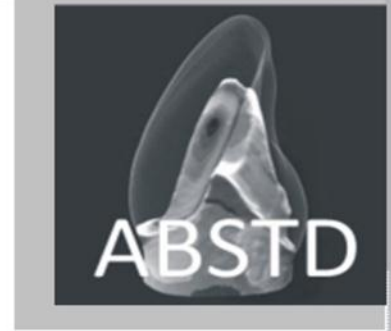


Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

New Year Newsletter – January 2013



President's Message

The beginning of 2013 sees the society in good shape. During 2012, we were able to run a full programme of activities which further consolidates the central position of the basic sciences as key disciplines underpinning Dentistry and in terms of funding we have a small surplus. As we move into 2013, new opportunities are emerging to continue along this trajectory. As we face these challenges I would like to wish all members of the society a happy and prosperous 2013.

ADEE - Lyon September 2012

At the ADEE Meeting and satellite ABSTD symposium in Antalya in 2011, emphasis was placed on the rate at which the knowledge base in basic biomedical science has been expanding. Yet, the impact on the clinic has so far been relatively small. There is a consensus amongst informed commentators that this will change. If the next generation of dental students is to be prepared for these changes, the current undergraduate curriculum will have to evolve to accommodate them. In Lyon the society sponsored a special interest group which sought to explore some of the challenges this poses, to identify issues relating to the current coverage of the basic sciences in the dental curriculum and to stimulate debate as to how it may be manipulated to accommodate these newly emerging areas.

The extent and depth of many of the issues revealed by the workshop confirmed that this will be a significant challenge to dental educators and wide debate will be essential in order to establish a consensus, as to what a basic science curriculum for dentists should contain. The possibility of preparing a draft set of guidelines for a basic science curriculum in dentistry, to include coverage of the newly emerging disciplines will be a theme for exploration at future meetings .

Future Meetings

A joint meeting with the Oral Microbiology and Immunology Group of BSODR '*Metagenomics; future opportunities for the clinic*' will be held in Glasgow on the 22nd of April, organised by Marcello Riggio – details to follow.

Internationalisation

Tracy de Peralta from the University of Michigan has begun her role as our North American councillor with 'Skype-linked' participation in a recent committee meeting. This sets a precedent as it represents a way in which we can maintain on-going engagement with international members. Tracy is going to help us establish a network of contacts in North America who share similar interests.

Professional Issues

In the UK a new private dental school based on the University of Buckingham will accept its first students in September. Little is known about its basic science provision. The Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff (CCDAS) on which we are represented, has concerns about other areas of the curriculum, and is planning to invite a representative from the new school to provide reassurance . We will be part of this discussion.

Also from the UK, but applicable elsewhere in Europe, it now seems likely that it may be possible to retain some of the four year graduate entry programmes although some of the current providers may choose not to do so.

We hope to host a special interest group session around the theme '*Towards a Core Curriculum in Basic Science*' at the 2013 ADEE meeting to be held in Birmingham from the 28th-31st August.

The next European meeting, scheduled for Madrid in 2014, will be themed around the interface between Oral Biology and Oral Medicine – details to follow.