

Editorial

The number ($n = 55$) and diversity of abstracts submitted for this year's British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) annual scientific meeting is particularly impressive, given that many members will have also presented posters and talks at the preceding meeting of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry. Over the last decade, there has been a steady increase in the number of publications arising from BSPD conferences, which must reflect the considerable growth of research and clinical governance-related activities within our specialty. But it is not just about numbers, the quality of our work must stand-up to national and international scientific scrutiny. With this in mind, BSPD recently established a central group to manage all future conference abstracts and prizes: the *Conference Abstract and Prize Committee* (CAPC). The introduction of an audit prize, to the existing three prize categories, is a new initiative and reflects the increasing recognition of its place in service provision.

Specific details about the committee's remit can be found on the society's website, (<http://www.bspd.co.uk/awards.html>) but two key aims are to ensure that all abstracts are subject to rigorous peer-review and that prizes are awarded according to consistent and transparent criteria. The eight committee members have been selected to ensure there is wide representation and expertise across academic and clinical paediatric dentistry and currently comprise: Cate Brown, Janet Davis, Karen Duncan, Rod Llewelyn, Lindsay Nutting, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Richard Welbury, and myself. The first task of 2009 was to select the best entry for the Max Horsnell Travel Bursary, which was awarded to Rose-Marie Daly for her paper entitled 'Association between caries and body mass index' (co-

authors S Gibson, G Frost and M Duggal), which was presented at IAPD in Munich.

You may recall that last year's supplement of the *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* (IJPd) contained a number of BSPD clinical guidelines, policy documents and the *Clinical Effectiveness Bulletin*. Regrettably, due to the prohibitive costs of publishing a supplement of this size, the Society took the decision to only print conference abstracts in hard copy for the foreseeable future. However, all documents are available on the Society's website and are published on-line in the IJPd. I should draw your attention to the recently published policy document on dental neglect in children by JC Harris, RC Balmer and BD Sidebottom (IJPd 2009, May 14. PMID: 19470009).

Sadly, this is the last supplement that I will edit, as I will be stepping down as BSPD editor in 2010. It has been an extremely rewarding and stimulating role, and one that I have felt privileged to have. I shall always be grateful to Ruth Holt for first 'taking me on' as an inexperienced editorial assistant in 2002, and to Göran Dallhöf for being an inspirational Editor-in-Chief. I will not miss the manic all night proof-reading sessions and publisher's deadlines, but I will miss the immense satisfaction of changing a colon into a semi-colon!

Helen Rodd

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BSPD Editor of the International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry*

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