Top dental speakers for John Rayne Memorial Lectures

10 September – BOOK NOW!

Kevin Lewis, Dental Director at the Medical Protection Society (MPS), will be the after-dinner speaker at the John Rayne Memorial Lectures on 10 September.

A regular columnist for Dentistry magazine, Kevin is also an experienced lecturer noted for his interests in preventive dentistry and practice management.

Professor Farida Fortune, Honorary Consultant in Oral Medicine and Dean of Dentistry at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, leads the Centre for Clinical and Diagnostic Oral Sciences.

They will be addressing around 130 delegates from across the entire dental team at the prestigious event, hosted by NESC Dental School. It is held bi-annually in memory of John Rayne, former Postgraduate Dental Dean at Oxford Deanery. There will be a champagne reception and dinner to follow the lectures.

This year’s theme explores the medical issues relating to dental practice and includes four lectures and a panel discussion at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford.

The other prestigious speakers, Professor Andrew Steptoe, British Heart Foundation Professor of Psychology; Dr Andy McEwen, Assistant Director of Tobacco Studies at UCL, Cancer Research UK; and Dr Sarah Whiteman General Practitioner and Associate Dean, Oxford – will cover topics such as oral ulceration, depression and physical illness, tobacco dependency, and diabetes and dental health.

To book your place, please go to www.nesc.nhs.uk
Follow the links to Dental School > Dental Courses

Graham Smart 1954 – 2009

After a very long illness, Graham Smart, Associate Dental Dean and Tutor for Buckinghamshire, sadly died on 20 June 2009.

Graham continued to work for many years both cheerfully and enthusiastically in circumstances that would have defeated most people.

He was an inspiration to those who knew him and he will be greatly missed by us all.

Helen Falcon
What's the future for oral surgery?

More than 30 colleagues attended the NESC educational course ‘Oral Surgery – What's the Future?’ on 26 June. They included oral surgery specialists, maxillofacial surgeons, senior house officers and staff grades and associate specialists.

NESC ran the event at the Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel to raise the profile of oral surgery, which needs more training posts across the UK.

Five distinguished specialist speakers gave an overview of what's happening nationwide and provided delegates with fresh ideas for developing oral surgery further. NESC already trains oral surgeons in Milton Keynes and hopes to train more oral surgeons locally over the next few years.

Four new DCP Tutor Facilitators join NESC

Help and support for DCPs and dental practices in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West is on its way.

Hazel Coey and Anita Carter will be working in Milton Keynes; Maureen Stone in Bucks, Amanda Evans in Oxon and Gill Mather in Berkshire West.

Practices in these areas will soon be receiving a call from their new tutor to offer help with DCP training and personal development plans. There is no charge for this service.

Another successful year for Vocational Training

NESC Dental Vocational Dental Practitioners (VDPs) and their advisers celebrated the end of year recently.

All VDPs completed at least two of the Faculty of General Dental Practice’s key skills, with several finishing all five.

Prizes were awarded for best case presentations and critical reviews of new dental equipment and materials. Winners were: Elizabeth Harris and Christopher Thickett from Winchester, Michael Clark and Ruth Williams from Northampton and Jonathan Roberts and Katrina Griffin from Oxford.

Varinder Sigh Bassi and Ushita Shah chose to carry out voluntary work in Cambodia after being selected from all NESC VDPs to make use of Steve Brookes’ Trainer of the Year prize money for a dental charity project.

Foundation training for dentistry – NESC schemes

From this year, VDPs are to be called Foundation dentists and a structured two-year training programme will be introduced with new graduates encouraged to take part in a second year to broaden knowledge and build on their first year in general practice.

NESC schemes more popular than ever

“We had 286 applicants for 49 Year 1 (VT) places this year,” said Nick Priest.

NESC has four Year 1 Foundation schemes based in Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire and two Year 2 schemes based in Oxford and Southampton/Portsmouth.

Smile-On and NESC launch e-learning course

NESC Dental School has teamed up with publisher Smile-On to produce an e-learning programme called Prevention in Practice.

The course supports dentists and teams to put in practice evidence-based preventive care as described in the toolkit ‘Delivering Better Oral Health’.

“It shows how the toolkit can be applied for real in a practice setting and within the current NHS contract,” said Helen Falcon, Postgraduate Dean.

