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BSG Newsletter

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Spring 2010

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COMMITTEE

President	David Russell
President elect	Vicki Jones
Past President	Nicola Pearson
Honorary treasurer	David Davis
Membership secretary	Barbara Hylton
Honorary secretary	Vicki Jones/Jeff Wilson
Committee & co-opted members	Tim Friel Janet Griffiths Robert Baker Debbie Lewis Arun Shrestha
Journal editor	Jim Newton
Website editor	Mark Taylor
Sponsorship secretary	Paul Zubkowski
Newsletter editor	Thelma Edwards

British Society of Gerodontology Website:

www.gerodontology.com

Website editor: webeditor@gerodontology.com

Deadline for contributions for the Autumn 2010 edition of this newsletter is 31st August 2010.

Please email them to the newsletter editor:
Thelma.Edwards@dsl.pipex.com

INTRODUCING OUR PRESIDENT DAVID RUSSELL



David graduated at King's in 1971 and after a period in general practice and the then school dental service he moved to Manchester as SHO and Registrar and obtained his FDS.

During 4 years as lecturer on Prosthetic Dentistry he acquired an MSc by thesis - and a wife! He moved to Birmingham for higher training in Restorative Dentistry as a Senior Registrar. They moved to Belfast in order for him to take up the post of Senior Lecturer/Consultant in Restorative Dentistry which he held for 15 years making a side-ways move into a hospital consultant post in Restorative/Special Care Dentistry mainly involved with medically compromised adults. He was President of the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Dental Association in 2003.

An opportunity then arose, after 4 years, to return home to Birmingham to take up the post of Consultant in Restorative Dentistry with responsibility for prosthetic dentistry and special care dentistry where they have remained for 5 years.

They have 4 children between the ages of 29 and 8 years, one married with a grandchild on the way. His outside interests are singing, playing the piano and walking. He currently sings with the Birmingham Bach Choir and plays the piano and organ at the local parish churches.

Editor's Reflections by Thelma Edwards

I recently attended a support group where long term carers were sharing their experiences of providing care for their loved one. I had been invited to the group as the 'oral health expert' to provide some practical hints and tips on mouth care. As always at these events, I spend much of my time listening to their discussions and learning the realities of what it is really like to be the 'expert carer'. This provides the context into which my advice has to be given if it is to be relevant and realistic. On many occasions, I am able to tap into their own skills and examples of good practice which they can then pass on to each other. I may earn some 'brownie points' with my PCT for such examples of Patient Engagement or Public Involvement but for me it is simply an opportunity to keep in touch with the expressed needs of real people who have amazing reserves of patience, long-suffering, compassion and love. Occasionally, these qualities are mixed with frustration and may even boil over into anger when the processes and systems that are designed to provide support and care fail to meet their expectations.

On one such occasion, the focus of this frustration was their loved one being given a label. Such impersonal generalization clearly failed to provide the individual support they had hoped would follow a diagnosis. *"My father seems to have become the label he has been given. I thought the label would be the key to unlock the door to more specific care but it seems only to have placed him into a pigeon-hole that de-personalises him and restricts his care."* I was challenged by this and later reflected on my own assumptions too easily made related to the 'label' e.g. Dementia, Alzheimers, manic depression, bi-polar disorder, learning disability Where do the 'Valuing People' and Dignity agendas fit into this? What happens when several labels can be applied to the same person? In cases of complex need, which key fits the lock and for which door?

BSG PRIZE ENTRY DATE EXTENDED to 30th April 2010

BSG DENTAL NURSE PRIZE Case Report in Gerodontology

The Award Category is for all dental nurses practising in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

BSG NEW GRADUATE PRIZE Case Report in Gerodontology

The Award Category is for all newly graduated dentists practising in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The Society will award a prize of £200 to the best-case report on any subject related to Gerodontology and one year's free membership of BSG and receipt of the journal.

The case report should be a minimum of 2000 words and no more than 3000 words. In addition the submission must relate to a case completed within the last 2 years.

The case report should be a report of one or a small series of clinical cases or a novel technique.

Reports should be submitted electronically to contact@gerodontology.com for forwarding to the panel of judges. The winning candidate will be invited to the Spring Meeting on June 18th 2010 in Birmingham to receive their prize.

Reports from the BSG AGM December 2009.

Regional Study Days for DCPs

There have been 8 responses of interest from BSG members prepared to speak at regional days. It was agreed to trial this in Plymouth and develop a training package that could be rolled out to other areas.

