

Text Version

If you are using Twitter then go to <http://twitter.com/BrumDentists>

March 2010

Tunnel Legging Ben

Ben Scheven writes

"I wish to thank all of you who kindly sponsored me in the "barge tunnel legging" event last Saturday. I've attached a selection of photos: I "legged" the whole way, and it took us about 1h 15min to leg trough the Dudley tunnel (just under 3km: 2888 m to be precise!); not a record-breaking time, but a great and interesting exercise, and all for a good cause!"



A total of £69 was raised here in the School of Dentistry; together with funds collected elsewhere (so far more than £1100 raised!), the money will be transferred to a dedicated trauma funds account especially set-up to purchase much needed equipment for the Ngwelezane Hospital Burns Unit, in particular a burns trolley and surgical instruments.

The plan is that we'll visit the Ngwelezane Hospital this Sunday and will hand out a selection of collected soft toys to the young patients in the Burns Unit. Many thanks again for your support!"

More on the BSSPD Conference

It was a successful BSSPD Prosthodontic Conference and Birmingham had a high number of delegates. Craig Barclay (one of our ex staff) was president and had arranged a high profile Implant lecture series on the Saturday with a reception at Stirling Castle. We were greeted by a traditional Scottish Piper who just happened to be a consultant colleague of Craig's. The Sunday and Monday followed with presentations on the implant theme and at the poster session we are pleased to report that Neil Patel's poster won the prize. At the end of the conference, Craig handed over the Presidency to our own Damien Walmsley. We look forward to next year's conference in Birmingham and more of news of that later on in the year.



Success at BSSPD

Birmingham once again was successful at the annual BSSPD conference which was held this year in Stirling, Scotland. Senior house Officers from the department of Prosthetic Dentistry won the Schottlander poster prize and the Society new graduate prize. Neil Patel won the Schottlander poster prize with his presentation "Applications of Laser Welding in Prosthodontics" with co-authors Sarah Austin, David Attril and Phil Murphy. Puneet Patel won the New graduate prize which reimburses the recipient with the costs of the conference and gives a year's membership to the society. The picture shows the successful Birmingham team celebrating the success with Brian Schottlander.



Something for the Weekend

Here is a picture taken from the Admin Wing Floor 7 by Simon Lea. It shows a lovely rainbow over Aston University. Nice picture and don't forget to put your clocks forward this weekend.



Visitor from Canada

Professor Kilistoff is a renowned and experienced dental educator from the University of Saskatchewan and British Columbia in Canada. Professor Kilistoff is visiting Birmingham to undertake a research project on the teaching of dental anatomy and to lecture on how this is applied to the carving and shaping of amalgam and direct composite restorations. The visit was organised by Louis McKenzie who is one of our Part-Time Lecturers. Alan's lecture will also provide an update on the use of magnification and ergonomics in contemporary restorative dentistry.



Both Louis and Alan are also involved in the International Peer Review project that is co-ordinated by another friend of the School, Karen Gardner at University of British Columbia.

Spring is here

Just to give you that extra spring in your step on a Monday morning here is a picture of Spring for you. In case you have not noticed the days are getting longer and the weather is becoming milder. Easter holidays are just around the corner. So have a good week. Also spare a thought for all those students taking resit examinations today - hope all

goes well for them.



