



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF
MEDICAL AND
DENTAL SCIENCES

DENTALROOTS

The Dentistry
alumni magazine
ISSUE 6 2016



New School of Dentistry
open for business

Inside: Her Majesty the Queen attends
official ceremony; Memories of a wartime
student; Staff news

Welcome

The last 18 months have been very busy and successful for the School of Dentistry. Following a successful GDC inspection in December 2014, we received the results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) with the University of Birmingham ranked first for world-leading and internationally renowned research. This result was the best in our school's history, building nicely on our performance in 2008. You can read more about this exceptional performance later in this edition of *Dental Roots*.

The National Student Survey (NSS) saw Dentistry at Birmingham ranked third in the country with a score of 98% student satisfaction with Biomedical Materials Science gaining the exceptional result of 100%, both improvements on the previous year.

The biggest project over the last two years (in fact of the decade) has been the new hospital and school on the old Pebble Mill site closer to the main University of Birmingham campus. Although delayed like many projects of its type, this new facility will be a state-of-the-art home for our world-class teaching and research and will allow us to continue to deliver outstanding education and groundbreaking



research. People of the city and region will also be able to access first-class oral health care.

I am particularly grateful to alumni for your donations and the support you have given, which will further enhance our education offering. To have the building opened by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh was amazing.

This year represents my 12th and final year as Head of the School of Dentistry. The years have flown by and it has been a privilege to lead the School over this time. The academic and support staff have been fantastic and arguably the School is as strong and successful as at any time in its history.

Professor Philip Lumley
Head of School of Dentistry
Deputy Head of the College
of Medical and Dental Sciences

Contents

Welcome	2
School of Dentistry in the news	3
New Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry opens	4
Staff profile: Lynne Reynolds	9
Memories of a Wartime student	10
Oral cancer grant success	11
Alumni profile Julian Webber	12
Universitas 21	14
Professor Laird Obituary	16

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to Birmingham-based dentist **Sara Hurley** who took up her position as Chief Dental Officer for England in April 2015.

Congratulations to **Janet Clarke** (BDS, 1981) on becoming Deputy Chief Dental Officer for England.

Congratulations to **Jane Davies-Slowik** (MCDH, 1988) who was awarded an MBE for services to Improving Oral Health of Disadvantaged People in the New Year Honours list.

Cover image
Atrium, Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry.
Katie Oakley, Clinical Photographer, Birmingham Community
Healthcare NHS Trust.

◀ Photo, Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry
Katie Oakley, Clinical Photographer, Birmingham Community
Healthcare NHS Trust.



School of Dentistry in the news

The Truth about Teeth

BBC1, June 2015

BBC

Filmed at the Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry, this documentary explained the negative effects that a lack of teeth brushing can have after just three weeks, not only on your teeth but also the rest of your body.

Professor Iain Chapple, Professor of Periodontology and Consultant in Restorative Dentistry, and the Periodontal Research Group were featured on the hour-long programme, which also focused on the clinical trials unit in the Periodontology department.



Silica particles key to repairing teeth

Researchers at the University of Birmingham have shown how the development of coated silica nanoparticles could be used in restorative treatment of sensitive teeth and preventing the onset of tooth decay.

The study, published in the *Journal of Dentistry*, shows how sub-micron silica particles can be prepared to deliver important compounds into damaged teeth through tubules in the dentine.

Professor of Restorative Dentistry Damien Walmsley explains, 'Our plan was to target those same tubules with a multifunctional agent that can help repair and restore the tooth, while protecting it against further infection that could penetrate the pulp and cause irreversible damage.'

The next steps are to optimise the coatings and then see how effective the particles are at blocking the communication with the inside of the tooth. The ultimate aim is to provide relief from the pain of sensitivity.

Find out more
www.birmingham.ac.uk/silica-particles

Increased risk of teeth loss for smokers

Male smokers are up to 3.6 times more likely and female smokers 2.5 times more likely to lose their teeth than non-smokers, new research has found.

The research, published in the *Journal of Dental Research*, is the output of a long-term longitudinal study of the EPIC Potsdam cohort in Germany carried out by researchers at the University of Birmingham and the German Institute of Human Nutrition.

