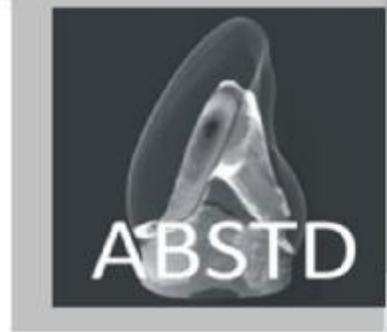


Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

Summer Newsletter - 2015



President's Message

The last six months have been a period of quiet activity. Thanks to the splendid efforts of Jeff O'Sullivan and the warm welcome given to us by Professor June Nunn and her team our Spring meeting in Dublin was a great success. This was made all the more so as we were able to use this opportunity to award an Honorary membership of the Association to Professor Derry Shanley. Derry has been a loyal supporter of the society over many years and has been instrumental in helping us develop our relationship with ADEE.



Derry Shanley
- April 2015

Dublin

This meeting, held on the 14th of April at Dublin Dental Hospital was entitled 'Response of the Oral Tissues to Environmental Challenge'. A key theme, articulated by Professor David Coleman, and followed up in subsequent discussion, was that there are many situations encountered on a daily basis in the dental surgery which represent an environmental challenge and potential risk to patients. However, the basic science underpinning these is rarely considered, yet they provide an ideal way of contextualising scientific information in a clinical context. For example, issues relating to bacterial contamination in dental units are highly relevant to everyday dental practice but are hardly mentioned in some curricula. As educators in basic medical science we have a responsibility to ensure coverage of these and similar issues are covered so

We will be sponsoring a 'Special Interest Group' at the forthcoming ADEE meeting in Szeged and plans for our 7th European meeting are being developed. We are hoping that this will be in Amsterdam in 2016. Looking further ahead, in 2017 the BSODR will be held in Plymouth and we are looking at the possibility of a satellite meeting to take place alongside this.

I have had feedback from members that some of our meetings have, with the best of intentions, been over-scientific in content. We are a group devoted to aspects of dental education so should take this as a 'prompt' to revisit how we further our educational goals. More time needs to be spent on educational innovations and approaches. We will endeavour to address these in planning future meetings.

A general meeting of the Association is long overdue and, to this end, we have time allocated for our AGM during the BSODR in September. The committee are reaching the end of their elected periods of office and we either need to re-elect them or elect new people to take the work of the association forward. Please try to attend if you can.

that the basic science component of the undergraduate dental curriculum develops to match the need of contemporary dental practice. .

This session was followed up with contributions from Professor Derek Sullivan (Dublin) who discussed *Candida dubliniensis*, as an example of an opportunistic candidal infection involving the oral cavity and Dr Louise Belfield (Plymouth) who considered host-bacterial interactions in the oral cavity in the context of lipopolysaccharide and toll-like receptors (TLR's).

Future Meetings

- 26th – 29th August 2015: 41st ADEE Annual Meeting (to include a Special Interest Group sponsored by ABSTD) 'Communication and Interaction in Dentistry' Szeged, Hungary
- AGM: Cardiff (during the BSODR meeting) Tuesday 15th September 2015 – date/time to be confirmed
- 7th ABSTD European Meeting 2016 – details to follow