Something for the weekend



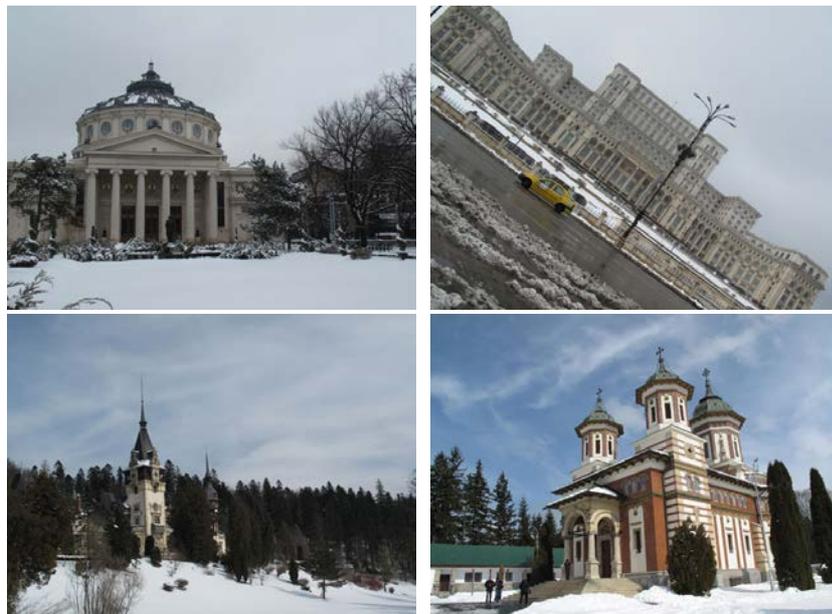
David Attrill found this little snippet about the [University of Birmingham crest on the side of the Dental Hospital](#). It is a nice picture taken by [Pigsonthewing](#).

Visitors from Thailand



The school welcomed visitors from Chulalongkon University, Bangkok, Thailand who are looking to strengthen links between the two institutions. They were shown around the building by Professor Tony Smith before discussion with the Head of School, Professor Philip Lumley on how to further existing links. In the picture there is Prof Lumley, Assistant Prof Suchit Poolthong, Associate Prof Supaporn Chongvisal and Prof Smith.

EDSA 2010 and Vampires



The European Dental Students Association annual meeting was held in Bucharest, Romania. There were 400 delegates from around Europe who attended the Congress. Presentations included Specialisation, Aesthetic dentistry, Setting up Practice and how to get published. There was some serious talking during the day with many presentations both verbal and poster. There was some serious partying taking place as well. There were also a day trip arranged to the sumptuous and elegant Peles Castle in Sinaia Transylvania. We also visited Bran Castle which has received the notorious label of being Dracula's residence. Although we did not see any vampires it was very very cold and menacing. [Details of the Congress may be found on the EDSA website.](#)



The picture shows speakers and some old friends. L to R. Prof. Dr. Uros Skaleric (President of the European Federation of Periodontology), Your Blogger, Roxanna Cara (formerly student placement at Birmingham 2003 and now working in Bucharest) and Prof Winfried Harzer (President of ADEE).

Another Winner !

Anqi Wang, PhD student jointly supervised by Rachel Sammons, with Ian Jones and Junfa Mei in the School of Metallurgy won the Midlands heat of the Young Persons' Lecture Competition organised by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, last night. She will go on to represent the Midlands in the UK national final in London on 28th April. The winner of that will go on to represent the UK in the world competition.

In fact Anqi is turning out to be quite a star – she also won the Royal Microscopical Society beginners competition at the Society of Electron Microscopy Technology Meeting in December with her poster and talk on “Biosynthesis of Hydroxyapatite on Titanium Substrates”.



Here is Anqi with Heather Davies, chair of the SEMT and her abstract.

Anqi Wang
University of Birmingham,

A novel method to coat titanium substrates, solid or porous, with hydroxyapatite (HA) for potential orthopaedic and dental applications via bacteria *Serratia N 14* was utilised in this study. Biofilm was grown on the titanium supporting material and nano to micro scale calcium phosphate crystals formed on the substrate surface in an environment containing calcium chloride and an organic phosphate source. Heat treatment was applied to either calcine or sinter the crystals. SEM analysis showed that the crystal morphology changed as the crystal layer thickened, with EDX confirming that Ca/P ratio differed in parallel. XRD analysis confirmed that the crystals were hydroxyapatite. FTIR and TEM analysis is in progress to further characterise the crystals.

