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Please inform the Membership Secretary if you change your email or postal address.

membership@gerodontology.com

Please send your contributions for future newsletters via the contact form on the website:

www.gerodontology.com



Working together for the oral health care of older adults

BSG Newsletter

Q2 2026



British Society of
Gerodontology

Exeter Spring Meeting 2026 – last chance to register!



Date: Friday 19 June 2026

Location: Reed Hall, Exeter

Highlights:

Restorative considerations for the older person with oral cancer
A patient's personal account
Janet Griffith memorial prize oral presentations
Palliative care
Cancer diagnosis and treatment
Dysphagia

Speakers:

Alex Pollard (Restorative Dentistry Consultant)
Michelle Kennedy (Oral Cancer Patient)
Deborah Howland (Dietitian)
Rebecca Iles (Special Care Dentistry Consultant)
John Murphy (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Registrar)
Sophie Bryant (Special Care Dentistry Specialist)
Carolyn Joyce (Community Mouthcare Improvement Lead)

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Dental Update – Gerodontology Edition

We're proud to share the latest Dental Update special edition focused on the oral health of older people. This issue brings together key topics across Gerodontology:

Preventative dentistry
Dental disease management
Management of medical co-morbidities
Palliative care
Oral medicine
Complex treatment planning

[Dental Update Gerodontology Edition Articles](#)



British Geriatrics Society Collaboration: Improving Oral Health for Older Adults

The British Society of Gerodontology (BSG) has been working in partnership with the British Geriatrics Society to support the overall health and wellbeing of older people.

Oral health training for non-dental professionals is often limited, despite its vital role in general health and quality of life.

In April, BSG members delivered a webinar for the British Geriatrics Society and collaborated on a **micro-learning package** designed specifically for non-dental professionals. This resource aims to equip the wider workforce with practical knowledge and skills.

Micro-learning package: <https://www.bgs.org.uk/oral-health-in-older-people-microlearning-0>

Funding and Research Grants

The British Society of Gerodontology is delighted to offer a research prize in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) to support a project related to Gerodontology. The BSG Research Award supports early-career researchers to undertake high-quality research that benefits patients cared for in Special Care Dentistry services.

Applications close on 29 May 2026.

Applications will be submitted online via the RCSEd grant platform.

RCSEd applications: <https://rcsed.grantplatform.com/>

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Meet the Treasurer – Dr Yvonne Rooney, Consultant in SCD



What drew you to take on the Treasurer role, and what does “good stewardship” look like for BSG this year?

I took on the Treasurer role at a time of transition for the Society, when our longstanding and much-valued Treasurer retired, and it felt important to step forward and ensure continuity. I’ve been involved with BSG since my first year of registrar training (a little while ago), so supporting the Society in this way felt like a natural progression. For me, good stewardship means making sensible, transparent decisions that allow BSG to support its members now, while ensuring the Society remains financially secure for the years ahead.

What recent or upcoming initiatives are you most excited about in terms of growing BSG’s resources, partnerships or opportunities for members?

One of the things I’m most excited about is how we’re creating more opportunities for members to get involved in research, education and collaboration. Our joint grant with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is a great example of this, and it’s been encouraging to see how partnerships can open doors for work that might otherwise be difficult to support. I’m also really pleased that we’ve been able to launch the Janet Griffiths Memorial Oral Presentation Prize for the first time this year, which feels like a meaningful way to recognise new ideas and reflect the values on which BSG was founded. Initiatives like these help strengthen the Society while supporting the people and work that will shape its future.

As a Consultant in Special Care Dentistry, what’s one insight you bring that influences how you think about BSG’s strategy or spending?

Working in Special Care Dentistry highlights how under-represented our patient groups often are in research, despite having some of the most complex needs. That perspective influences how I think about BSG’s strategy and spending, particularly around supporting research and collaboration. I’ve really enjoyed being involved in widening access to funding opportunities, including our joint grant with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. I’m also very mindful of the strong foundations laid by those who established BSG, and their emphasis on supporting the whole dental workforce to improve care for older people.

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What's a "myth" people have about being Treasurer (or about society finances) that you'd love to clear up?

There's a myth that the Treasurer is the person who always says "no" which is occasionally true. In reality, the role is about making thoughtful decisions so the Society's resources are used wisely and to best effect. And yes, I am definitely more organised with BSG's finances than my own.

If members could do one thing to support BSG's sustainability, what would you encourage them to do?

The single most helpful thing members can do to support BSG's sustainability is to stay involved — attend meetings, renew membership and engage with the Society's work. We aim for our conferences to break even while keeping fees affordable, with the focus firmly on education, connection and collaboration with each other and our invaluable sponsors. As a small, volunteer-led society, that ongoing engagement is what allows BSG to keep responding to requests, contributing to guidance and ensuring that older people's oral health continues to have a strong voice.

Webinar

In June we will be partnering with the **Association of Dental Anaesthetists & Sedationists (ADAS)** to explore the increasing demand for sedation for older patients. Our Chair, Dr Mili Doshi, will provide practical guidance on safely and effectively sedating older patients, highlighting age-related physiological changes, comorbidities, frailty considerations and strategies to optimise patient comfort and outcomes.

This event will take place on 1 June 2026 (7–9pm) and provides 2 hours of verifiable CPD from the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA).

BSG members are invited to attend at a discounted ADAS member rate.

Further information: [Eventbrite listing](#)



Social Media

Follow the BSG @gerodontology on Instagram and LinkedIn for up-to-date news and information.

<https://www.instagram.com/gerodontology/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/british-society-of-gerodontology-improving-the-oral-health-of-the-older-population-150985374/>

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