Lead author Professor Thomas Dietrich, Professor of Oral Surgery at the University of Birmingham, explains, 'Most teeth are lost as a result of either caries (tooth decay) or chronic periodontitis (gum disease). We know that smoking is a strong risk factor for periodontitis, so that may go a long way

towards explaining the higher rate of tooth loss in smokers.'

Although it could take significant time, it is not impossible to reduce the risk according to Professor Dietrich, 'The good news is that quitting smoking can reduce the risk fairly quickly. Eventually, an ex-smoker would have the same risk for tooth loss as someone who had never smoked, although this can take more than ten years.'

Find out more at www.birmingham.ac.uk/smokers-teeth-loss

Tooth decay in children

Professor Damien Walmsley appeared on Radio 4's *You and Yours*, discussing causes behind the rise of tooth decay in children. He also appeared on BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC News 24.

You can hear the episode here:
www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b061r0yq



New Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry opens

After much anticipation, we're delighted that the new Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry fully opened its doors to staff, students and patients in April.

A joint project with Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust, the hospital and new home for the School of Dentistry strengthens a partnership delivering dental health and education in the city since 1880.

We captured the reactions of staff, students and alumni as they saw the building for the first time...

'Walking around the new School of Dentistry, it really makes you feel uplifted. We're handing the torch to the next generation and investing in their future.'

'By being closer to the Medical School, it brings together training, teaching and the full University experience, making Birmingham a very desirable place to study.'

Dentistry alumnus Nigel Whitting (BDS 1979)



Professor Philip Lumley with Nigel Whitting



'The new facilities will encourage us to learn and help to get us used to the new digital working world.'

Priya and Aliya,
Fifth-year BDS students



'The clinical and teaching areas are extremely well equipped, I feel quite envious of the students who will be using them! To have such a prestigious dental school so close to the main University site will allow greater interaction for research and allow students to learn from other departments.'

Dr Janine Brooks
Dentistry Alumna
(BDS, 1983; MCDH, 1989)



'It's really modern and so handy for me as it's only a 15-minute walk from my house. And we love the new chairs!'

Jeremy, fourth-year BDS student

'It's so much more spacious and the labs are set out really well. It also allows for students to be more integrated with the hospital.'

Dr Rachel Sammons, Programme Lead, BMedSc



'We've worked with students throughout the whole planning stage to provide the very best, up-to-date facilities. I'm sure that our new building will attract lots of new students to study here.'

Frances Deen, Administrator to Admissions and Student Support Welfare

'We're so happy to be here and really excited to get started. We're lucky to have our last term here and want to make use of the fantastic learning facilities as much as we can'

Kiran and Harjot,
Fifth-year BDS students



'When you walk in, it's so light and airy, really modern and innovative. The lecture theatre is amazing.'

Priya and Daniel,
Fourth-year BDS students



'Everyone is really excited to be part of something new. I love how the new build' has been designed with students in mind; it really brings dental teaching into the 21st century.'

Stephanie Agar, Student President, Birmingham University Dental Student Society (BUDSS)



'If I had to describe the new building in three words I would say: progressive, new and exciting. The location is great, we're closer to campus so it feels like we're part of the University family.'

Kris Coomar, Admissions Tutor, Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry

Her Majesty the Queen attends official ceremony

We were honoured to have Her Majesty the Queen officially open the Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry at a ceremony on 19 November 2015.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Her Majesty took part in a guided tour of the state-of-the-art facilities where she met with clinicians, researchers and students and unveiled a commemorative plaque.



Former Pebble Mill site

The site was home to the BBC's Pebble Mill Broadcasting Centre from November 1971, when it was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, until its closure in 2004. It then remained unused until construction work to build the new Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry began in September 2013.

The realisation of the project results from several years of working closely with our development partners Birmingham and Solihull LIFT (BaS LIFT) and with the support of a wide range of organisations, including Calthorpe Estates, Community Health Partnerships, One Creative Environments Ltd and Galliford Try.



Benefits of the new building

The new building brings a huge range of benefits to staff, students and patients.

