

2015 • October Issue



# From the Dean





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Nigel Hunt

It is hard to believe that it is already more than a year since I took up the reins as Dean. The year has flown by and this is probably a reflection of just how busy the Faculty has been over that period. I am writing this at the end of the academic year and having just read my own children's school reports, I think it is also appropriate and timely to take stock and reflect on what has been achieved by the Faculty over the past year.

From my perspective, I feel the Faculty goes from strength to strength. For example, our total membership has risen to 5,500 members and fellows, our educational programmes have shown a significant increase in students per training day, whilst registrations with e-Den have risen by almost 10%. Training courses have been held both outside London and overseas, whilst plans are at an advanced stage for courses in Malaysia and India to complement our new examination presence in these countries. Currently, the number of candidates entering Faculty exams has reached record levels. On the research front, a record number of applications were received for the Faculty's grants and fellowships.

This year, the Faculty has made children's oral health one of its strategic priorities. Following on from our successful report in January, *The State of Children's Oral Health in England*, which highlighted the unacceptable number of children admitted to hospital for

dental extractions under general anaesthesia, as well as the gross regional inequalities across the country, the Faculty has now published our follow-up document, *Actions for the Government to Improve Oral Health*. This report focuses on the key issues of improving prevention through better parent and child education; involvement of the wider healthcare team; fluoridation; and raising awareness of the impact of sugar on both oral health and general health. The report also calls for a clear government dental public health policy in order to address levels of access to NHS dental services, expand specialist children's dental care provision, and improve commissioning arrangements for dental services. The report secured widespread media coverage including the front page of *The Sunday Times*, *The Independent* and *MailOnline* as well as interviews with myself and Board member Stephen Fayle on BBC news, ITV News, CBBC, BBC Five Live, Radio 4 and BBC London Drivetime.

We have received multiple emails and letters congratulating our team on this success but also a couple letters of criticism as to why, in the interviews, we didn't mention specific items such as water fluoridation, dentist's remuneration etc. Please remember that we do not have editorial control on which aspects of interviews or reports are published or aired, and to those critics, I would ask you to read the full reports which are available on the Faculty's website.

The publicity around the report is however only the first step. We must now stop talking about the problems and ensure action. To that end we are now actively engaging with the major stakeholders, including NHS England and Dental Public Health England, to progress the actions required by the government, dental professionals and other bodies to achieve realistic and achievable objectives by specific target dates. I get a feeling the year ahead will be equally busy, if not busier than that just passed.

So, if I was a school master writing my end of year report for the Faculty— what would it be? 'Must try harder'. 'Needs to concentrate more'.



Paul Speight

'If only he [the Dean] applied himself as much to the work in hand as he does to the cricket field'! My own summation would be 'The Faculty has made a very promising start but must now maintain the momentum achieved in order to ultimately reach its goal.'

Of course none of these achievements could have been secured without the hard work and dedication of the whole team here at the Faculty, including the Board members and the Press and Public Affairs team, as well as through our links with the Specialty Associations. I thank them all but I would also like to express specific thanks to Dr Michael Escudier, the outgoing Senior Vice-Dean. Michael's end of



Stephen Chadwick

term report would read 'Michael has worked tirelessly this year, always delivering on time. We will miss his well-researched contributions to debates as he returns to the "back-benches". He truly has earned well-deserved praise for his efforts and achievements.'

Finally, may I offer my congratulations to our incoming Senior Vice-Dean, Dr Stephen Chadwick and our new Junior Vice-Dean, Professor Paul Speight. We all look forward to the next year with relish!

**Nigel Hunt**  
FDS Dean

# Promoting research into children's oral health

Over the last year, the Faculty has raised concerns about the state of oral health in children and in particular the enormous number of children who receive in-patient treatment for extraction of teeth. The Faculty raised the key issues in the publication *The State of Children's Oral Health* in January 2015 and reiterated the need to improve care for children in *Actions for the Government to Improve Oral Health*, published in July. The key issues include lack of preventive care, inequalities in oral health and in access to care, and a greater need for patient and public health education.