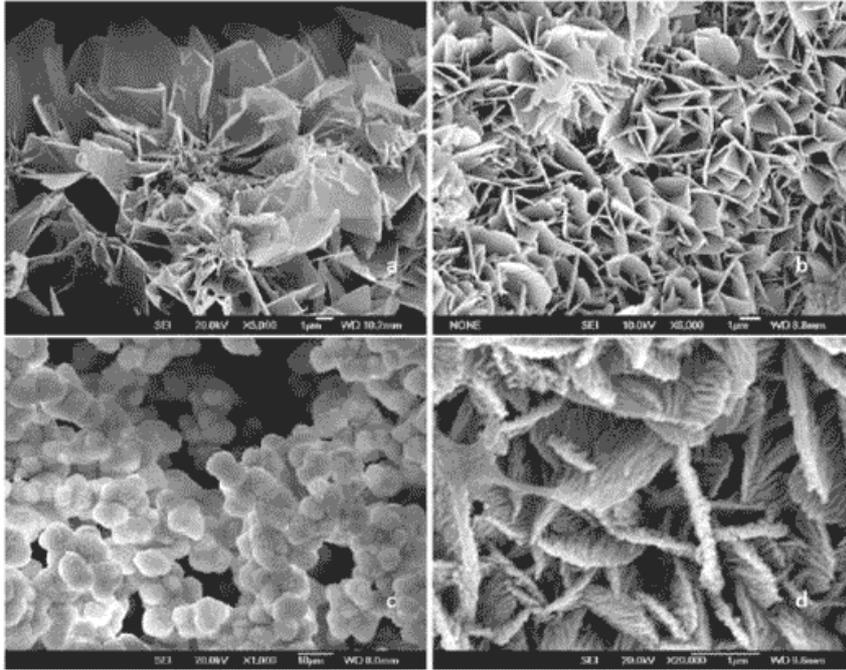


Figure 1 (a) to (c): SEM images showing crystal morphology on Ti discs. (d): SEM in higher magnification showing the detailed surface morphology of the crystal in (c).

American Dental Education Association



The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is holding its annual conference at the GayLORD Hotel in National Harbour, just outside Washington DC. There are 1,700 delegates from dental education centres through out the USA and Canada. The conference covers many different aspects of dental education and high on the agenda is change.

The opening ceremony saw Rick Valachovic Executive Director of ADEA receive a distinguished service award. This was followed by an inspirational lecture by an artist featured in the New York Times, **Chris Jordan** who gave a thought provoking talk about his art. It is well worth visiting his website to see some of his images. Delegates (including links with Birmingham) from the Association for Dental Education in Europe were invited guests at the conference whose theme was "Assessments in Dental Education: Portraits of Change".

February 2010

Mouth Cancer Resource



Dental student Harmeet Gill has been successful at publicising the risks associated with mouth cancer. As part of her elective period, Harmeet developed a mouth cancer resource for dentists, which assists them to spot and recognise different types of oral cancer. With support from the Heart of Birmingham PCT dental public health team, she piloted her resource with patients at Ashok Solanki's Dental Practice at Balsall Heath. Patients will now be checked for all signs of mouth cancer as part of their routine check-up. Initial feedback is very positive and a formal evaluation of the resource is taking place. If it is deemed a success the HoB dental public health team will ensure that all HoB dentists will have access to this. Congratulations Harmeet.



It is with great pleasure that I can tell you that Donald Spence (School of Dentistry) has won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the BUAFTA Gala Dinner on Friday 19th February.

Don joined the University of Birmingham School of Dentistry in 1964 as a Junior Technician in Prosthetic Dentistry and he is currently the Director of Student Support and Welfare. He has an extensive and unique role, including Admissions Tutor, Senior Tutor and Head of Academic Programmes. His expertise and dedication to the School is immense and he is respected amongst staff, students and alumni to whom he offers continued support beyond graduation. Don is also highly respected within the University as a senior mediator and panel member of several BIQAES reviews.

