

Skillkenny, the new Faculty and good science

Times are difficult for all. The IDA is playing its part in trying to relieve some of the problems (p64 and p66). It is hoped that HSE will listen and more importantly act in resolving these issues. The small snippet on the Glennon Insurance Scheme (p66) is there for the observant. The quiz by Dr Ciara Scott highlights a common problem seen by dentists and in particular Dental Schools. It is hoped that most of us get the answers right! Cork Dental School and Hospital (p71) show off their Colgate–Palmolive prize winners in their final dental undergraduate and first year dental hygienist student exams. Congratulations to the winners. Dental amalgam is back on the agenda. What a waste (p72). There are European regulations we need to be aware of and follow.

Annual Conference

Skillkenny (pp75 – 78) looks like the place to be April 22 – 25. There is something there for everybody and more importantly an opportunity to get ahead on the CPD points. It also gives us the opportunity to say goodbye and thanks to Dr Ena Brennan for a job well done and welcome in Dr Donal Blackwell.

New Faculty and CPD

The Irish Faculty of Primary Dental Care (p81) is a welcome pathway for general dental practitioners to develop their career, continue professional development and set standards. Every initiative should be looked on positively and it is hoped that the Faculty of Dentistry in Ireland and the new Primary Dental Care Faculty can work closely together to avoid the schism that occurred in the UK with two Faculties vying for a similar group of postgraduate students. An exam must be fit for purpose, valid, reproducible and reflect the educational standards of a postgraduate dentist after a minimum of two years training/education. The Editorial Board of the Journal has set up a sub-committee to look at how the Journal can work with the Faculties/IDA to produce relevant educational articles for these early postgraduates to help them pass these exams. Every practitioner should develop a portfolio and it is planned to write an article on what should be in a portfolio and why. Specialist training/general dental practice training are additional to the above exams. In Ireland, the MFD is at present the minimum entry requirement into specialist training. Congratulations to Dr Frank Ormsby and his group.

Europe (p82) remains active but quite bureaucratic as the Directives on 'Application of patients' rights in cross border healthcare', 'European Workforce for Health', 'Patient Safety', 'Fluoride' and 'Tooth Whitening Products' draw to a close.

Hypomineralisation, sensitivity and IV access

The scientific articles bring three important papers to our notice. 'Molar incisor hypomineralisation: clinical management of the young patient' highlights the need for early vigilance in the vulnerable six-to-eight year old. If caught early, conservative regimes may help but often because of the extent of the disease there is a need for early specialist (orthodontic/paedodontic/endodontic and unfortunately oral/maxillofacial) surgery.

'Factors associated with postoperative sensitivity of amalgam restorations' confirms what we all have experienced but highlights those patients that we should particularly warn about this problem – the young, females and those with significant sensitivity before the placement of the filling. The depth of the cavity and the extent of the cavity were other factors. How can we decrease these symptoms?

'IV access in dental practice' is a 'how to do it article' on a technique that should be relatively simple. Practice makes perfect and the more you do, the better you get. IV access is a competency set in the Dublin Dental School for our graduating dentists and it is hoped that this article will take the difficulty for many out of the technique.

Practice management

Our practice management section highlights the Regulations on Ionising Radiation and tells us in a very easy to follow manner what we need to do to get licensing of dental x-ray equipment (pp100-101). We have also written a simple pull-out sheet for those in general practice on the Guidelines on Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Bacterial Endocarditis (pp102 – 103) and our patients.

Looking forward to seeing you in Kilkenny.



Leo F. A. Stassen

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Honorary Editor