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# BSG Newsletter

Issue 3

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## COMMITTEE

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Fiona Sandom  
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Mark Taylor  
David Russell  
Thelma Edwards  
Frank Burke

## WAVING THE GERODONTOLOGY FLAG

### DEMENTIA GUIDELINES

The BSG committee is always looking for ways to highlight gerodontology in publications connected with older people whether that be relating to health, health and social care, the voluntary sector, or government. BSG has recently been represented at the consultation meetings for the Department of Health dementia guidelines and has since commented on their consultation document entitled Transforming the Quality of Dementia Care. Concern was expressed that oral/dental health has been ignored and attention was drawn to our own dementia guidelines, Guidelines for the Development Of Local Standards of Oral Health Care for People with Dementia. These were funded by the Department of Health and published as a supplement to *Gerodontology* December 2006

*You can be involved in highlighting gerodontology too:*

### UNDERGRADUATE DENTAL CURRICULUM

The General Dental Council will shortly review the undergraduate dental curriculum and BSG wishes to submit the views of our membership with regard to the important outcomes that should be included. For the Society to influence the GDC we need to be able to say that the large majority of Society members have responded and supported the inclusion of the following outcomes.

**Please help by completing our questionnaire enclosed.**

British Society of Gerodontology Website: [www.gerodontology.com](http://www.gerodontology.com) Website editor: [webeditor@gerodontology.com](mailto:webeditor@gerodontology.com)

## Editor's Reflections by Thelma Edwards

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" I have heard it said. The birth of my first grandchild last month brought forth many other expressions highlighting that our perceptions may not be completely objective or accurately reflect reality. My son described baby Hazel as 'beautiful', my daughter-in-law described the outcome of her 3 days labour and an emergency C-section as "adorable". Others proclaimed "isn't she sweet". She was actually a slightly crumpled small bundle of humanity with a little hat on, swaddled in a blue blanket (she is a girl I cry!) in a hospital crib, and attached to drips and to me she was a little miracle. How can wrinkled babies, sometimes showing the trauma of birth, be described as "beautiful"? Maybe it is because of the love in the heart of the beholder. Maybe it is because some will see the potential treasure within. Beauty is, after all, only skin deep.

Maybe we need to look at frail and dependant older people with this same sense of subjectivity – can we see beneath the wrinkles, the wet and dirty nappies, the constant cries for attention, the relentless vulnerability they find themselves in? Can they be beautiful too? The years have passed for them, and buried inside are the real treasures mined throughout their lives but now often overlooked and forgotten. Now there are clinical needs to be met, mental, emotional and behavioural challenges to overcome and their carers are often tired and worn. As I visited a group of carers whose partners suffered from dementia, I was challenged by their continuing love and intention to care for their beloved partner but struck by the fact that they too were often in need of being cared for themselves. As we discussed very basic mouth care, it was the small details that mattered to them, the details that were personal to them and made mouth care achievable against all the odds. It wasn't rocket science – they just needed practical ideas to enable them to continue to do what they often struggled to keep up with.

As an oral health promoter, I am used to lateral thinking when it comes to promoting good oral health care. I do not have the clinical focus of treatment need, and maybe have the luxury of more time to spend to find ways of enabling people to find their own ways to apply the health information messages in a holistic, realistic and achievable way. Do I deal in measurable outcomes? Rarely. Can I evaluate my effectiveness? Probably not in the same way as a clinician can. Maybe all I can hope for is to introduce a different perspective on the importance of basic mouth care.

I have two DCP colleagues on the BSG Committee. Sue Maddock and Fiona Sandom introduce themselves to you below – we are all part of a team. Maybe our strength is in the sum of the parts of the team rather than in the individual roles we have. We may all see things from a different perspective, but working together with mutual respect, we can bring to Gerodontology to life.

