



**British Society for
Disability and Oral Health**
UNLOCKING BARRIERS TO CARE

Filling the Gap

BSDH Autumn 2006
Registered Charity Number 1044867
www.bsdh.org.uk

When BSDH successfully launched the Journal of Disability and Oral Health (JDOH) in 2000, it contained regular news items. This replaced BSDH 'Proceedings' published annually which updated members on the Society's activities and news. In order to get JDOH listed as a recognised and reputable scientific journal, it must be accepted by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). To meet the strict criteria for NLM listing, it was necessary to remove news items. The committee is aware that this may have left members with an information gap on the work and achievements of the Society.



' is intended to do just that.

Speciality in Special Care Dentistry

We were all delighted last December when the GDC announced the '**Specialty in Special Care Dentistry**'. The announcement didn't come out of the blue – BSDH put a great deal of work into this through the Joint Advisory Committee for SCD. Two very important documents supporting the need for a specialty were published and are available on the BSDH website:

A Case of Need: Proposal for a Specialty in Special Care Dentistry Training in Special Care Dentistry

BSDH also worked with many voluntary organisations encouraging them to make representation to the GDC. So we will have a Speciality in SCD but it won't happen overnight!!! Sue Greening will represent BSDH on the shadow Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC) that will take this exciting development forward. That has been the main thrust of BSDH over the last few years, that is, apart from arranging very successful scientific meetings with exceptionally high attendance (over 300 delegates at the Winter 2005 meeting on ASD).

Honorary President

2006 has been a very innovative year for the Society. Peter Holland is the first non-dental professional to be appointed as President. Peter has been a lay member of the committee for several years, representing the Disability Partnership. The Winter meeting reflects his interest in BSDH working in partnership with the voluntary sector to promote the oral health of disabled people.

Journal of Disability and Oral Health

The Journal, now in its successful sixth year will move this year to three issues. A Continuing Professional Development Programme was introduced in 2005. We know that people are doing lots of research and audit but for whatever reason, they don't forward it for publication. June Nunn, Editor of JDOH wants to encourage you to publish what's happening. **If you are unsure, please contact June to informally discuss it first; you can email her: june.nunn@dental.tcd.ie**

BSDH Research Group

The Research group was set up to review current BSDH guidelines and consider areas of research in special care dentistry. The questionnaire issued at the last Winter meeting gave a valuable insight into the need to update the guidelines and the committee is addressing this. A working group has also been set up to develop Guidelines for Oral Health Care under General Anaesthesia for Adults needing Special Care. Thanks to Janice Fiske who led a joint initiative with BSG, '**Guidelines for the Oral Health Care of People with Dementia**', will be launched at the BSG meeting in December. Vanita Brookes has also been leading a working group on developing '**A Commissioning Tool for Special Care Dentistry: Guidance for PCTs**' which will be presented at the December meeting and will also be available on the website. For more information on the Research Group, please contact Navdeep Kumar who is leading the group.

Another joint BSG/BSDH working group chaired by Dr David Davies, Past President of BSG led to the publication in December 2005 of an important document '**Meeting the Challenges of Oral Health for Older People: A Strategic Review**' – this makes strong recommendations including the need for DCPs to be more involved in providing care for older people.

BSDH Teachers Group

A Teachers Group led by June Nunn was established to take forward the under-graduate curriculum in Special Care Dentistry (SCD). Shelagh Thompson is now leading this group and is arranging a meeting for teachers before the 2007 Spring meeting in Newcastle. Shelagh will also be representing BSDH on a North

European Teacher's Working Group to develop minimum standards for Special Care in the under-graduate curriculum, and to explore how European Dental Schools are achieving this. More information will be available on the website.

Special Care Education for DCPs

Courses for the Certificate in Special Care Dental Nursing have been run in 10 centres in the UK, and more are coming on line. 170 dental nurses have successfully achieved the certificate. BSDH has also established a working group that includes four DCP committee members to look at developing a curriculum and training programme in Special Care for Hygienists and Therapists. With the development of the Specialty in SCD, this is an important development to ensure that all members of the team are equipped with the knowledge and skill to provide appropriate care.

BSDH Website

The website has been developed by Ken Dalley to include comprehensive information on the Society, details of membership, scientific meetings, abstracts, and guidelines and other publications. Information for the public on finding local SC dental services has recently been added to the site.

Working with the Voluntary Sector

Nick Ransford is taking the lead on this. He is working on recommendations for joint oral health initiatives with the voluntary sector. There will be more news of this in due course and again, information will be available on the website.

BSDH Prizes

The Society has increased the number of awards. There are three separate prizes for Dental Nurses, Hygienists and Therapists, and a prize for dentists within 5 years of qualification. Details of the entry and submission criteria are all available on the website. Dentsply have agreed to sponsor a £250 Hamper Prize of their products for the best case report in the Journal. The New Graduate Prize and the DCP prize are being sponsored by Stephen Hancocks Ltd, and are currently being judged. Prize winners will be presented with awards at BSDH scientific meetings. Check the website for details of the entry criteria and news of prize winners.

International Association of Disability and Oral Health

The 2006 IADH meeting was held in August at Göteborg in Sweden. The scientific and social programmes were excellent, and with a very warm welcome from the Scandinavian countries. 40 people attended from the UK and Ireland, and made presentations, including a number of DCPs. June Nunn retired as Secretary of IADH and received a standing ovation at the AGM for her tireless contribution to IADH as Past President and Secretary and her contribution to SCD nationally and internationally. We are very pleased to report that Roland Blankenstein, Past President of BSDH is the new Secretary of IADH.

Awards

Sue Greening, Past President and Past Secretary of BSDH, and currently Chair of the committee was inaugurated as Honorary President of the British Dental Association at the BDA Conference in May. We are very proud of Sue's achievement, and wish her every success in her Presidential year knowing that she will raise the profile of SCD in the UK.

Three members of BSDH received awards for their contribution to Special Care Dentistry in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2005:

Mr Norman Campbell O.B.E., Dr Janice Fiske M.B.E and Janet Griffiths M.B.E.

Footnote

It's just not possible to summarise all the activities of BSDH over the last few years. But as you can see from this summary, BSDH has been very pro-active on behalf of the members and in activities to promote Special Care Dentistry. If you have any issues that you want the Society to address, or any projects or news items of interest, please **please** email or write to the Secretary or Project Administrator – their contact details are on the website: www.bsdh.org.uk

BSDH is your Society – it exists because of you, the membership, and is a resource to support you. Please use it to become more active in the work of the Society to promote Special Care Dentistry for some of the most vulnerable people in society.

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