Don has dedicated his working career to the University, The School of Dentistry, and most importantly the students who have graduated from the School over the last 46 years.

The Lifetime Achievement Award category of the BUAFTAs was extremely competitive and received many nominations. Don's success is testament to his professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Don on his much-deserved award.

Professor Lawrence Young
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Head of College of Medical and Dental Sciences



The season is yet to begin but at least it is not cold and threatening to snow. The executive committee of the Association for Dental Education in Europe is meeting in Antalya, Turkey to review the site for the 2011 meeting. The luxury hotel will provide an excellent venue for the meeting but for the moment it is slowly getting ready for the new season. The pictures show that the deck chairs are not quite ready. Birmingham will be hosting the ADEE meeting in 2013 and it will be certainly be a different place to visit compared to the Mediterranean!

Elective Presentation Day - Alexander



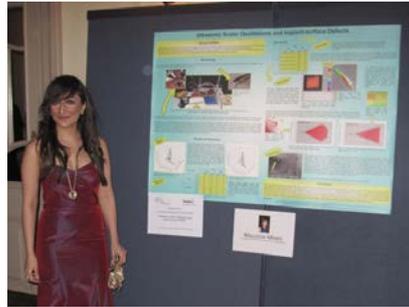
Dr Kirsty Hill (Chief Elective Co-ordinator) writes
"According to the judges presentation day was the highest standard we have had for many years, the student showed great enthusiasm for their elective. We had a variety of presentations from lab based, health promotion, snakes, oral medicine and cycling 1057 across England to Scotland and many more. Student Prize for best presentation was awarded to: Mr N Patel who presented his elective on snakes....very educational and bit scary! And the Sands Cox prize for best overall presentation was awarded to Miss Harmeet Gill for the development of Oral Medicine pack for practitioners. Certificates of merit were awarded to Caroline Hayden and Dipesh Parmer Judges were Dr Gill Bradnock, Mr Don Spence, Mrs Jan Clements and Mr Jagdeep Hans Thanks must be given to the elective co-ordinators for all their assistances and hard work throughout the year (Dr Simon Lea, Dr Owen Addison, Dr Mike Hofmann, Mrs McDonagh, Dr Will Palin)."

The full list of presenters were as follows

- *Nishil Patel* - Head morphology of Cayos Cochinos Boa Constrictor
- *David Burton* - The use of dental practice websites
- *Charlotte Billings* - The management of Avulsed teeth in accident and emergency departments in Birmingham
- *Laura Whitehouse* - Race determination and facial reconstruction of Chichester 19, a Medieval Leper
- *Harmeet Gill* - The production of an oral cancer pack for general dental practitioners

- *Dipesh Parmar* - Piezosurgery, vibrometry and bone defect profilometry
- *Preeyan Patel* - A study comparing clinical oral diagnoses related to patients presenting complaints and management in free urgent care dental clinics in Lahaul, India and Birmingham UK
- *Malveen Mann* - Ultrasonic scaler oscillations and implant-surface defects
- *Caroline Hayden* - The role of forensic dentistry in victim and culprit identification
- *Johanna Bryant* - A comparison of consent for dental treatment between Birmingham Dental Hospital in England and the Coorg Institute of Dental sciences in rural South India
- *Claire Bolton* - An audit of the Sustrans National Cycle Network on a journey from Lands End to John O'Groats
- *Harveen Chal* - Oral health promotion in 7-8 year olds across four schools in Nakuru, Kenya.

Birmingham wins prize at BDA/Dentsply Student Clinician Event



Malveen Mann, final year dental student, won an award at the British Dental Association/Dentsply Student Clinician programme which was held in Edinburgh. The award is for the student who undertakes her presentation with the best Clarity and Professionalism. Malveen's presentation was entitled "Ultrasonic scaler oscillations and implant surface defects" and her supervisors were Dr Simon Lea and Prof Damien Walmsley.