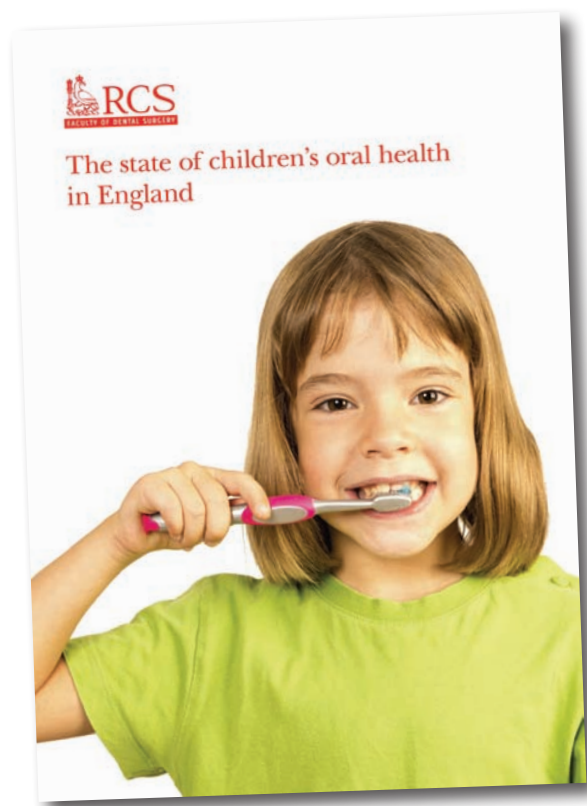
As a result of these concerns the Faculty Research Committee decided to take direct action and to promote research into children's oral health in order to begin to address these problems.

The Faculty have formed partnerships with the British Orthodontic Society (BOS) and the British Society of

Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) and in 2016 will be offering a number of research fellowships under the theme of *Promoting Children's Oral Health*.

With BOS we will be offering a joint FDS–BOS research training fellowship to fund a clinician scientist to undertake a PhD in the broad field of orthodontics. With BSPD there will be a one year research fellowship to support a clinical trainee to undertake research towards a higher degree. These partnerships provide an ideal opportunity for the FDS and the specialist societies to benefit from each other's expertise and to derive greater impact from our research.

The Faculty will also continue to offer the FDS Research Fellowship and the



FDS Wellcome Research Fellowship, and a number of small grants.

All the fellowships and grants will be advertised in November 2015 and potential applicants will be able to get full details on the Faculty's research webpages at: <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/fds/research>



# Trip to John Tomes' grave in Caterham

The 3rd of June was the date chosen to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Sir John Tomes (1815–1895). In preparation for this occasion his grave at St Mary's Church, Caterham had been restored, primarily through a generous donation from the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England with the support of the immediate past Dean, Kathryn Harley, and the Registrar, John Vandridge-Ames. Valuable donations were also received from the Odontological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, the Lindsay Society and the British Dental Association.

Fortuitously, 3 June turned out to be a brilliant, sunny day and more than 30 dignitaries representing the institutions that contributed to the restoration fund met for lunch at 12 noon in the Conservatory of the Nuffield Building of the Royal College of Surgeons. At 1pm the party left by coach and arrived at the gravesite at St Mary's Church at 3pm. An illuminating address was given by the newly elected President of the BDA, Professor



Left to right: John Vandridge-Ames, Barry Berkovitz and Nairn Wilson

Nairn Wilson, who highlighted the tremendous achievements of Sir John Tomes, both scientifically and politically. Almost single-handedly Sir John Tomes had changed dentistry from a rough trade into a regulated profession, justifiably deserving the title 'the father of dentistry'.

Following the address, a full afternoon tea was served in the St Paul's Centre

adjacent to the church. A souvenir of the occasion in the form of a mounted photograph of histological sections prepared by Sir John Tomes was available to attendees.

During the return journey a stop was made at Upwood Gorse, Tupwood Lane, Caterham, the house where Sir John Tomes spent the latter years of his life.

