

News and views

Editor: Clare Ketley

BSPD Council

BSPD Council met on 2 March 2004 at 123 Gray's Inn Road. Following the invitations to tender for the design of a new website, Adolos Consultancy was appointed as the new website developer and the site is now ready for uploading. All branch members are encouraged to provide input for this and are asked to contact Liz Roebuck, the site manager (email: lizroebuck@mac.com) before the end of May 2004.

A discussion also took place regarding the possible re-institution of the spring scientific meeting, so that one meeting per year would be devoted to lectures/presentations around a particular theme and the other meeting dedicated to the poster and case presentation and research prizes. Members' thoughts on this would be welcomed.

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 September at 6 pm in Belfast.

BSPD Specialists' Branch

BSPD Specialists will have a 'working lunch' meeting on Friday 21 May 2004 at the Eastman Dental Institute during the ECT04 meeting. Details have been circulated to all members of the Branch but further information is available from the Honorary Secretary, Michael Brosnan (michaelbrosnan@lineone.net).

A new Oral Health Strategy for Northern Ireland

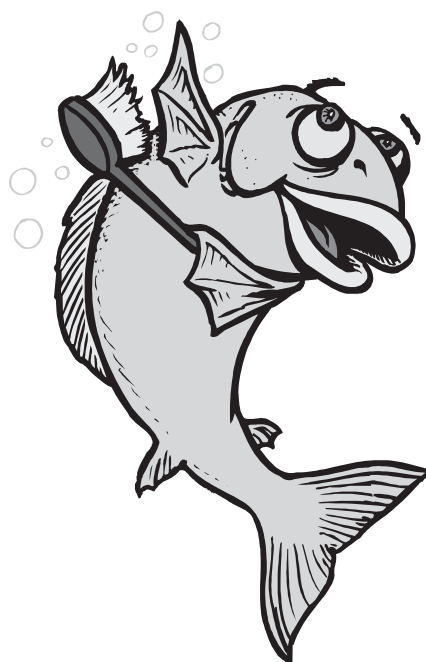
Recent data has shown that 7000 children in Northern Ireland had 30 000 teeth extracted under general anaesthetic during 2003, representing one quarter of all school children in the province. Such dramatic caries levels are five times higher per head of population than those in the adjacent Republic of Ireland which benefits from extensive water fluoridation.

In response to this, the first strategy for oral health delivered in Northern Ireland in 1995 is about to be replaced. As part of the development of this new strategy the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is aiming to engage with

all members of the dental team and other interested parties in identifying what oral health issues should be addressed. Survey results of 1000 patients interviewed by telephone and also feedback from attendees at a series of evening workshops held during Spring 2004 will contribute to the planning work. The new strategy, the overall aim of which is to achieve an improvement in the oral health of the whole population, including children, with a concomitant reduction in health inequalities, is due to be launched in June 2004.

Finding Nemo at the Dentist!

If you haven't been to see *Finding Nemo* yet, the latest Walt Disney film which has just been released on DVD and video, then you'd better be on your toes when treating some of your young patients! Nemo ends up in an aquarium in a dental 'office' in Sydney – consequently you might just be asked questions such as 'what is the difference between a Hedstrom and a K-flex file?' – ('is one of them really "tear-shaped" in cross-section?!') and 'is it really possible to rinse out whilst wearing rubber dam?!'



**Conjoint Membership in Paediatric Dentistry
The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong
and The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh**

The fourth diet of the Conjoint Membership in Paediatric Dentistry examination was held in Hong Kong between 3rd and 7th November 2003. There were seven candidates including an Associate Professor from Beijing University School of Stomatology.

The examiners were Dr Joseph Chan and Professor Nigel King from Hong Kong, and Miss Jane Goodman and Miss Patricia Baxter from Edinburgh. In addition Professor Yuzo Tagaki, Professor of Paediatric Dentistry at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University Graduate School, was a visiting examiner.

All parts of the examination were held in the excellent facilities of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building, where all the staff were most helpful. Six of the candidates were successful.

The examination coincided with the 10th Anniversary of the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong, and there was an extensive social programme including a Conferment Ceremony and Dinner, a boat trip to Lamma Island for a seafood dinner and

an Examiners' dinner at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Therefore, there were opportunities to meet and discuss with colleagues from different educational and healthcare experiences, interspersed with the hard work.

JANE R. GOODMAN

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Examiners and candidates for Conjoint Membership in Paediatric Dentistry, Hong Kong, November 2003.

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