

# Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

## Summer Newsletter - 2014



### President's Message

During a working trip to Kuala Lumpur our secretary, Paul Anderson, found a lot of interest in our association. However, there was concern that we are seen as being a UK organisation. True, our roots are in the UK, but the word 'British' or 'UK' is not in our title. Furthermore, as we have grown, the need to be international in our approach has been widely acknowledged and is now part of the ethos of the association. Indeed, in Madrid this year we had our 6th European meeting. We are at a turning point and Paul, has, on occasions suggested that we need to consider where we stand, what we see as our mission and whether the time has come to rebadge ourselves with a name which better reflects our international perspective. This creates a dilemma as becoming more international will leave less scope for issues which are, by their nature, national in their significance.

UK dental training, for example, is regulated by the General Dental Council (GDC) and GDC documentation determines the priorities and emphasis of undergraduate dental programmes, the contribution of the basic sciences and ultimately what we do. Other jurisdictions will be similarly regulated. So, by becoming more international we will have to consider how we reflect these particular national interests and continue to represent and lobby for the basic sciences to ensure our voice is heard. These are key issues which need be discussed. In this regard Paul has sown the seeds of a debate which we need to have and which must be on the agenda for our next AGM or future meetings.

### Spring Meeting – Birmingham – February 2014

Although severely challenged by the weather, this was a lively look at the core curriculum in the basic sciences and setting the scenes for Riga with broad ranging presentations from Damien Walmsley, President of ADEE, Paul Cooper and Jon Bennett. Some material from the meeting is available on the website.

### Madrid: April 2014

This meeting turned out to be a small but vibrant meeting enjoyed by all, probably amongst the best we have had. Following a welcome by the Dean of Complutense University Dental School, Professor Jose Carlos de le Macorra, Colin Robinson (Leeds, UK) opened the meeting with an overview of the basic sciences,. With a particular emphasis on the dental hard tissues he highlighted areas ripe for development and exploitation. There then followed three sessions from Jesus Paramino (Madrid, Spain), Ken Parkinson (Queen Mary, UK) and Daniel Zilcha (Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute) looking at developments in our understanding of the neoplastic process..

The following day started with two sessions exploring issues relating to the complex relationship between oral bacteria, oral health and disease delivered by Mariano Sanz (Madrid, Spain) and Sveta Zanic (Plymouth.UK). The concluding session delivered by Henk Brand (ACTA, Netherlands) reviewed the emerging discipline of salivary proteomics. In addition, but no less important, were the free oral and poster presentations at which 10 national jurisdictions were represented. The meeting closed with Jon Bennett and Josie Beeley thanking all the speakers and particularly Concha Martinez and her team for a tremendous effort, both for the scientific sessions but also for the meticulous planning which went into the accommodation, catering and the conference dinner.

### Future Meetings

- 40th ADEE Annual Meeting: Special Interest Group (Sponsored by ABSTD) 'Biomedical Sciences in Dentistry; Developing a Contemporary Core Curriculum' 27 - 30 August 2014. Riga, Latvia
- IADR/PER Congress – Dubrovnik, Croatia; September 10-13 2014 – Committee meeting (other interested ABSTD members are welcome to attend) – details to be confirmed