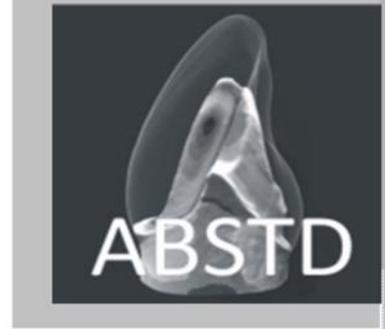


# Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

## Summer Newsletter – July 2012



### ADEE Lyon – August 2012

Through the efforts of Josie Beeley we have secured a 2 hour slot as a *'Special Interest Group'*. There will be a series of table top displays covering contemporary aspects of the Basic Sciences in the dental curriculum which will lead into a discussion aimed at achieving a consensus on what parts of contemporary bioscience should be regarded as desirable core elements for inclusion. If attending ADEE, please join us.

### People and Personalities

Josie Beeley completed her term as President of the Society in April. Thank-you Josie for your efforts over many years. Tracy de Peralta has returned to the US to take up a position at the University of Michigan. As committee member she has kindly agreed to take on a new role as our North American representative.

### Professional Matters

We have recently increased our voice on CCDAS, the British Dental Association Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff (CCDAS) to two, and Paul Anderson will be joining Josie in representing us. There are many topical and emerging issues affecting members in the UK, Europe and beyond. Staffing issues in the Basic Sciences, and the on-going story of four year graduate entry dental programmes in Europe are examples. We will monitor these, consider how they may impact on us and where necessary develop and articulate a position. In doing so, we hope to continue to give Basic Scientists a voice alongside other professional groups in Dentistry

### Future Meetings

Marcello Riggio has kindly agreed to arrange the Spring meeting 2013 for us in Glasgow – details to follow. ADEE will be meeting in August in Birmingham and BSODR in Bristol in September 2013 and we hope to have a presence at both meetings. In view of a large number of conflicting events, and the economic situation in Europe the Madrid meeting has been postponed until October 2013.

### Central London Meeting April 2012

This focused on how basic scientists might contribute to postgraduate programmes, either as part of dental foundation training or CPD. Alongside this we considered how, as a group, we should respond to the new General Dental Council document, *'Preparing for Practice'*. Whilst noting that it acknowledges the importance of the basic sciences as a cornerstone of the dental curriculum, it falls short of recognising the breadth of coverage needed, simply defining broad general principles and leaving schools some freedom to develop their own programmes within these. This offers opportunities. It gives scope for the introduction and development of new emerging areas as first step towards seeing them embedded in the curriculum. Chuck Shuler, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, University of British Columbia, in an inspirational plenary delivered at ADEE in Antalya last September, highlighted the power of the knowledge base emerging from contemporary advances in the biomedical sciences. Focussing on the human genome project he pointed out that the impact of these has sometimes not been obvious, but this will change. As they translate into clinical practice, students will need a greater understanding in order to exploit them effectively. As a society our major challenge will be to assume a leadership role in fostering this understanding, and to ensure that our students have the foundation necessary for 4 decades of practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.