The evening was a great success and held in the Balmoral Hotel overlooking Waverley train station. Even though it was raining outside, it did not dampen the spirits of the Birmingham contingent and there was a rousing cheer when Malveen's name was announced. Following the speeches and prize giving there was a demonstration of traditional Scottish Dancing followed by a céilidh. There was a chance to catch up with people well into the early hours of the morning. The general consensus was that this was one of the best Student Clinician evenings held in recent times. Well done to Kate Caple at Dentsply for organising such a successful night.

Malveen Mann writes in the Blog



"When I chose to carry out a research based elective at Birmingham, I had no idea, the amount of doors it would open for me. My research poster allowed me to compete against 15 other dental students, each representing their own dental school at the BDA/Dentsply Student Clinician Competition in Edinburgh 2010. We were recognized as 'the Future of Dentistry' – what a great honour from something that started as an elective project. On announcement of the prizes, the atmosphere was tense, only to be broken by the uproar from the 24 members of staff and their partners from Birmingham, when my prize was announced. I assure you, their presence was made clear! I'm pleased to say, no other dental school received the enormous support I did. This experience taught me how great students

should regard Birmingham Dental School and how it gives us a great start in our career."

Anglo-Dutch Collaboration



Collaborations are the key to research success and a unique grouping of scientists came together at the University of Birmingham. Damien Walmsley and Philip Lumley (Dentistry - Birmingham) and Gareth Price (Chemistry - Bath) have a joint EPSRC grant titled "**Optimising the Sonochemical and Ultrasonic Output of Dental Endosonic Instruments**"

In the Netherlands Luc van der Sluis (Dentistry - ACTA, Amsterdam) and Michel Versluis (Physics of Fluids Group - Twente) have a joint Technology Foundation STW (Netherlands) grant titled "**Ultrasonic cleaning of root canals - Endodontic therapy through microstreaming and cavitation**"

Both groups have an interdisciplinary base where either a physicist or chemist is partnering with a dental scientist. Both groups are looking into the use of Ultrasound in Endodontics but have a larger knowledge base that extends into other areas of ultrasound and its uses in dentistry.

The two groups met to discuss research findings with presentations by Simon Lea (Research Fellow - Birmingham) and PhD students (Joyce Tiong - Bath, Leimeng Jiang - ACTA and Bram Verhaagen - Twente). The group from the Netherlands were able to view the research laboratories at the Dental School and there was also an opportunity to discuss further collaborations and grant applications.

January 2010



Professor White has forwarded this news to the blog. Twenty second year students welcomed visitors from **Lufton College in Somerset** and **Hereward College in Coventry** as part of their Disability Studies module. This was the final part of a new partnership venture aimed at increasing awareness of learning and physical disabilities. Visiting students enjoyed learning about dentistry in the skills lab and about admission and life in higher education. Here are some of the sparkling models that were made! We hope to continue and develop the links we have made this year.





Dear Blogger

I spoke to you quite some time ago about the Bhangra society, so just a bit about it...

Bhangra is a folk dance originating from Punjab, India. I started up the Birmingham University Bhangra Society last year. We competed against other universities in The Bhangra Showdown 2009, which was held in Sadler's Wells Theatre in London where we came 3rd.

We were also fortunate enough to win Best Newcomer at the Birmingham Guild Awards 2009 and performed at the ceremony which was held in the Great Hall.

This year we are performing on the 31st Jan at the London Palladium for The Bhangra Showdown 2010, where we will be competing against the likes of Queen Mary's, Imperial, and King's College to name a few.

So check our past performance and promotional video under the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BJo8D4SQcA>

Thanks

Jasveer Singh Poonian
2nd Year Dental Student
President of the Birmingham University Bhangra Society

BTW Jas is holding the Trophy!

