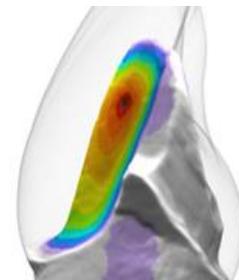


Association of Science Educators in Dentistry (ASEiD) (formerly the Association of Basic Science Teachers in Dentistry)



Christmas 2021



Editors Note

Once again, it is time for the Christmas newsletter. On a personal note, it is momentous. After years of involvement with the Committee I have made the decision to stand down. Indeed, my last major function has been to act as 'Returning Officer' for our recent elections. For the Association these are exciting times because the New Year will start with a new Committee, enthusiastic and anxious to see the us remain as a voice for the Basic Sciences in Dental and wider Oral Health curricula.

The positions of President, Secretary/Treasurer and Membership Secretary each had a single candidate who was elected unopposed. However, there were 8 candidates for the 6 councillor positions, all of whom were deserving. According to our constitution we can co-opt members onto the Committee. On this basis the decision was made to co-opt two of our senior European members, both of whom have served the Association loyally over many years. This left 6 positions for the remaining candidates. By structuring things in this way, each member who, by putting themselves forward, has expressed an interest in becoming more involved with the Association, has been offered the opportunity to do so. The incoming committee will be a blend of experience and new blood with significant international involvement. This is very exciting for the Association as it represents the best opportunity for us to fulfil our mission of promoting basic science teaching in dental and oral health curricula.

The first meeting of the new committee will take place in the new year to be followed by our AGM. To facilitate attendance these will be electronic 'Zoom' meetings. It will be for the new committee

to plan the programme for the forthcoming years, but I know that this will be exciting.

On a slight note of disappointment, it is with regret that Louise Belfield has felt unable to stand for election because of overwhelming commitments elsewhere. Not only was she active, she was also a representative of a group of growing importance, currently underrepresented our Association, oral healthcare professionals other than Dentists – Therapists, Hygienists, Technicians and so forth. It is essential that in the months and years to come we engage with these groups as they too will be part of the future dental care.

Although recently retired from University teaching, I have remained privileged to be able to participate in discussions relating to Dental Curricula and these point to some of the challenges we face and issues we may wish to consider. Few will be in any doubt that major themes over the next few months will be a consideration of the challenges we face, and opportunities offered in a post-covid world together with their implications for Dental education. Another recurring theme common to representatives from several schools from the UK, Europe and Australasia, is just how hard it is to maintain student engagement once students reach the senior clinical or early postgraduate years and how we should deliver contextualised teaching which encourages them to explore the relevance of biomedical sciences to contemporary practice. This is not a new theme but is certainly one which is re-emerging and which the new Committee will need to consider.

The whole Association wishes the new Committee every success in guiding the Association forward and addressing some of the challenges we face.



Association of Science Educators in Dentistry (ASEiD)

The New Committee

President: Marcello Riggio (Glasgow)

Immediate Past President: Mark Hector (Dundee)

Secretary/Treasurer: Paul Anderson (QMUL)

Membership Secretary: Vehid Salih (Plymouth)

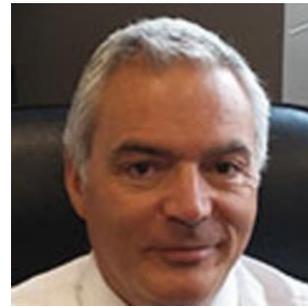
Councillors: Henk Brand (ACTA, Amsterdam) Co-opted
Andreea Didilescu (Bucharest) Co-opted
Ana Angelova Volponi (KCL)
Eiman Abdel Meguid (Anatomy – Belfast)
Melissa Grant (Birmingham)
Alastair Sloan (Melbourne)
Jeff O’Sullivan (Dublin)
Bana Abdulmoshen (Newcastle)

Audio/Video Resource in Dental Science

As first noted in a previous newsletter, the Editor is exploring the possibility of collating a series of short ‘sound bites’ or video clips, each of 10-15 mins duration relating to topical areas of biomedical science as they relate to Dentistry. These could then be made available as a resource on the Website. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Jon Bennett (jon.bennett@oxon.org).

Getting Involved

As the new committee seeks to establish itself, it would be great if any member who wishes to become more actively involved could make themselves known to the President or the Secretary/Treasurer.



The new President of ASEiD is Professor Marcello Riggio, who is Professor of Comparative Oral Microbiology at the University of Glasgow and former President (and current Immediate Past President) of the British Society for Oral and Dental Research (BSODR). He comments...

‘Having previously served the ASEiD as a Councillor and more recently as Membership Secretary, I am delighted to take on the role of President of the ASEiD. Due to the changing landscape of teaching delivery to our student cohorts, this is a timely juncture at which to re-evaluate the mission of ASEiD and to introduce new initiatives which support the membership and enhance the standing of ASEiD in the international teaching community. Please watch this space as we seek to transform ASEiD into a more influential and wide-reaching society, with the assistance of its new and dynamic Management Committee’

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place as a Zoom meeting on Tue 18th Jan at 1200-1300 GMT.

... and finally, a happy Christmas and a healthy, safe and and prosperous New Year to all our members, friends, and colleagues