Each programme provides two hours of verifiable CPD for up to 10 dental team members and will be updated regularly as new versions of the toolkit are published.

“Preventing disease and improving health are the most important actions we can take with, and for, our patients and all the dental team can engage with it,” added Helen. “Helping to develop this practical educational material was very special and we were delighted to get involved.”

The package is being sold through smile-on.com.

Steve and Shalin take up joint post

Last year’s UK Dental Vocational Teacher of the Year, Steve Brookes, has stepped back into a VT Adviser role four years after leaving the Oxford scheme.

Steve worked for Oxford for five years, finishing in 2005. “I loved it but felt I had taken the scheme on as far as I could,” said Steve, who’s also been a trainer in Northampton for 19 years.

“Then I realised I missed working with young dentists and wanted to give something back.”

NESC’s Associate Dean Shalin Mehra has run the Northamptonshire scheme since 1990. He had wanted to reduce his workload but didn’t wish to give up vocational training.

“The role was advertised nationally and we went through the recruitment process along with the other hopefuls and were offered the job,” said Steve.
Dental Tutor Kevin Atkinson has taken over as VT by Assessment Adviser for NESC. Nick Priest had been previously supporting practices as well as leading on VT across NESC.

Kevin and Mike Norton, Associate Dental Dean, have already looked at the support they can give the trainers and trainees and how the system is administered to ensure no delays in the process.

The role is not entirely new to Kevin as he was involved in the early days of VT by Equivalence, when the idea of giving training to overseas dentists first came about. He enjoyed it so much that he jumped at the chance of getting involved in the present scheme when the role was advertised.

Kevin said: “Providing educational support for graduates from outside the UK who haven’t gone through a VT scheme is really exciting for me. I look forward to improving and inspiring the continual stream of our colleagues looking to get a performer number.”

The five students will now be able to register with the General Dental Council. New DNBLS courses are starting this summer. Contact Hazel at hazel.coey@nesc.nhs.uk or telephone 07826 890 830 for information.

DCP update…

Success for student quintet

Five Dental Nurse Blended Learning Scheme students passed their National Exam Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) National Certificate Exams in May.

The students were Vicky Cooke, Sarah Crawford, Charlotte Harris, Olivia de Banks and Stevie Edwards. There were 1,701 candidates in the UK in May – just five received Distinctions with only 39 given Merits. One of them was Stevie.

“A Merit means Stevie’s answers were nigh on perfect”

Hazel Coey, DCP Development Tutor

The five students will now be able to register with the General Dental Council.

New CPD courses are being developed, and we want to know what you would like to see on the course calendar.

Contact Hazel Coey at hazel.coey@nesc.nhs.uk or telephone 07826 890 830 with any suggestions you may have.

Steele Review author answers dentists’ questions

Dentists will get the chance to quiz Professor Jimmy Steele about his independent review of NHS dental services in England at a NESC-organised event in August.

Professor Steele from Newcastle University, who was the review’s leading author, will visit the University of Portsmouth to discuss the proposals.

They include paying NHS dentists according to the number of patients registered, removing perverse incentives for poor treatment or unnecessary repeat visits, and incentivising them for taking on new patients and building good relationships with current ones and improving quality.

The Government accepted the proposals, which aim to end the ‘drill and fill’ culture, in principle in June. A series of pilot trials will now begin.

The meeting will take place on the afternoon of the 28th August at the Portland Building, University of Portsmouth.

To book your place, please go to www.nesc.nhs.uk. Follow the links to Dental School>Dental Courses.

New VT by Assessment Adviser in post

VT by Assessment is the way that non UK qualified dentists can achieve a VT certificate to practice in the NHS.

Dental Tutor Kevin Atkinson has taken over as VT By Assessment Adviser for NESC. Nick Priest had been previously supporting practices as well as leading on VT across NESC.

Kevin and Mike Norton, Associate Dental Dean, have already looked at the support they can give the trainers and trainees and how the system is administered to ensure no delays in the process.

The role is not entirely new to Kevin as he was involved in the early days of VT by Equivalence, when the idea of giving training to overseas dentists first came about. He enjoyed it so much that he jumped at the chance of getting involved in the present scheme when the role was advertised.

Kevin said: “Providing educational support for graduates from outside the UK who haven’t gone through a VT scheme is really exciting for me. I look forward to improving and inspiring the continual stream of our colleagues looking to get a performer number.”