A Night at the Movies



Birmingham Dental Students' Society held its 124th Annual Dental Ball at the New Bingley Hall by Hockley Circus. The theme of the evening was "The Movies" and everyone was asked to come dressed for the red carpet. Student President, Jag Hans and his team had set up a movie spectacular and the Hall reflected the movie theme.



On arrival there was a champagne reception followed by the red carpet treatment. Ahmed Din had arranged for the University Photographic Society to act as Paparazzi for the evening and the flashlights greeted everyone who came into the Hall. The table settings included your own star set out for you.



After dinner entertainment included a charades style drama presentation where you had to guess the movie being acted out. Dr David Attrill, staff president organised the raffle and words of thanks were given by Jag. The Star of the Ball was awarded to Professor Deborah White. Then there was time to visit the Casino, have your picture taken with cardboard cut-outs of the stars or just catch up with people. It was a memorable evening where everyone was a star.

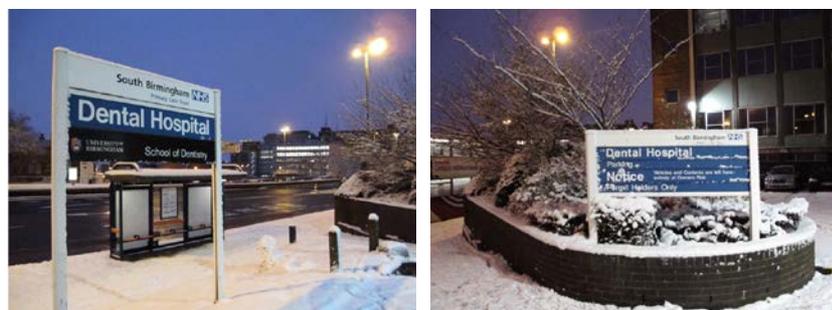


Louis MacKenzie (part time lecturer and practitioner) is leading the school on the International Peer Review project that is integral to the U21 network. Karen Gardener at Vancouver is the co-ordinator and our students have been paired with their peers at University San Francisco and Hong Kong. The students have produced items of work which is being peer reviewed by students at the other institutions. They discuss dentistry and other aspects of student life within a social networking site set up in Vancouver. Such activity allows out students to experience dentistry in other schools around the world. Louis has tasked the students with making a PowerPoint presentation which highlights their work. The network is growing with links with Canada and Mexico. The picture shows some of the final year students who took part and an example of work that is being completed on the clinic.



It is always good to see the School of Dentistry, Birmingham, UK in the News and the following story is featured in the AADR (American Association for Dental Research) online newsletter. It is called "Strides in Science" and features Jack Ferracane who is undertaking a research Sabbatical in Birmingham. [You can access the story on the AADR site.](#)

Sorry it is so quiet on the blogging front but all energy has gone into getting into and out of work this week. Some news from our Alumni Office who sent out the latest issue of BiteSize. This news magazine is available to all past University of Birmingham Graduates. The article on "Musical Teeth" features the research work of Ektor Grammatopoulos which has been featured on this Blog last year. Already the most accessed story from the Magazine is Ektor's research. This access is twice as much as the views on a related buisness story on Manchester United. Well done Ektor!



Welcome to a cold and snowy scene this morning around the Dental School and Hospital!



The School welcomes Vicheth Lim who is an Erasmus student from Lyon Dental School, France. Vicheth will be with us for the next 3 months. Hope you enjoy the snow !

This is the first picture of the New Year and it is one taken of our newly married member of staff Phil Tomson who married Mary Doherty. The wedding was held at Princethorpe College just before the New Year. Congratulations from all at the School of Dentistry.



Happy New Year !!!

MSc in Advanced General Dental Practice
Study online for a Masters Degree
Distance learning from the University of Birmingham



The School of Dentistry
College of Medical and Dental Sciences
University of Birmingham
St Chad's Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6NN
United Kingdom



Tel: +44 (0) 121 466 5579