Stroke Guidelines

Tim Friel was congratulated on his compilation of the stroke guidelines. These have now gone out for consultation and comment.

Focus on Dementia

National Dementia Strategy

www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Olderpeople/NationalDementiaStrategy/index.htm

It is estimated that there are currently some 700,000 people with dementia in the UK. The first ever National Dementia Strategy, published in February 2009, is a landmark document that will transform the quality of dementia care. It sets out initiatives designed to make the lives of people with dementia, their carers and families better and more fulfilled.

It will increase awareness of dementia, ensure early diagnosis and intervention and radically improve the quality of care that people with the condition receive. Proposals include the introduction of a dementia specialist into every general hospital and care home and for mental health teams to assess people with dementia.

For more information on implementing the National Dementia Strategy visit the Department of Health's Dementia Information Portal from the above DH link.

Or the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) website:

www.scie.org.uk/publications/dementia/usefulresources

An e-learning package on dementia is also available from this website.

Public Awareness campaign

One of the measures being used to implement the National Dementia Strategy is a national awareness campaign, produced in partnership with Alzheimer's Society. The campaign addresses the poor public understanding of dementia that can leave people with dementia and their families feeling isolated and discriminated against.

Running in March 2010, the TV, radio, press and online advertising feature real-people with dementia. The adverts target 40-60-year-olds and encourage people to find out about the many simple ways to help someone living with dementia.

Counting the Cost report

Alzheimer's Society's Counting the Cost report reveals unacceptable variations in the quality of care for people with dementia in hospital. It reveals people with dementia often spend longer in hospital than other people without the condition receiving the same treatment, and nursing staff are ill-equipped to provide the specialist dementia care that they need.

The Alzheimer's Society blames longer stays on a lack of communication, which can exacerbate problems associated with dementia, such as incontinence.

'This is me'

One way to address the lack of communication is the launch of a leaflet to help hospital staff improve their care.



'This is me' can be filled out and given to staff when a person with dementia goes into hospital and provides a 'snapshot' of the person behind the dementia. The leaflet will help hospital staff to learn about the person's habits, hobbies, likes and dislikes and is being supported by the Royal College of Nursing.

The leaflet will enable staff to respond to the person with dementia's needs and reduce their feelings of agitation and distress. For example, people with dementia can become agitated and confused when they are in an unfamiliar environment and it is this

behaviour that nurses can find challenging and prevent them from providing good care. www.alzheimers.org.uk

Further links and news:

Age UK is the new force combining Age Concern and Help the Aged. They will be known by the new name from Spring 2010. The Age UK family includes Age Scotland, Age Cymru and Age NI.

www.info4local.gov.uk provides a service which sends automatic emails about all new government initiatives, consultations etc.

Committee News and Appointments

Janet Griffiths has retired.

Bob Baker has been recently appointed as a Consultant Special Care Dentistry at the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

Our President Elect Vicki Jones has been appointed as a Consultant in Special Care Dentistry for Gwent CDS.

BSG Committee working nationally

Vicki Jones had responded on behalf of BSG for calls for evidence on Dementia in Wales.

Janet Griffiths responded on behalf of BSG on Stroke in Wales and Essence of Care in England.

BSG is a registered stakeholder for NICE guideline development

BSG members have been invited to contribute to the new BUOLD module on Oral Health Care for Older People.

Thelma Edwards responded to CQC consultation and represented BSG by presenting on 'Exposing the barriers to mouth care' at the International Conference of Social and Health Care in January 2010.

The Spring Meeting of the British Society of Gerodontology will be held
on 18th June 2010 in Birmingham

NUTRITION AND ORAL HEALTH - FEAST OR FAMINE

It will focus on type II diabetes, obesity and malnutrition, the effect of dietary deficiency on the oral mucosa and implications of providing sedation and GA for older people.

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

Or download the application form from the website. www.gerodontology.com

Joint Winter meeting with BDA CDS group

2nd December 2010,

SOAS, London

Focus is on End of Life Care

The provisional programme includes causes of death, predicting death and recognizing the dying person, involvement of the coroner in the light of the 2009 Act, the Theology of death and how to speak to the dying patient, the quality of end of life care, palliative dental care and the use of soft linings and conditioners.

SIG Study Day

Oral Health Care for People with Learning Disabilities

on

8th October 2010

at

The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells.

Application forms from:

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