

Advancing Dentistry – John Darby, BDA, MSc, FFGDP, FDS(RCPS GLAS)

John Darby opened the conference as the keynote speaker. He provided an interesting session about a new project; Advancing Dental Care Review Project. The project was launched in September 2017 and will look at how to better meet future patient needs of dental patients whilst ensuring value for money.

The project, which will review ways to reform dental education and training in the future to provide the workforce required by patients for the next 30 years, will report with evidence-based recommendations, to Health Education England's executive team. The project will also take into consideration the strategic priorities of the Department of Health and NHS England.

It is thought that many Dental Care Professionals are qualified to perform a lot of the tasks that are routinely taken on by a dentist. John encouraged the conference delegates to keep up-to-date with the project and get involved by visiting: [hee.nhs.uk/advancing dentistry](http://hee.nhs.uk/advancing-dentistry)

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Dental Volunteering with Dentaïd – Jill Harding, Dentaïd Communications Director

Jill firstly provided some history of the Charity which included plenty of photographs and success stories about how Charity's volunteers had made a difference. These communities were in countries such as Cambodia, Nepal, Zambia, Uganda and the Philippines. Jill went on to explain that Dentaïd sends reconditioned donated dental equipment and portable dental surgeries to projects in many different countries. Their DentaïdBox means dental surgeries can be set up in some of the most remote locations in the world.

During 2017, Dentaïd and its volunteers helped to provide oral health education and pain relieving treatment to 30,517 people in the poorest but most beautiful counties in the world.

It was a moving and engaging presentation which provoked many questions. Jill concluded by providing information about the upcoming volunteering opportunities in 2018. If you are interested in volunteering or simply want more information contact Dentaïd via www.dentaïd.org or 01794 324249.

Dental Nursing in Oman – Yassmen Al-Lawati, Senior Dental Surgery Assistant

This was the first presentation on the second day and one that was extremely interesting. As dental nurses from the UK, it was a great opportunity to meet with and share stories with our colleague from Oman.

Yassmen explained about the dental nursing syllabus in Oman and how it had changed thought out the last few years. Yassmen joined the Institute of Health Sciences, Sultanate of Oman in 1997 and commenced work as a dental nurse in 1999. Following the achievement of her Certificate in Conscious Sedation and her internship, she joined the Paedodontic Department where she currently works.

Yassmen explained that in Oman they still carry the title of Dental Surgery Assistant and that most are expected to move on into dental hygiene and therapy. As a result, there is little opportunity to expand

the dental nursing role and therefore Yassmen felt proud to travel to the UK to speak at BADN's annual conference.

It was a great opportunity to meet Yassmen who had given up her own time to present at our annual conference.

Care and Maintenance of Decontamination Equipment – Angie McBain-Heilmann, MBE, MA, LCGI, RDN and Adrian Buckingham, MD of Dental Hygienics and Decontamination Ltd

Following Yassmen's presentation, Angie McBain-Heilmann MBE and Adrian Buckingham explored policy related to infection control in primary dental care and the results of poorly maintained equipment in the surgery.

Firstly, Angie reviewed policy related to infection control to remind delegates about the HTM01-05 requirements and CQC regulations. Discussions took place on the workplace policies and procedures required to ensure compliance and to determine the critical areas that require continued care and maintenance in the workplace.

Adrian continued by showing many slides that demonstrated poorly maintained equipment which genuinely amazed the delegates. Parts of decontamination equipment were shown and discussions took place around improving knowledge in this area not only for themselves but also for their teams.

The session helped to remind delegates about the importance of correctly caring for and maintaining decontamination equipment in their workplaces.

Enhanced CPD: What it means for Dental Nurses – Janet Collins, GDC Head of Standards

In the final presentation of the conference, Janet Collins informed delegates about the GDC's new CPD scheme.

Janet explained that the Enhanced CPD scheme will be introduced for dentists on 1st January 2018 and for dental care professionals on 1st August 2018. It will involve the following changes for dental nurses:

- An amendment to verifiable CPD hours (50hours of activity in a five-year cycle)
- A requirement to spread the CPD hours more evenly across the five-year cycle (10 hours of activity in a two-year block)
- An overall reduction in CPD hours due to the removal of non-verifiable requirements
- To submit an annual CPD statement (at the same time as the ARF renewal date)
- To create a Personal Development Plan(PDP) to identify CPD needs relevant to their own field of practice.

Janet also went on to explain that the hours are set as minimum levels and can be exceeded if required and the newly introduced PDP should be written to meet the GDC development outcomes A-D, which in turn help registrants meet the GDC standards (nine principles). The reflective requirement will enable dental nurses to consider how the CPD activity has contributed towards maintaining or developing their own knowledge, skills behaviours and attitudes.

Janet continued to explain that some dental nurses may be required to commence the new scheme part way through their current CPD cycle as the scheme becomes mandatory for dental nurses on 1st August 2018. To clarify requirements, the GDC is providing a 'transition calculator' on their website to

allow dental nurse s to input their registration number so that the calculator will analyse the number of hours required to be completed under the new scheme.

Janet took plenty of questions at the end of the presentation and many delegates commented that it was an extremely useful element to the programme.

For further information about the new scheme please visit the GDC website address <https://www.gdc-uk.org/professionals/cpd/enhanced-cpd>