## Overseas Visitors from Kuala Lumpur



Left to right: Charlotte Eckhardt, Siti Adibah Othman, Kark Bishop, Zamri Radzi, Stephen Chadwick and Wey Mang Chek

In early June during the diet of the bi-MOrth examination the Faculty were delighted to welcome back Associate Professor Dr Siti Adibah Othman, Associate Professor Dr

Zamri Radzi and Dr Wey Mang Chek from University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. Their visit was primarily to help develop an overseas diet of the MOrth assessment for

Malaysia and all three of our visitors had the opportunity to observe the examination first hand and calibrate their assessment of candidates with the bi-MOrth examiner team. The visit was choreographed by the Chair of the bi-MOrth examiners Miss Charlotte Eckhardt, who will lead the first overseas diet of the Orthodontic Membership examination in September 2015.

Dr Karl Bishop and Dr Stephen Chadwick, Senior Vice Dean, met with the delegation to deepen the relationship between our Faculty and the University of Malaya. The Faculty Dental Journal, education courses in dental anatomy and orthodontic wire bending, together with the many examinations run by the Faculty, were discussed. Our aim is for the development of an examination and education centre in Kuala Lumpur in order to help enhance and support standards of dental education internationally.

## 68th Anniversary Dinner – Friday 19 June 2015



On 19 June 2015 we welcomed dear friends and colleagues to the great Edward Lumley Hall for the Faculty's 68th Anniversary Dinner hosted by our Dean, Professor Nigel Hunt. The Faculty was proud to host 130 guests ranging from members to government officials, former deans and representatives from

fellow health institutions. The list of attendees included Dr Sara Hurley, Chief Dental Officer England; Dr Sandra White, Director of Dental Public Health England, and the Lord Mayor of Westminster, along with former RCS Presidents Lord Ribeiro, Sir Norman Williams and Sir Barry Jackson.

In a beautifully decorated hall where fine food was equally matched with fine wine, the Dean in his passionate and proudly reflective speech took the guests through a journey of the Faculty's strengthened voice in the political arena, extensive work to raise awareness of the poor state of children's oral health and a call for





Left: Guests at the Dinner

Above: The Dean and his wife Sue Hunt

Above right: Norman Williams speaking

Right: Sara Hurley, the Dean and Sue Hunt



action, and the strong relationships that the Faculty is building with key stakeholders that will help to influence the future oral health environment.

Following this Professor Norman Williams, former RCS President, spoke of the close collaboration

between the Faculty and the rest of the surgical college, and the work both organisations have led in improving patient care. As an invited guest speaker Sir Norman's speech was a great mix of humour, passion and ambition that neatly rounded off what was a remarkable evening of celebration, networking and proud

congratulations to everyone who has helped to make the 68th year of the faculty such a success.

The Faculty's 69th year promises to be a busy but exciting one and we look forward to welcoming many of our friends and colleagues back for our annual dinner in 2016.

# Dates of forthcoming events

Thursday 21 January 2016

## **Board Dinner**

Board members only (a proforma will be sent nearer the time).

Thursday 17 March 2016

## **Fellows' and Members' Dinner**

Board members, fellows, honorary fellows and members are welcome to apply for this dinner and are encouraged to bring guests. For more information contact: Mrs Jane Donald and Mrs Ann Khattab.  
Email: [jdonald@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:jdonald@rcseng.ac.uk) and [akhattab@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:akhattab@rcseng.ac.uk)

Friday 18 March 2016

## **Regional and Specialty Advisors' Day**

A full programme will be sent out together with invitations early next year.

## **Charles Tomes Lecture**

The Charles Tomes Lecture will follow the regional and specialty advisors' all-day meeting.

# Education Courses

19–20 October 2015

Teaching and Assessment in Dentistry [TAD]

5 December 2015

Dental CBCT course for referrers

30 January 2016

Basics of dento-alveolar CBCT interpretation

1–2 February 2016

ISFE Revision Course

25–26 February 2016

Orthodontic Wirebending and Archwire Fabrication Masterclass

10 March 2016

Masterclass in Diplomas in Special Care Dentistry

11 March 2016

Craniofacial and metabolic conditions - can you meet the challenge?





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