Scottish Dental Awards 2013

Two members of Lanarkshire’s dental professionals have been awarded two prestigious prizes.

David MacPherson and Amy McCabe were recognised at the first Scottish Dental Awards, which celebrate the very best that Scottish dentistry has to offer.

David MacPherson, principal dental surgeon at Whitemoss Dental Practice was awarded Dentist of the Year, which awards those who have shown an exceptional level of patient care and leadership over the years.

Amy McCabe, from Cadden Dental Practice in Coatbridge, scooped Student Dental Nurse of the Year award which is given for both clinical and academic achievements.

Scottish Oral Health Improvement Network

Scottish Oral Health Improvement Network’s (SOHIN) community website has recently been set up. The aims of SOHIN are to:

- Improve oral health and reduce oral health inequalities by coordinating action locally and nationally as informed by national policy.
- Develop and share best practice, prevent duplication across Scotland while encouraging innovation and evidence based approaches for oral health improvement.

Staff working in health improvement within NHS or a partner agency can access a community website from www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk where details of how to register are given.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to Graham McKirdy, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the pre-conference dinner at the annual conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees (LDCs) held in April 2013.

Graham McKirdy has been a member of the Lanarkshire LDC since 1981. Graham has spent the last 30 years as a partner in practices in Glasgow and Hamilton. He was chairman of the Scottish Dental Practice Committee of the British Dental Association (BDA) from 1997 to 2003. He was also a member of the Lanarkshire Area Dental Advisory Committee (ADAC) from 1984 to 2010 and is presently serving on the ADAC GP-sub committee. He is currently chairing the NHS pensions negotiations for the BDA on a UK-wide basis.
Teeth Whitening

Members of the British Dental Association (BDA) have been sent a patient poster highlighting the ‘dos and don’ts’ of teeth whitening. The aim is to communicate the benefits of teeth whitening to patients and to explain who can legally carry out the procedure, as well as the dangers of treatment from non-dental professionals. A range of media assets are available from www.bda.org/whiteningmediakit

The BDA is urging dentists to fight the scourge of illegal whitening. Guidance from the General Dental Council is available from www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Standards/Pages/Tooth-whitening.aspx

Guidance for Dental Local Decontamination Units

Guidance clarifying the national requirements for compliant reprocessing of dental devices in Local Decontamination Units is available from the publications library of Health Facilities Scotland (HFS) at www.hfs.scot.nhs.uk/publications-

It sets out what HFS considers to be the essential requirements for compliance with nationally agreed standards. Dentists remain responsible for their own compliance with relevant legislation and policy requirements and must ensure that they take any necessary steps to meet these requirements.

Management of Acute Dental Problems

Patients who have an acute dental problem seek care in a variety of settings. To encourage the consistent provision of safe and effective care, the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme has recently published new guidance entitled ‘Management of Acute Dental Problems’.

This guidance is intended for use by staff in any setting who may be asked to advise or manage patients with acute dental problems, including non-dental professionals such as GPs, A&E and pharmacy staff.

It is available in three formats: the full guidance, a quick reference guide and a web app. These can be downloaded from www.sdcep.org.uk/?o=3158

Basic Life Support Course

Basic life support (BLS) courses for dentists and dental practice staff are being held at the University of the West of Scotland’s Hamilton Campus two Wednesday afternoons a month.

The course aims are:

• First responder management of cardiac arrest using BLS
• Initial recognition of management of myocardial infarction
• Cardiac arrest equipment familiarisation

To check availability and for more information please contact Morag Mulhall, Practice Development Project Officer on morag.mulhall@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk or 01698 201412.
Fluoride Varnish Initiative in Care Homes

Lanarkshire Salaried Primary Care Dental Service team of Special Care Oral Health Educators are currently undertaking oral health assessments for dependant older adults along with staff and carer training. In an effort to further improve oral health, a pilot project has been started, whereby suitable care home residents will be given the opportunity to have high dose fluoride varnish applied every three months.

Smile4life Card for Homeless People

NHS Health Scotland has launched a credit card-sized information resource as part of the national Smile4life oral health training for staff working with people who are homeless. This will be distributed to housing support services as part of the roll-out of Smile4life training in Lanarkshire. A copy of the resource can be downloaded from www.healthscotland.com/documents/21100.aspx

Seminar on Oral Health Care for the Elderly

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) held a seminar on ‘addressing the growing challenge in providing oral health care for the elderly’ on 17 May 2013 at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, London.

A number of well renowned speakers discussed the issues associated with the care of this sector of the population. Among them, Professor Jim Newton, ex Dean of Aberdeen Dental School, was particularly interesting and gave this summary, “The best treatment plan for any patient is the simplest intervention that adequately meets the needs, wants and abilities of the patient”.

Copies of the presentations can be downloaded from www.fgdp.org.uk/research/research-events/oral-health-care-for-the-elderly-.ashx

Nutrition and Oral Health e-learning Programme

A free e-learning programme has been introduced by NHS Lanarkshire to complement the Nutrition and Oral Health Strategy into Practice resources.

This e-learning programme aims to support childcare services to become health promoting. There are information and practical activities on healthy eating, oral health, overweight and obesity, food labelling and portion sizes.

The e-learning programme is open to all professionals and childcare providers working in early years and out of school care settings. For more information or to register for the e-learning programme, please contact Kirsten Lammie on kirsten.lammie@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk or 01698 377621.
National Smile Month 2013

To mark National Smile Month (20 May to 20 June), dental staff from NHS Lanarkshire participated in a free fun activities event, organised by Get Active Lanarkshire (www.getactivelanarkshire.co.uk) on Saturday 1 June 2013 in Strathclyde Park, Motherwell.

NHS Lanarkshire’s mobile dental unit demonstrated what the inside of a dental practice looks like and encouraged visitors to register with a dentist. Elaine Sharp, senior oral health educator, said, “NHS Lanarkshire’s dental staff were on hand at the event to spread the three key oral health messages to the people of Lanarkshire.”

Position Statement on e-cigarettes

The Scottish Directors of Public Health has recently issued a position statement on e-cigarettes in which they strongly advocate that e-cigarettes should be treated in the same way as normal cigarettes within NHS tobacco policies. It is explained that the risks to health from the inhalation of e-cigarettes and the use of these e-cigarettes are yet unknown. There are also other evidence based nicotine replacement therapy products available to assist people who wish to stop smoking. Details of the statement can be found on http://tobacco.cleartheair.org.hk/?p=7440

NHS Lanarkshire’s Stop Smoking Service can be contacted from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on 08452 177 707 or text 81066.

Rise in Cases of Syphilis

NHS Lanarkshire is responding to a rise in the number of cases of syphilis. From 1 January to 24 June 2013, there have been 19 new cases among which there was an unusual increase in the number of heterosexual young men under 25.

As oral sex is a major route of transmission for syphilis, dentists in Lanarkshire who have a clinical suspicion that a sore or ulcer in a patient could be syphilis should advise the patient to attend a sexual health clinic or contact their GP for testing. If not treated, syphilis will progress and can cause serious damage to the heart, arteries and nervous system. For further information on syphilis, visit www.lanarkshiresexualhealth.org

News Extra

The British Society of Gerodontology and the British Society for Disability and Oral Health have recently produced a training video for carers of older people. The video can be found on www.gerodontology.com/video.html

The General Dental Council has published its new ‘Standards for the Dental Team’ which will replace its current Standards Guidance. ‘Standard for the Dental Team’ will be effective from 30 September 2013 and can be downloaded from www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Standards/Pages/standards.aspx

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www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/Services/Oral/Pages/KeepLanarkshireSmiling.aspx