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**Sue Maddock:** *I qualified at Manchester Dental Hospital in 1975 and after working in Orthodontics & Periodontology for a couple of years moved to work within the Community Dental Service at Tameside and Glossop. I started working with Special Care patients shortly after and am still doing so. I have a Diploma in Oral Health Education and Teaching certificates for teaching mainstream adult students and also those with Special Needs. I worked with a group from the British Society for Disability and Oral Health to develop the post-qualification for Dental Nurses working in Special Care Dentistry, which is now run by the Examination Board. I also served on the Committee of the British Association of Dental Nurses. At the moment I am working within our community introducing an assessment sheet and reference handouts to all our residential homes and training the trainers who work in these homes.*

**Fiona Sandom:** *I am a Hygienist and Therapist working in the Community Dental Service in North Wales 4 days a week, in a variety of locations. I treat a wide range of patients which include the elderly. I also work for Cardiff University as the Hygienist and Therapist Tutor for North Wales arranging CPD courses and I am an examiner for the National Examination Board for Dental Nurses for the National Examination and the Oral Health Educators Examination. I wrote the chapter on Gerodontology for the Dental Hygienist and Therapist Text book, edited by Robert Ireland.*

**Thelma Edwards:** *I have a non-clinical background, coming into oral health via health education and years of being a consumer of health education messages on behalf of myself and my family. I served on the committee of the National Oral Health Promotion Group and created the NOHPG email Newsgroup to help keep oral health promoters in touch with each other, sharing good practice, concerns and news. Over the last 20 years I have gathered various pieces of paper called "qualifications" culminating in graduating with an MSc in Public Health this year.*

## DCPS AT THE SPRING MEETING 2008. 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008

Entitled "The Dentate Older Person – Getting Fit for Later Life" the Spring meeting covered communication, consent and care of the older person, challenged erosion/tooth wear as a new problem for older people, and extolled the virtues of saliva. At lunchtime, an informal meeting of the DCPs who were present at the meeting was held to discuss the role BSG could play in supporting their continuing professional development. Concern was expressed that, although regional study days may be available across the country, many DCPs did not know about them and due to financial pressures, accessing training and attending study days was difficult. It was suggested that the BSG website could be used to advertise relevant training and to set up a DCP forum to support discussion between meetings. The possibility of regional study days was suggested, and the proposal that a DCP breakaway session could be organized during a BSG scientific meeting. Interest was also expressed in distance learning. Sue, Fiona and Thelma are the DCP/OHP representatives on the BSG Committee and they would welcome your views on holding BSG DCP regional days, breakaway sessions at the scientific meetings, along with ideas for suitable topics and volunteers for presentations. Please contact them on [smaddock@nhs.net](mailto:smaddock@nhs.net), [fiona.sandom@virgin.net](mailto:fiona.sandom@virgin.net) and [thelma.edwards@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:thelma.edwards@dsl.pipex.com).

### BSG PRIZES

The society is pleased to announce that three new awards are now available for the best case report on any subject related to Gerodontology. The case report should be a minimum of 2000 and no more than 3000 words and must relate to a case completed within the last 2 years. A panel from BSG will judge the applications.

**THE NEW GRADUATE** prize will comprise a case presentation or novel technique on any subject related to Gerodontology. The award category is for all newly graduated dentists practising in the UK and Ireland. £250 will be awarded to the best submission as well as one year's membership of BSG and the journal. The winning candidate will be invited to the BSG Spring Meeting in order to receive their prize.

**THE DCP PRIZE** is for all dental hygienists and dental therapists practising in the UK and Ireland. £250 will be awarded to the best submission as well as one year's membership of BSG and the journal. The winning candidate will be invited to the BSG Spring Meeting in order to receive their prize.

**THE DENTAL NURSE** award category is for all dental nurses practising in the UK and Ireland. £250 will be awarded to the best submission as well as one year's membership of BSG and the journal. The winning candidate will be invited to the BSG Spring Meeting in order to receive their prize.

