Breaking News

We are delighted to formally announce that Professor Helen Craddock has been appointed to the post of Director of Dentistry at the University of Aberdeen. She will take up her post on 1st August 2013.

Welcome

Welcome to our second University of Aberdeen Dental School Research newsletter. As you can see a lot of changes and achievements have happened since the last newsletter. It is great to work in such a dynamic and exciting time for the Dental school.

I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to this newsletter and especially the editor Dr Svetislav Zaric. However Svetis is leaving us in May to take a post of Senior Lecturer at the Peninsula Dental School. We wish him success and hope he will continue collaborating with the University of Aberdeen. I am looking for volunteers to become an editor of this newsletter - it is a great opportunity to unleash your creativity.

Our research strategy 2013-2018 is now finalised and is available on the Dental school research web site. It aligns with cross-university research themes and the oral health research strategy for Scotland.

We have three research themes: Dental Education (led by Professor Helen Craddock); Craniofacial Sciences, Infection and Immunity (led by Dr Khaled Khalaf) and Population Oral Health (led by myself). Please let your theme leader know if you are planning a new research project.

Those who visited the first floor of the Dental School have hopefully noticed our new poster boards, research collaboration/visits map and display of recent publications. I encourage all staff to replace the old posters with the new ones, to print the first page of their new publications and to flag any new collaborative links and visits.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and entertaining, and I welcome your comments and suggestions. We try to distribute the printed version to dental specialists in Grampian area and also it is available on our research web site. However please let me know if you would like us to send a copy to your colleagues if they currently do not receive this newsletter.

Finally, if you would like to be involved in collaborative research with the Dental school please get in touch. I wish you sunny and productive summer.

Dr Tatiana Macfarlane
Chair of Dental School Research Committee

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Retirement of Professor Newton

February marked the end of an era for Aberdeen Dental School, with the retirement of Professor Jim Newton. In an event attended by staff and students we celebrated his incredible career and wished him well into his retirement. Jim came to Aberdeen as head of school back in 2008, having previously worked in Dundee dental school.

We wish Jim all the best in his retirement, the dental school is certainly a less colourful place without him!

Welcome to new Staff

Chris Reeks, a GDP from the Fountain Dental Group - Banchory, has joined us at the beginning of April as a Clinical Teaching Fellow.

He is currently undertaking a part-time MSc at UCLan with a special interest in Periodontology.

Sarah Duffy joined us at the beginning of May, as a Senior Clinical Teaching Fellow on a full time basis. Sarah, a restorative dentist has academic undergraduate and postgraduate experience at a senior level from both Peninsula Dental School and more recently at UCLAN. Sarah will be leading our new case based curriculum that will be introduced in September 2014.

Dr Sveta Zaric received the IADR/Lion Dental research Award for his achievements in the field of microbiology and immunology of periodontal diseases. The award, which is supported by the Lion Corporation of Tokyo, recognises outstanding and innovative research in basic dental science as well as research achievements for improvement and development of oral care products for the prevention of oral diseases.

Dr Zaric recently travelled to Seattle at the IADR General Session where he gave a talk on an interplay between monocytes and gingival fibroblasts in the pathogenesis of periodontal diseases and was presented with his award at by Takashi Yamamoto, the director of oral care research laboratories, Lion Corporation.

Commenting on his award, he said: “I am delighted to have been selected for this award and it is a huge honour to be recognised for achievements in my field. I have been working in this area for many years and this award will act as a great motivation tool for all my further research projects”.

Researchers involved in the MOTIF project met in Camogli, Italy on March 19th-21st with partners of the complementary large-scale collaborative project CHAARM to discuss progress and future strategies for development of optimised combinations of microbicides against HIV-1. MOTIF is an SME-targeted collaborative project which obtained a contribution of 6 million euros by the European Union under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) to develop optimized formulations of microbicides against HIV-1.

The project will run till September 2015 and it comprises 6 interrelated Work Packages. Dr Karolin Hijazi leads Work Package I aimed at investigating the role of drug transporter expression in mucosal disposition of anti-HIV-1 microbicides. http://www.motifproject.eu/web

Dr Tatiana Macfarlane has attended the 10th Annual International Head and Neck Cancer Epidemiology Consortium (INHANCE) meeting at Mount Sinai, New York, NY USA on Wednesday the 8th of May. She is leading a project on aspirin and other NSAIDs and risk of Head and Neck cancer. INHANCE is an international collaboration of 65 Universities across four continents.

Within Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration Professor Helen Craddock has joined Dental Education research group. Dr Khaled Khalaf has joined the Craniofacial Research Group and Dr Tatiana Macfarlane has joined the Public Health/Health Services group.

Dr Tatiana Macfarlane is appointed a member of the ‘Trial Steering Committee for the following study: RITUXILUP - An open label randomised multicentre controlled trial of RITUXimab and mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) without oral steroids for the treatment of LUPus nephritis (funder: Arthritis Research UK; Lead institution: Imperial College London).

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Publications 2012

(since last newsletter)


• Foley JJ. Dental students’ consistency in applying the ICDAS system within paediatric dentistry. Eur Arch Paediatr Dent. 2012 Dec;13(6):319-22. PMID: 23235133


• S Rollings, Stevenson, D Ricketts. When It All Goes Wrong! Part I. Case Assessment and Management Options. Dent Update 2013; 40: 82-91


Book Publication


Students’ Projects

Dr Elizabeth Pryde’s BMed Sc student Rohini Mukerji is completing a systematic review on periodontal diseases and preterm, low-birth-weight babies. Elizabeth is also working on devising on-line teaching tools for BDS students.

