

BDA welcomes “sensible” agreement on amalgam use

The BDA has welcomed a global treaty aiming to reduce mercury pollution that determines the future of dental amalgam. On 20 January, the United Nations Environmental Programme’s Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee agreed a treaty allowing nations to phase down amalgam use over an appropriate time period, an approach advocated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It had been feared a rapid ban on dental amalgam would be ordered, with no provision for essential improvements in caries prevention and insufficient time allowed for the development of effective and safe alternative restorative materials. Dr Stuart Johnston and Dr Susie Sanderson of the BDA’s Principal Executive Committee (PEC) led international lobbying efforts to avert a complete phase-out within a very short timescale and ensure the treaty would recognise the need for improving oral health. PEC Chair Dr Martin Fallowfield also wrote to the UK Environment and Health Departments urging them to press for the WHO’s approach to be adopted.

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PEC Meeting

The Principal Executive Committee met on 23 January, and started the process of defining a three-year strategy for the Association. Significant progress was made in the discussion, facilitated by Peter Ward, with broad areas of strategic focus identified. The outputs from the meeting will be developed further and considered at the next meeting of the PEC on 20 February. A strategy document will be published as soon as possible after this date.

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GDPG Meeting

The BDA’s General Dental Practice Committee met on January 25, and discussed a variety of issues including the progress of discussions with the Department of Health in England for a pay uplift, with delegates authorising GDPG Executive to continue talks. Foundation training, the new contracts for England, and the proposed cuts in Northern Ireland were also on the agenda. The Chair of the General Dental Council presented an update on the GDC’s priorities and took questions for an hour. The afternoon session was dominated by a debate on issues facing associates.

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Ninth week of bookings for London 2013

It is now nine weeks since registration opened and 12 to go until the 2013 British Dental Conference and Exhibition. There are now 1,589 people registered to attend (an increase of 398 more than at this point last year) and 114 exhibition stands have been sold. Further information is available on the [conference website](#).

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BDA Library purchases 100th eBook

The BDA Library has purchased its 100th eBook: *Essentials Of Dental Radiography & Radiology, 4th Edition* by Eric Whaites. This title has just become available as an ebook and features on a number of reading lists including those for the MJDF and the ORE. The [ebook collection](#) covers a whole range of dental and business subjects with recent purchases including: *Brilliant Marketing* and *Oral Healthcare for the Frail Elder*.

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New pilot practices announced in England

A shortlist of 29 dental practices that will join the pilots for a new contract in England has been announced by the Department of Health (DH). The practices will join the pilot scheme from April this year, testing how different elements of the new contract might work together.

The DH announcement, including the list of practices joining the pilots, is available [here](#).

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