If anyone has a query about VT By Assessment, please contact: Kevin Atkinson Kjatkinson57@aol.com or Mike Norton mike.norton@nesc.nhs.uk.

‘Simulating’ start to new dental nurse degree

A fully functional, state-of-the-art new dental suite opens in September at the University of Northamptonshire.

With its replica dental surgery, the suite will give students on the foundation degree (FdSc) in dental nursing the ability to link theory with practical application.

“The facility will improve development, confidence and competence,” said Dental Tutor Kevin Atkinson. “Students can practise on a simulator and the suite has the potential to be a working surgery.”

The foundation degree is new and includes 20 students in the first intake. It offers a blend of theory based modules and work placements over a two-year period.

“It’s a more academic qualification for dental nurses than we have had before, and will complement the other qualifications such as the National Certificate and the NVQ. Practices that are considering taking on a trainee can apply. The student will be able to use the practice as their work placement,” added Kevin, who was on the steering committee advising the university on setting up the course.

The course includes an opportunity for placement in the second year in a specialised dental practice or clinic.
New guidance from the General Dental Council provides dental teams with information on the supplementary skills needed to further the scope of their practice.

Entitled Scope of Practice – who can do what in the dental team, the guidance was sent to all GDC registrants in January.

It describes what each group is trained and competent to do on qualification and covers knowledge, skills and experience. For dental nurses, it explains the clinical work their post requires and details additional skills they could develop during their career, such as oral health education and fluoride varnish application.

Also included are skills that could be developed and put into practice on a dentist’s prescription, such as taking dental radiographs.

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“It’s an exciting time for all DCPs and career pathways can now be considered, especially when considering Personal Development Plans (PDPs) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD).”

Hazel Coey, NESC DCP Development Tutor.

For more information please visit www.gdc-uk.org

Guidance clarifies developing DCP roles

NESC has funded the purchase and installation of automated washer disinfectors at postgraduate centres in Wexham Park Hospital in Slough, Winchester Hospital and Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire.

Dental Care Professionals attending our courses will be able to try out the equipment, which will give them a taste of what it’s like to work in a real clinical setting.

Making sure instruments are thoroughly cleaned using a washer disinfecter before autoclaving reduces the risk of inoculation injury to dental teams compared to manual cleaning in a sink or bowl.

“The driving force behind the guidance is to reduce the risk of blood borne viruses and prion transmission through protein contamination,” said Mike Norton, Associate Dental Dean.

The aim is to help everyone in primary care dental services to work to the same standards of decontamination as outlined by the Department of Health’s Health Technical Memorandum 01-05.

The Memo recommends washer-disinfectors because they ‘offer the best option for the control and reproducibility of cleaning; in addition, the cleaning process can be validated’.

Hands-on infection control training

New washer-disinfectors are to be included in decontamination units installed at three dental skill centres.

So you want to be a trainer?

NESC is looking for 24 new Dental Foundation places (Vocational Training in General Dental Practice).

If you are interested, please come along to one of our courses:

Aims and objectives:

• Explain the obligations and the role of trainers in practice
• Describe the organisation of the DF1 schemes
• Inform regarding the financial benefits of training in practice
• Discuss with existing trainers their VT experience
• Help to prepare for a successful application as a trainer.

Applications for training open on 1 September, with a closing date of 30 September.

SEPTMBER 9: 7PM - 8.30PM
George Pickering Education Centre,
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

SEPTMBER 16: 3.30PM - 5PM
Milton Keynes Postgraduate Centre,
Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes

SEPTEMBER 24: 4.30PM - 6PM
Room 1, Education Centre,
Royal Hampshire County Hospital,
Winchester

1.5 hours CPD

For more information, please contact:
All Schemes
Nick Priest: 07810 180862

Milton Keynes / Bucks
Shalin Mehra: 07831 252122
Steve Brookes: 01604 670977

Oxfordshire
Mike Cooper: 07867 801800

Berkshire
Carlos Clark: 07768 512692

To enrol on these courses, please visit www.nesc.nhs.uk/DentalSchool/Dental Courses

We want to hear from you!

If you would like to contribute or comment on this newsletter please email liz.hennessy@nesc.nhs.uk

This newsletter will be produced three times a year, the next copy deadline is: 30 November 2009