BDA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician

Research Programme 2013

Michal Kawecki, 2nd year student, represented the Dental School at the BDA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Programme 2013 in March in London. Michal presented his work on “A decade of referrals to a restorative dentistry department” supervised by Dr Tatiana Maclaran. Mr Martin Donachie and Mr Dean Barker. We are grateful to all staff who helped to prepare Michal for competition. Dr Tatiana Maclaran represented the staff of the Dental school at the award ceremony attended by representatives and students from 14 dental schools from UK and Ireland.

Four Medical students (Patrick Trotter, Lindsey Norton, Ann Loo, Jonathan Munn) who conducted SSMIII project in 2012 under the supervision of Dr Tatiana Maclaran have published their findings in Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Research. Their paper is entitled “Pharmacological and Other Interventions for Head and Neck Cancer Pain: A Systematic Review” appeared in the December 2012 issue. Well done!
Students’ Projects

Summer Projects 2013

Two 2nd year Dental students (Michal Kawecki and Matthew Doswell) were awarded Aberdeen Summer Research Studentships 2013. They will be supervised by Dr Khaled Khalaf and Dr Tatiana Macfarlane.

Klaudia Sobczak, a pupil from Inverurie Academy in Grampian, has won Nuffield Research Placement at our Dental School (www.nuffieldfoundation.org/scb). Klaudia will be working on assessment of tooth root length of hypodontia patients under the supervision of Dr Tatiana Macfarlane and Dr Khaled Khalaf.

Awards and Competitions

Awards and competitions available to the undergraduate dental students

- Aberdeen Summer Research Studentships (year 1 and 2 students) - usually deadline is mid-December; see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/
- SET Awards (Science, Engineering & Technology Student of the Year) The closing date for entries is Wednesday, 31st July 2013 see http://www.setawards.org/index.html
- Medical Research Scotland Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships; Deadline is usually mid-January. http://www.medicalresearchscotland.org.uk/apply.htm
- Carnegie Undergraduate Vacation Scholarship; http://carnegie-trust.org/our-award-schemes/undergraduate-schemes.html#vacation Deadline usually in February. Contact Dr T Macfarlane for details
- Junior Colgate Undergraduate Prize - Oral, BSODR Unilever Poster Prize, BSODR Clinical Research Prize: Voco Prize for Dental Biomaterials. Research – Oral; Deadline for 2013 is 17th of May; http://www.bsodr.org.uk/awards/index.html
- European Congress on Head & Neck Oncology 2014 24th-26th April 2014 ACC - Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool UK
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- MED 2014 (Congress of the European Orthodontic Society), 13th-16th June 2014, Venice, Italy http://www.eoseurope.org/congresses/congresses
- MED 2015 (Congress of the European Orthodontic Society), 13th-16th June 2015, Manchester, UK http://www.eoseurope.org/congresses/congresses
- MED 2017 (Congress of the European Orthodontic Society), 13th-16th June 2017, Montreux, Switzerland http://www.eoseurope.org/congresses/congresses
- 8th Congress of the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®), Florence, Italy, 9th-12th October
- 92nd General Session & Exhibition of the IADR, Annual Meeting of the IADR South African Division, Cape Town, South Africa, 25th-28th June 2014
- 28th British Orthodontic Conference, Edinburgh, 18th-20th September 2014
- 60th Congress of the European Organisation for Caries Research, Liverpool, 3rd-6th July
- British Society for Oral and Dental Research (BSODR) Annual Meeting, Bath, 9th-11th September
- 27th British Orthodontic Conference, Manchester, 19th-21st September

Important Dates

- Orthognathic Surgery - Current Advances and Hands-on ED Planning, Glasgow, 20th-23rd June 2013
- 80th Congress of the European Organisation for Caries Research, Liverpool, 3rd-6th July
- British Society for Oral and Dental Research (BSODR) Annual Meeting, Bath, 9th-11th September
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- MED 2014 (Congress of the European Orthodontic Society), 13th-16th June 2014, Warsaw, Poland www.eos2014.com
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Curriculum Away Day

On Monday the 1st of April Dental school staff has attended the Curriculum away day. It was a really successful day and great opportunity for sharing our ideas. We had some excellent presentations and discussions and everyone very much enjoyed each other’s company on the day.

Professor Helen Craddock would like to thank everyone who attended for their enthusiasm and support in this venture.

Research Training

21st Intensive Course in Applied Epidemiology – Aberdeen, 3rd-7th March 2014

The 21st Intensive Course in Applied Epidemiology will be held at the University of Aberdeen, 3rd-7th March 2014.

The course 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.

There are bursaries to allow persons working in the NHS in Scotland to attend the course in Aberdeen. 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

2nd Scottish Facial Pain Symposium, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, UK
Friday September 13th

Venue: MedChi Hall, Polwarth Building, Foresterhill, Aberdeen

We are pleased to announce the 2ND Scottish Facial Pain symposium. Facial pain is a diagnostic challenge with diverse etiologies.

The course aims to provide a multidisciplinary Systematic approach to the management of facial pain and evidence based management.

Details are available at:
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/events/