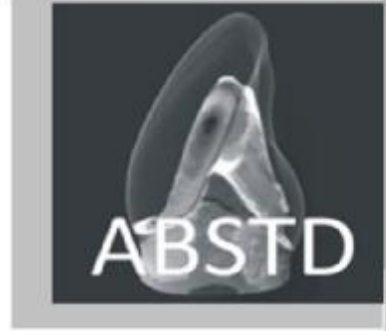


Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

Christmas Newsletter - 2014



President's Message

The competing tensions of a new student intake, research and administration have made the autumn term particularly busy. So, this has been a quiet time for the Association. Nevertheless, with the assistance of Jeff O'Sullivan (Dublin, Eire) plans are afoot for a Spring Meeting in Dublin on Tuesday the 14th of April and we continue to be represented on bodies like CCDAS. This gives us an opportunity to participate in discussion of wider issues relating to the dental profession. Of topical note is the proposed increase in the GDC Annual Retention fee, a move which the profession has opposed vigorously. This is of little consequence for non-clinical members, but is significant for those who are clinically trained. Having a balance between scientifically qualified and clinically qualified basic science teachers is highly desirable, and many of the latter have foregone the opportunity to engage in clinical work to pursue basic science.

ADEE (Riga) – August 2014

The meeting focussed on '*Emerging New Approaches to Dental Education*'. Within this, several themes relevant to basic science were emphasised. For example, several presentations argued in favour of breaking down the divide between Dentistry and Medicine and of the '*need for greater medical education within odontological models*'. A stronger, broader based, basic science foundation would be necessary to underpin this.

Consistent with the trend established at previous meetings the Association was able to take an active part and co-ordinate a 'Special Interest Group (SIG)'. This was well attended with 14 Countries represented and sought to discuss the development of a framework for the preparation of a 'core curriculum' in the basic sciences to parallel those prepared by other specialist groups.

In other jurisdictions, clinically trained teachers of basic science are afforded specific recognition, for example, the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada awards a Fellowship in Dental Sciences to parallel the clinical disciplines. Clinically qualified basic science teachers might ask if the GDC could do more to support them. Greater recognition may help to encourage new graduates to see bioscience as a viable career option. This must be in the long term interest of maintaining educational standards and the patient's interest. A challenge for 2015 will be to review the evolving role of basic scientists in the dental curriculum and ensure that they get the recognition they deserve.

With this in mind I would like to wish you a very good Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2015.

Further details of this SIG meeting can be found on the ADEE website (www.adee.org). We hope to report on progress at the next ADEE meeting to be held in Szeged, Hungary in August 2015.

IADR PEF (Dubrovnik) – September 2014

Although following closely on the Riga meeting, several members of the society were able to attend and a short committee meeting was squeezed into a crowded programme. Josie Beeley (Glasgow, UK) noted the reduction in student numbers in the UK and Christina Manzanares (Barcelona, Spain) expressed concern about the variety of standards visible in European dental schools. Paul Anderson (London, UK) commented that, as the Association gets larger it is becoming important for us to have a clear 'mission statement' to guide our growth. These will be topics for further discussion at future meetings.

Future Meetings

- Tuesday 14th April 2015: ABSTD Spring Meeting, '*The Response of the Oral Tissues to Environmental Challenge*' Dublin Eire
- 26th – 29th August 2015: 41st ADEE Annual Meeting (to include a Special Interest Group sponsored by ABSTD) '*Communication and Interaction in Dentistry*' Szeged, Hungary
- 7th ABSTD European Meeting 2016 – details to follow