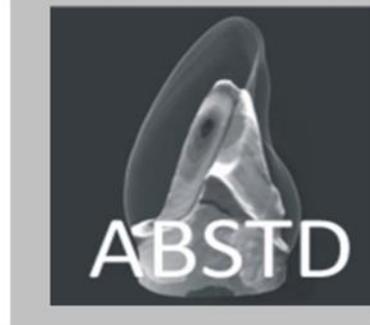


Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

Christmas Newsletter - December 2016



President's Message

The Autumn is traditionally a busy time for members as, for many of us, the demands of the new academic year and meeting our teaching commitments have eclipsed other activities. Even so, there have been some advances. For example, there has been a feeling amongst some members of the Association that we could do more to support the development of Biomedical Science teaching within Dental Schools. In response we have recently instituted an Oral Biosciences Essay prize to be open to undergraduate students on professional programmes in UK and European Dental Schools. One notable feature of this that whilst it is open to Dental Students, students in the emerging oral healthcare professions, Dental Therapy and Hygiene and Dental Technology can also enter the competition. This, we feel, is right and proper as it reflects the changing face of dental practice. Entries must be received by Friday 31st of March 2017. We hope to announce the winner at the ADEE meeting in Vilnius in August with a prize of €1000.00. Details are available on our website.

On an unrelated matter, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has recently launched a new Faculty, the Faculty of Dental Trainers to provide a 'Faculty home for recognised dental trainers'.



Membership will be open to all members of the dental team. But, it is not clear if this will be extended to members of the dental teaching team who are neither dentally qualified nor members of one of the other oral healthcare professions. I am seeking clarification of this point as there are several individuals with a scientific background who do not fall into either of these categories, but who have contributed immeasurably to dental training at all levels from relatively junior to Dental Dean and beyond. Many are our members and it is important that their contribution to dental education is recognised. I will, of course, keep you informed of the outcome.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked hard to continue to make the ABSTD a small but effective association, one of the very few solely devoted to basic science teaching in dentistry. I wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2017.

Special Interest Group, ADEE Barcelona, August 2016.

This meeting was the final in a series of four aimed at developing a draft core curriculum for the biomedical sciences in dental programmes. The session, ably led by Louise Belfield and Josie Beeley, focussed on a 'read through' of a draft curriculum prior to its presentation to the Conference, and its posting on both the ADEE and the ABSTD websites for further comment. We plan to submit this for publication in the new year. At the same meeting, Josie Beeley gave an oral presentation entitled '*Basic Sciences in ADEE 25 Years On; before and after.*' This was streamed globally over the web, and re-emphasised the ongoing importance of Biomedical Sciences in the Dental curriculum.

Notices and the ABSTD Website

Members are reminded that we are happy to post notices of appropriate meetings, job vacancies, PhD opportunities etc. on the website. Please contact the President or Hon Secretary for details..

Future Meetings

- ABSTD Spring Meeting – February 2nd 2017, Royal London Hospital

This meeting, hosted by Paul Anderson of Queen Mary and Westfield, London University, will be a small meeting focusing on the teaching of Oral Biology in contemporary dental curricula, and will bring together senior academics experienced in this area for a timely review of this topic and how it relates to undergraduate curricula and emerging Masters programmes in this area. A notice and Registration Form are available from the website and are being circulated with this newsletter.

- ABSTD Autumn Half day meeting 5th September 2017- Plymouth University Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry (PUPSMD)

This meeting, will precede the British Society for Oral and Dental Research (BSODR) meeting - 6th-8th September 2017 and will focus on '*Microbiology, the Environment and Oral Function*'. Further details will follow in due course.