Further information and prize criteria will shortly be available on the website

### NEW COURSES FOR DENTAL CARE PROFESSIONALS CARDIFF UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATION.

To meet the increased demands for CPD for Dental Care Professionals, a new Postgraduate Diploma in Dental Care Professional Studies has recently been approved. The programme will provide a formal postgraduate University qualification for health care professionals within the specialty of Dentistry. The anticipated start date will be October 2009. As part of this exciting initiative, two new Distance Learning Modules are being developed in Special Care Dentistry. Each Module in SCD successfully completed will attract 15 credits towards the 120 credits required for the Postgraduate Diploma. Students will be required to attend a mandatory study day. However the Modules will also be available for stand alone study; students successfully completing each Module will receive a Certificate of completion from the Dental Postgraduate Section of the School of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education.

Further information on the Diploma courses can be found on the website:

[www.dentpostgradwales.ac.uk/dcp/nurses.htm](http://www.dentpostgradwales.ac.uk/dcp/nurses.htm)

### WEBSITE UPDATE

Have you checked out the BSG website recently? It is being developed towards being a one-stop shop for quick links to Gerodontology information. We need your help to do this and would welcome any links you can send us to your own favourite websites, for example <http://www.alzheimers.org.uk>. You will find links to the guidelines there, dates for forthcoming meetings, application forms, and news.

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

If you have any membership queries, please contact:

**Barbara Hylton, BSG Membership Secretary, 7 Prospect Lane, Solihull, B91 1HJ.**

GOING CAMPING? – EXTRACTS FROM THE REVISED BSDH  
GUIDELINES FOR THE DELIVERY OF A DOMICILIARY ORAL HEALTHCARE SERVICE

It has been suggested that a great deal of the procedure and process of domiciliary visiting is similar to camping. Time is spent preparing and packing equipment and kit required. This is then taken to the visit and time is spent unpacking and setting up for the necessary treatment. Afterwards, everything needs to be dismantled ready to pack away again.

The acronym '**CAMPING**' can be used as an aide memoire for the key skills required to deliver an effective DOHC service. **CAMPING** stands for **C**ommunication, **A**ssertiveness and anticipation, **M**anual handling and map reading, **P**lanning and time management, **I**mprovisation, **N**etworking, **G**erodontology.

For non-emergency visits the following 'Telephone Tick List' is helpful. The acronym '**CAMPING**' can again be used as an aide memoire:

**C**heck full address and helpful directions, **A**ppointment to be sent in writing if possible, **M**edical history and consent **P**arking facilities, **I**nformation about who will be present, **N**ame of dentist visiting, provided for security, **G**et any special instructions/ requirements – e.g. need to collect key from neighbour, dog barks but does not bite, etc..

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE WINTER MEETING – SEE BELOW**

BRITISH SOCIETY OF GERODONTOLOGY AND BDA CDS GROUP  
WINTER MEETING

THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008

**International Coffee Organisation**  
**22 Berners Street,**  
**London, W1T 3DD**

**The meeting will focus on practical tips for clinicians regarding the oral health care of older people.**

**The programme includes:**

*'Adhesive Restorations under Difficult Circumstances'*  
*'Root Caries. Prevention and Management.'*  
*'Making Acrylic Dentures better'*  
*'Partial Dentures bars or plates - how should we choose'*  
*'Complete Dentures for Compromised Patients'*  
*'To Copy or not - What are the pitfalls?'*  
*'Implants for the Older Patient'*  
*'Residual Ridge Resorption, Prevention and Management'*  
**BSG Annual General Meeting**

**The Spring Meeting  
of the  
British Society of  
Gerodontology  
will be held  
June 2009  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne**

Further information from:

Vicki Jones, BSG Secretary, Dental Department, Ringland Health Centre, Ringland, Newport NP 19 9PS

Tel: 01633 283190; e-mail: [contact@gerodontology.com](mailto:contact@gerodontology.com)

Or download the application form from the website. [www.gerodontology.com](http://www.gerodontology.com)

This newsletter continues to be a 'work in progress' and depends largely on your contributions – deadline for contributions for the Spring edition is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009.

Please email them to the newsletter editor: [Thelma.Edwards@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:Thelma.Edwards@dsl.pipex.com) – but please don't leave it to the last minute!