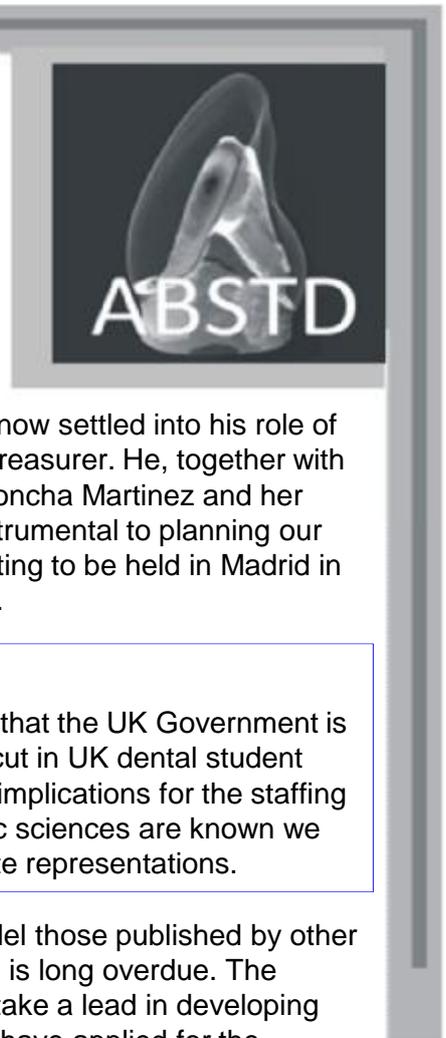


# Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

## Winter Newsletter - January 2014



### President's Message

Although it may seem that the Association has been very quiet over the last 6 months it has, in reality, been a hive of behind the scenes activity. Most obviously, our website has changed. With the assistance of Ben and Timon Scheven an upgraded site has recently gone live. This offers several advantages. It has become much easier for us to upload and modify documents rapidly in response to changing need and we now have the facility to give administrator rights to individuals regardless of their home university. This will enable the work of website administration to be shared. Our website is the mouthpiece of the Association, so these changes are central to our ability to fulfil our mission.

### ADEE and the basic science curriculum

We have long been aware of the differences in the basic science curricula in dental schools across Europe and the lack of guidance as to what this component of a dental curriculum should contain. This theme was discussed at the special interest groups the Association sponsored at the ADEE meetings in Lyon and Birmingham. The latter concluded that, within the basic sciences applied to dentistry there were obligatory core areas (e.g. anatomy, oral biology). There are others which are no less important, which demand representation within the contemporary curriculum, but offer more flexibility (e.g. cell biology, genetics), in which curricula might be moulded to match the interests and expertise available in individual schools. To help with these issues, a core curriculum suggesting what a basic science component of a dental programme might

Paul Anderson has now settled into his role of (acting) Secretary/Treasurer. He, together with Josie Beeley and Concha Martinez and her team have been instrumental to planning our next European meeting to be held in Madrid in April (details below).

### Breaking News

We have just heard that the UK Government is considering a 10% cut in UK dental student numbers. Once the implications for the staffing and delivery of basic sciences are known we will make appropriate representations.

contain and to parallel those published by other professional bodies, is long overdue. The Association should take a lead in developing this. To this end we have applied for the opportunity to follow up the Birmingham meeting with a second special interest group at this years ADEE meeting in August. In preparation for this we are hoping to devote some of our Spring meeting, to be held somewhat earlier this year in February, to reviewing and discussing some of the issues and covering the groundwork for Riga.

A further topic covered in Birmingham was that of pedagogic approach. In this respect there was a clear view that an integrated systems based approach contextualised to problems encountered in dental practice worked best. Our proposed curriculum should be constructed to reflect this.

### Future Meetings

- Spring meeting: *'Progress Towards a Core Curriculum in the Basic Sciences'* Birmingham Dental Hospital. St Chad's Circus, Birmingham, B4 6NN. Thursday 13th February 13.00-16.00. Contact: [b.a.scheven@bham.ac.uk](mailto:b.a.scheven@bham.ac.uk)
- ABSTD 6th European Meeting: *'Oral Medicine and Basic Sciences: an emerging interface?'* Faculty De Odontologica, Universidad Complutense, Madrid. 6th – 8th April 2014. Contact: [josie.beeley@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:josie.beeley@glasgow.ac.uk) or [cmartinez@med.ucm.es](mailto:cmartinez@med.ucm.es)
- 40th ADEE Annual Meeting: Special Interest Group, 27 - 30 August 2014. Riga, Latvia. Details to follow.