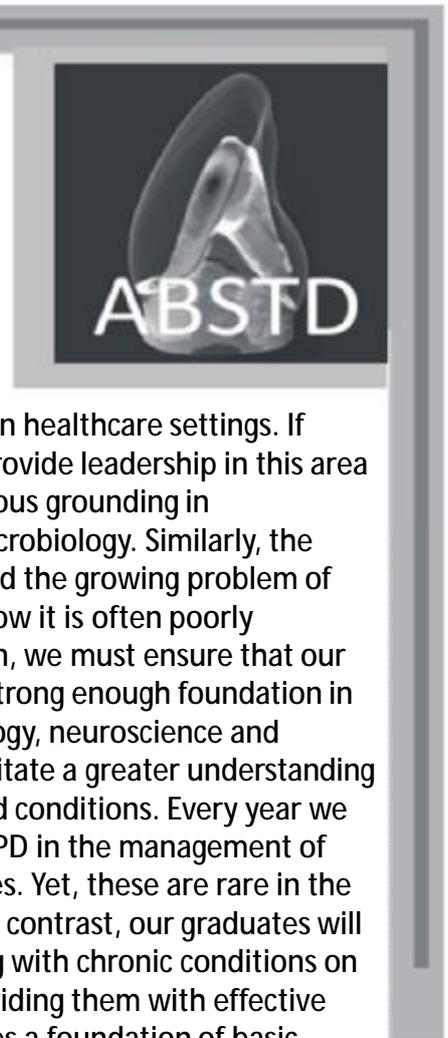


# Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

## Summer Newsletter – July 2013



### Presidents Message

Traditionally the spring and early summer are a busy period for academics, a quiet time for the society's activities and for keeping abreast of wider issues. Nevertheless, several things have happened which impact greatly on undergraduate medical and dental programmes. Although not affecting basic medical sciences (BMS) directly we need to be aware of these, allow them to inform our teaching and ensure that any additional curriculum load arising from them is not, in so far as possible, at the expense of BMS time. The Francis report, published on the 6th of February this year looked at systematic failings in care provided by one UK hospital over a period of several years. Many of the recommendations address issues of professionalism, governance, and the need for openness and candour. It flags the importance of staff at all levels to be aware of their duties and responsibilities. This requires change, underpinned by appropriate training and professional development. Clearly much of this will be sited in the clinics, on the wards or in a postgraduate setting. But, wherever it takes place, it must be built on a solid foundation of basic science. For example, the report emphasises the need for meticulous

infection control in healthcare settings. If students are to provide leadership in this area they need a rigorous grounding in contemporary microbiology. Similarly, the report emphasised the growing problem of dementia, and, how it is often poorly understood. Again, we must ensure that our students have a strong enough foundation in anatomy, physiology, neuroscience and pathology to facilitate a greater understanding of this and related conditions. Every year we undertake core CPD in the management of acute emergencies. Yet, these are rare in the Dental Surgery. In contrast, our graduates will see patients living with chronic conditions on a daily basis. Providing them with effective treatment requires a foundation of basic sciences to inform understanding and decision making. With this comes the confidence and ability to make decisions in a compassionate and professional manner. Indeed, the UK General Dental Council in its recently published '*Standards for the Dental Team*' recognises the importance of an adequate and appropriate level of professional knowledge to effective oral care. In providing a foundation for this greater understanding we contribute, albeit indirectly to meeting the recommendations of these documents. A challenge for us as basic scientists will be to frame our teaching in the context of these wider issues to ensure that it continues to be seen widely as contemporary and relevant.

### Society News – The UK and Beyond

Roger Shore has made a good recovery and is once again making a valued contribution to the society. Paul Anderson has been representing us on Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff (CCDAS) and will be representing CCDAS at the ADEE meeting in September.

### Future Meetings

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, the society is hosting a special interest group session around the theme '*Towards a Core Curriculum in Basic Science*' on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August as part of the 2013 ADEE meeting in Birmingham. At the close of registration, 25 participants had registered to attend representing 11 countries across 3 continents. This promises to be a most exciting meeting, and It would be really great if as many members as possible could attend.

The next European meeting remains scheduled for the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Madrid themed around '*The Interface between Oral Biology and Oral Medicine*' and we will be represented at the BSODR meeting in September.