

Spring 2003

The Newsletter of the British Association of Surgical Dentistry

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your forbearance in waiting for communication from me. There are a number of reasons for the delay which I hope will become apparent in the contents of this letter. Nevertheless, I am pleased to say that since our last Conference there have been some encouraging developments affecting our specialty and we can expect some interesting changes in the not too distant future.

Michael Hahn
President BASD

COMMUNICATION

By now I hope most of you are familiar with our new contact details. Our colleagues in the Faculty of Dental Surgery in the Edinburgh College have been very supportive and we now have an office and a secretary based there. The details are:

Yvonne Gilbert
British Association of Surgical Dentistry
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Nicolson Street
Edinburgh EH8 9DW
Direct Line: 0131 527 3402
Email: y.gilbert@rcsed.ac.uk
Website: www.basd.org.uk

WEBSITE

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Jane Shearer we now have a website with the address as above. It is our intention to communicate as well as possible electronically and as more activity takes place then obviously more will be reported on the site. If you have any information that you would like to share then please contact Jane directly. Her contact details are:

Jane Shearer
Staff Grade in Maxillofacial Surgery
Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary
Major's Loan
Falkirk FK1 5QE
Tel: 01324 616052
Email: janeveitch@hotmail.com

Presently Jane is working on setting up a secure site which will be accessed using a password and individual ID number.

JOURNAL

Paul Allen is currently in negotiations with two reputable publishers.. It is our intention to create a journal, initially with a quarterly circulation. Advice from the publishers is that we may need to include Oral Surgery in the title in order to ensure reasonable circulation in the United States and Europe.

To support this project we will need to set up an Editorial Board and, of

course, encourage the submission of papers. Paul's contact details are:

Paul Allen
Associate Specialist in Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgery
Great Western Hospital
Downs Way
Swindon SN3 6BN
Email: mrpaulallen@yahoo.co.uk

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

One of our main interests as an Association is the education and training for our Members. Currently, related issues are dealt with by the SAC (Specialist Advisory Committee) in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. This committee reports to the Joint Committee on Higher Surgical Training and the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry.

There are two Surgical Dentistry representatives on the SAC, Liza Watson, Staff Grade in Maxillofacial Surgery and Ian Grime, a High Street Surgical Dentist. These two colleagues were invited onto the SAC before the formation of our Association and their term of office is almost at an end. Their successors will be representatives, one from each, of the principle Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and our own Association.

It is the view of the Council that Surgical Dentists should be trained by Surgical Dentists in both the primary and secondary care sectors. Clearly there is much work to be done in bringing that situation about but at the present time we need to gain as much representation as possible within the existing mechanisms. As well as gaining some representation on SAC we are also seeking a place on the Dental Education Committee, chaired by the Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Barry Cockcroft.

It is my intention, within my term of office, to set up a small sub-committee within our Association solely to deal with education and training matters. It is imperative that we prepare ourselves for input into PMETB should the occasion arise, or into the dental equivalent if not.

MEETING WITH THE CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER

On 21st March the Council met with Professor Raman Bedi, Chief Dental Officer for England. It was the unanimous view that the meeting was extremely productive. The CDO very kindly offered to convene a meeting involving representatives from BAOMS, BASD, The Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, the President of the GDC and the President of the Royal College of Surgeons. I have readily accepted the offer and will update you once the meeting has taken place.

The CDO also offered some invaluable advice as to how, as an Association, we can gain more effective independent representation at the appropriate levels.

MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership is 218. As I have said so often our success as an Association will primarily be determined by a flourishing and active membership. Clearly these numbers only represent about a third of those on the Specialist list so if you can continue to persuade your colleagues to join us it will add to our strength.

CONFERENCE 2003

I trust that those of you who made last year's Conference enjoyed the occasion as much as I did. As you will

realise we were at the limit of the capacity of the University Conference Centre. In order to accommodate our increasing capacity this year's meeting will take place at the International Conference Centre in Birmingham. This has the advantage of placing us at the centre of Birmingham's night life for those who want to extend the Friday evening session.

I enclose the provisional programme for the Conference. In view of the popularity of last year's meeting I would draw your attention to the closing dates for application and re-submission of free papers.

General Medical are once again generously sponsoring the prize for the best free paper which is an all expenses paid visit to a prestigious implant surgery in Germany.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank our colleagues on the Council for all their hard work in bringing us this far. If you have any issues which you think the Association may help or if you have any suggestions for further development then please do not hesitate to contact me directly or via the Edinburgh office.

Kind regards.