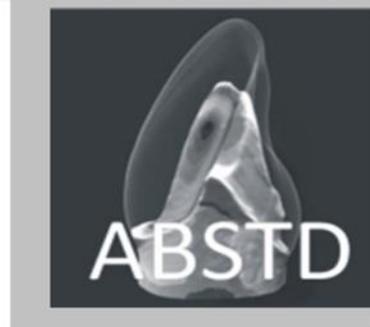


Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

Summer Newsletter - June 2016



Presidents Message

Six months have passed since our last newsletter and the Association has been busy. In April we held our 7th European meeting in Amsterdam, generously hosted by ACTA. Thanks are due to Henk Brand, the local organiser, through whose efforts the meeting became possible. One feature of the meeting was the extent to which we were able to blend discussion of educational issues with an update on matters relating to oral bioscience. Given a growing requirement for our teaching to be informed by advances in understanding of both educational and scientific issues it is essential that we increase our engagement with current topics in medical education alongside topic orientated matters. With this thought in mind we need to look ahead to future, and would welcome suggestions as to educational issues which might be helpful to our membership as themes for forthcoming meetings.

Possibilities include 'Assessment in the Dental Basic Sciences', or 'E Learning in the Basic Sciences'. We should also begin to consider how our website might be used as a resource. Should we, for example, invite people to upload histological images to be widely available as an educational resource to anyone needing them? Over recent years there have been times when our educational remit has been eclipsed by scientific issues. Medical education is coming of age as a discipline in its own right, and we need to be sure that, as an Association, we are not being left behind.

7th European Meeting, Amsterdam – April 2016

This meeting, themed around 'Saliva, Salivary Glands and the Dental Curriculum' looked at the teaching of Salivary Biology as an integrated discipline within the contemporary dental curriculum. Following a warm welcome from Dr Ronald Gorter, Director of Undergraduate Studies – ACTA, Fionnuala Loy, a 4th year dental student from Dublin gave a carefully crafted presentation on what she would like covered in this area. Mark Hector from Dundee, giving a Deans perspective, broadly agreed with her, adding the importance of training the dental student to be a 'team leader and educator', translating knowledge in this area into practical applications.

Siobhan Moyes from Plymouth, with sponsorship from 'Anatomage Inc' considered how new technologies such as the use of the 'Anatomage Table' might be applied to the teaching of Salivary and other aspects of head and neck anatomy.

This was followed by presentations from Paul Anderson (QMUL), Gordon Proctor (KCL), Toon Ligtenberg (ACTA), Arjan Vissink (Groningen) and Josie Beeley (Glasgow) who gave update presentations on various aspects of salivary biology and disease processes relevant to the undergraduate curriculum.



What do I need to know about Saliva and Salivation? – The Student's View being presented by Fionnuala Loy

Of particular importance was a presentation by Ton De Goeij (Maastricht) who discussed developments in education in the context of clinical curricula. He considered a range of issues relating to the delivery of biomedical sciences, starting from the Flexner report to consideration of current trends.

Finally, Louise Belfield (Plymouth) reminded us that dental curricula are no longer restricted to trainee dentists but also to a range of other professionals including Therapists, Hygienists and Technicians. When reviewing the teaching of salivary biology these groups must be included.

A great deal was covered in a short time and the Association owed a debt of thanks to all presenters. Some presentations have been posted on the website and are available to anyone who may be interested.

ABSTD Student Essay Prize

Guidelines for this prize are posted on the website. Details of the first competition will be circulated at the start of the next academic year in September

Future Meetings

- ADEE 24th-27th August (Barcelona)
- ABSTD Winter meeting 2016/2017 – details to follow