supervised by Prof Jaya Jayasinghe and Dr Khaled Khalaf. This is the first dental research project to be conducted by a Biomedical Student and was completed successfully. Kim-Weng Tan was awarded an excellent mark for his dental research project which has contributed to his graduation with a first class degree.

Conference Presentations

Dr Anusha Hennedige, a third year dental student, has conducted a project on Long-medium term functional and clinical outcome for Temporomandibular Joint Total and Hemi-arthroplasties under the supervision of Mr Rory Morrison, Consultant in Oral Maxillofacial surgery at ARI. She presented her work at the European Association of Craniofacial-Maxillofacial Surgery Congress in Dubrovnik, Croatia in August and at the JTG British Association Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Meeting at Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh in October.

Science without borders Programme Students

A research project entitled “Aesthetic appearance of orthodontic treatment outcome of severely mal-positioned upper canines using two extraction choices” has just started at Aberdeen Dental School and Hospital by Isabela Fatima Araujo Souza, (a final year dental student from Brazil) as part of ‘Science without Borders Programme’ and supervised by Dr Khaled Khalaf. This will be a preliminary study and will lead to a more robust well designed RCT to inform our clinical practice towards an evidence based practice rather than a commonly held belief based primarily on clinicians’ opinions.

ERASMUS Programme

A very warm welcome to Elena Voge, from the University of Bremen in Germany. Elena is spending 6 months in Aberdeen as part of ERASMUS programme. She is currently working on several projects in the area of oral health epidemiology under the supervision of Dr Tatiana Macfarlane. Elena is also affiliated to the Epidemiology group:

www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine-dentistry/health-sciences/epidemiology

Earlier this year Tanja Wirth and Lena Zimmerman, both from the University of Bremen, conducted research at the Dental school under the supervision of Dr Tatiana Macfarlane as part of ERASMUS programme.

Summer Projects 2013

Our Dental School has joined the Aberdeen Summer Research Studentship Programme: www.abdn.ac.uk/acat/ugrad-research/ASRS. Application forms were emailed to Year 1 and 2 Dental students. The deadline for applications is Friday 14th of December 2012.

Medical Research Scotland Vacation Research Scholarship awards 2013 - the deadline for applications is 17th of January 2013.
Research Training

Critical appraisal of research papers and evaluating the evidence in Dentistry

This course is run annually by Dr Khaled Khalaf (Clinical Senior Lecturer/Honorary Consultant in Orthodontics) and Dr Tatiana Macfarlane (Senior Research Fellow) and suitable for Senior Specialist Registrars in Dentistry to prepare them for the Critical Appraisal component of the ISFE (Intercollegiate Specialty Fellowship Examination). It is also suitable for NHS and academic consultants at the earlier stages of their careers.

The course covers different types of study design, critical appraisal of evidence, different measurement scales and common statistical tests, systematic reviews and meta analysis as well as practical exercises in critical appraisal.

The first course took place on the 10th of August 2012 with excellent attendance record and feedback. NHS and Academic Senior Registrars/Clinical Lecturers attended from different disciplines in dentistry and from several Dental Hospitals/Universities in the UK including London, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

Epidemiology Course

The 20th Intensive Course in Applied Epidemiology will be held at the University of Aberdeen, 4th - 8th March 2013.

The course is particularly aimed at researchers in chronic disease and will cover the principles of study design, the collection and analysis of data, and methodological aspects of epidemiological study, including bias, confounding, validity and reliability.

This year there are four full bursaries to allow persons working in the NHS in Scotland to attend the course. The bursaries will cover the full course fees. There is high demand for places and persons interested in attending and applying for a bursary are encouraged to apply at the earliest opportunity. Details are available at:

www.abdn.ac.uk/epidemiology

Students’ Research Presentations

3rd year Dental Students’ research presentations will take place on Friday 8th of March, 2-5pm.

Please come and support your students.