

Our role is education

At last the summer has arrived. As I sit in the garden, taking in the sun, drinking a glass of cool beer, I consider what has been achieved. Another issue of the Journal, out on time, Ireland win the Grand Slam and our Irish Lions are off to South Africa to keep our hopes up. An Irish amateur wins the Irish Open golf and the football season has had us on the edge of our seats. The Government is bailing out Anglo-Irish Bank and charging the Irish people for the privilege. There is talk of high office for those who really deserve their just desserts. Vincent O'Brien (horse trainer) passes away and what a symbol of hard work and natural talent he was.

This June/July Journal reflects the work of the IDA, its members and the editorial team. There are a large number of our colleagues doing a lot for dentistry in all walks of life. The Oral Health Strategy is about to be published in July 2009. The IDA has a Best Practice Committee, a Cross Infection Control Committee (p.130), and there is a CPD Committee, which is charged with ensuring that our Association meetings are geared towards CPD, taking into consideration CPR, radiology and infection control (p.131). There is the Dental Practice Radiography File produced by an IDA Committee and available on the website (p.131). The Annual Meeting in Skillkenny was a great success, with many varied topics (pp.132-133). Nobody should miss these meetings, which are geared to education, peer review and entertainment in a most convivial atmosphere. Our deepest and most sincere thanks to the organising committee. The dinner was great as well.

Worth every penny

Well, we have our medical emergency article (pp.134-143), 'Medical emergencies in dental practice' (Wilson *et al*). This can be downloaded by looking at www.dentist.ie, and under the JIDA, you will find all the JIDAs for the past few years, which can easily be downloaded. Thanks to the Board for allowing us to provide this for you. The medical emergency article can be printed out and made easily available, close to your emergency cabinet. Save one life and your subscription to the IDA will be worth every penny for the next 10 years. All the other articles and our 'Fact File' (pp.148-149) on implants are available. Alveolar lymphangioma in infants by Fitzgerald

et al (pp.144-145) highlights how we need to be aware of the cosmopolitan changes in Ireland and think about diseases that we have never seen before. Dr Ioannis Polyzois, lecturer in periodontology, and our abstract procurer from other journals, reads avidly and gives us a true representation of articles across a broad area of dentistry from burning mouth to crown shade assessment.

The article on 'Tax planning for dentists' is a must (pp.150-151) in these tough times. Patients and dentists are suffering. The letter from our endodontic colleagues (p.115) highlights the problems facing many of us. As someone who had to go abroad to seek training in 1981 as there was no oral and maxillofacial training in Ireland, and spent many years away (23) because of a lack of consultant posts, I can only empathise with those colleagues and wish them the best in their careers.

Experts contributing

Congratulations to the IDA in securing the pay review for our HSE orthodontic colleagues (p.122) and shame on the dental state of our children in Ireland, with 75% of 15-year-olds suffering with tooth decay (p.122) and we do not have the staff to cope with this workload. Thanks to all those who send in letters, articles and quizzes, subjecting them to peer review and consideration. I am thrilled to see experts in the field contribute to the debate, highlight learning points, and I learnt a lot as I hope all of you did from Dr McDonnell's letter and Dr Machesney's excellent response. This is education at its best. The JIDA's role is one of education and we rely on all of you for your contributions.



Leo F. A. Stassen

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Honorary Editor