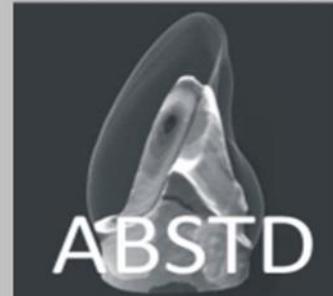


Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry

Newsletter

May 2018



President's Message

This will be my final newsletter as President of the Association. Following our Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Dundee on May 1st, I am delighted to announce that Professor Mark Hector has been elected President of ABSTD. Mark is currently Dean and Professor of Paediatric Dentistry at the University of Dundee. He has many years of experience of Oral Physiology and has been an active participant in ABSTD activities. He is actively involved in teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and is passionate about the importance of maintaining the breadth and rigor of the scientific component of dental curricula in the face of growing pressure from other disciplines. He brings experience to the Association of a wide variety of governance and administrative issues which will help the Association maintain and develop its influence in Dental education. In addition, members were elected to 8 other Committee posts (see the website for more details) and our Committee now includes elected representatives from 4 European jurisdictions and two Heads of School.

Dental programmes are changing. They are no longer the exclusive province of the Dental profession and now include training

for a range of emerging professions such as Dental Therapy and Hygiene. Courses are becoming increasingly integrated, leading to new and unfamiliar challenges as we argue for teaching time and resources, and we are losing staff on the premise that many of our subject areas can be covered equally well by biomedical or other faculty who may have little understanding of Dentistry. We are under increasing pressure to participate in postgraduate and continuing professional development programmes and need to develop a better understanding of what an optimal contribution might be. So, it is gratifying to know that, as the Association moves forward into uncharted waters, we have a strong leadership team to articulate the necessity for a strong scientific component to underpin all aspects of dental training.

Finally, at this election, two longstanding members decided to stand down from the Committee. Concha Martinez has been an active member since 1999 and Josie Beeley since the establishment of ABSTD. We thank them both for their years of loyal service●

Future Meetings

IADR/PER General Session & Exhibition London, England - July 25-28, 2018; In partnership with the Oral Medicine and Pathology Group of BSODR, the Association will be co-sponsoring a seminar related to the emerging discipline of Salivary Diagnostics. Details to follow●

We are looking for venues for future meetings (e.g. our 8th European meeting in 2020). If your institute is interested in hosting an ABSTD Meeting please get in touch (jon.bennett@plymouth.ac.uk) so I may draw this to the attention of the new Committee.

AGM Other Matters

Our revised constitution, which has been posted on the website since late February and was approved with the proviso that the Committee will be able to make recommendations as to small changes that may be necessary to ensure compliance with UK law. The major change in this revised document relates to the way we conduct elections. From now on we will be using a web based, voting system. This will mean that it will be easier for members to put themselves forward for office and to participate in the voting process in a similar manner to the BSODR or IADR. This, in turn, will create more opportunities for members to engage with the work of the association.

Several members raised the point that our name, the *'Association of Basic Science Teachers in*

ABSTD Spring Meeting

The meeting was themed around how the sciences which underpin Dentistry interface with specific clinical needs and those of the wider academic curricula. There was consideration of tried and tested topics together with discussion of new approaches. Bana Abdulmoshen from Newcastle considered the traditional dental school exercise of tooth carving, arguing that it still has value and demonstrating how it might be integrated into a contemporary curriculum. Andrew Mason and Michelina McCluskey both from Dundee, were able to illustrate how novel techniques might be applied. Andrew showed how approaches such as body painting developed in some 'non-dissection' medical schools, may be used to help contextualise complex aspects of anatomy, whilst Michelina McCluskey considered how the Thiel technique of cadaver preservation yields cadavers which retain much more life-like qualities, and thus lend themselves not only to anatomy teaching but also to practicing a wide range of interventional techniques. In Dundee, Thiel preserved cadavers had been used in teaching local anaesthetic and minor surgical techniques to dental undergraduates alongside more complex techniques to surgical (including maxillofacial) trainees.

Dentistry', no longer accurately reflects our mission, and does not fully embrace individuals in key areas such as Psychology, Social Sciences, Statistics or Materials Science who actively contribute to the delivery of dental programmes. In order to address this, it has been suggested that the Association changes its name to one which more accurately reflects our mission. It is for the new Committee to take this forward so you may expect to hear more from them on this in due course.

Finally, it was noted that the Association will not be contributing to the leadership of a Special Interest Group this year at ADEE in Oslo. However, looking ahead, plans are already unhand for a significant contribution in Berlin in 2019 •

Scheila Manica, also from Dundee introduced us to Forensic Odontology. As a topic, this will never feature highly in Dental Curricula, but one or two Forensic Odontology lectures should be part of every curriculum, and examples from this area of activity could be used to contextualise Oral Biology knowledge and demonstrate its application. Peter Mossey, again from Dundee overviewed how students might be encouraged to engage with research and what steps can be taken to challenge the very brightest. In Dundee there is a scheme in which the very brightest, who have completed an intercalated BSc (or equivalent), might be permitted to work towards an MSc concurrent with their clinical training. Finally, Gordon Ramage from Glasgow looked at the issue of non-clinical Masters degrees in dental areas. Developing and sustaining these has been extremely challenging and resource intensive. But, they may have value in identifying quality candidates and preparing them for subsequent PhD studies. Finally, in discussion, the emerging area of Professional Doctorates was considered, and the challenges these would pose for the Biosciences applied to Dentistry discussed •