In one wing, patients can access a range of high-quality dental services including unscheduled emergency dental care, restorative dentistry, oral surgery, oral medicine, orthodontics and paediatric dentistry.

A second wing offers world-class research facilities and a modern learning environment for our 600+ undergraduate and postgraduate students and trainees to carry out their clinical skills work.

The building has been designed to offer better integration of services for staff, students and patients. It will also offer more flexibility in providing services to patients that are tailored to their needs.

University staff and students will also enjoy the benefits of being located much nearer to the main Edgbaston campus and medical school, allowing for closer integration of facilities.

The building has been designed to offer better integration of services for staff, students and patients.

Photos (this page) – Katie Oakley, Clinical Photographer, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust.



Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry in numbers

HAS A
TOTAL
PROJECT
COST OF **£50**
MILLION

154
DENTAL CHAIRS

EQUIPPED TO TREAT
OVER **120,000**
PATIENTS A YEAR
ie, at least 120,000 separate contacts

WORLD-CLASS
LEARNING
AND RESEARCH
FACILITIES FOR
MORE THAN **600**
STUDENTS

Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry is the
first integrated dental hospital and school built
in the UK for almost **40** years

Approximately
430 Birmingham Community
Healthcare NHS
Trust staff
130 University of
Birmingham staff
600 Students
will be based at the new
hospital and school.

IT HAS **4** STOREYS
AND SITS ON A
1.5 HECTARE
SITE

THE BUILDING
COVERS AN
AREA OF
15,476m²

Thank you!

We would like to thank all of our donors, named and anonymous, whose vision and generosity have helped to create a fantastic new dentistry facility. We look forward to welcoming our alumni to a series of special events later in the year.

David Austin (BDS, 1956)
Catherine Barrs (BDS, 1993)
Janine Brooks (BDS, 1983; MCDH, 1989)
Angela Coldwell-Horsfall (BDS, 1975)
Elisabeth Cox (BDS, 1975; MSc, 2008)
John Crabb (BDS, 1961)
David Croser (BDS, 1971)
Peter Duffield (LDS, 1951)
Rich Willis (BDS, 1993)
Philip Evans (LDS, 1945)

Sheila Fairlie (BDS, 1982)
Stuart Geddes (BDS, 1970)
Michael Greenwood (BDS, 1971)
Bhup Gupta (BDS, 2003; MSc, 2011)
Peter Hill (BDS, 1966)
Kate Hopkins (BDS, 1981)
Ian Kenny (BDS, 1963)
Margaret Kerr (BDS, 1958)
Matthew King (BDS, 1999)
Maria Lessani (BDS, 1996)

Matthew Newland (BDS 1995)
Sameer Patel (BDS 1999)
Timothy Poole (BDS 1966)
John Postlethwaite (BDS 1962)
Susanne Purser (BDS 1963)
Cherie Robertson (BDS 1982)
Lynda Robinson (BDS 1973)
Gabrielle Stanley (BDS 1970)
Margaret Stubbings (BDS 1975)
John Swift (BDS 1954)

Peter Thornley Walmley Dental Practice
Patrick Thorp (BDS 1968)
David Vaughan (BDS 1971)
James Wilkinson (BDS 1970)
Rich Willis (BDS 1993)
Nigel Whitting (BDS 1979)
Wolverhampton Local Dental Committee
Robert Woolgrove (BDS 1969)

Staff profile: Lynne Reynolds

The School of Dentistry would not run so smoothly if it wasn't for our fantastic team.

Here, we talk to our School Administration Manager, Lynne Reynolds, who holds one of the most vital jobs here. In a successful career spanning over 36 years, she's worked with hundreds of students and NHS and University staff. Lynne looks back on her time with us so far, and gives us her thoughts on the future.

Joining us straight from school, Lynne's first job was as a junior secretary in Periodontology. 'Everyone was friendly when I came for interview,' she tells us. 'So I turned down another job offer, and my life at the Dental School began.'

'When I joined, the Head of School was Professor James. Since then, I've worked with seven Heads of School – Professors James, Foster, Brown, Laird, Anderson, Marquis and for the last 12 years Professor Lumley, who joined the School not long after me as a junior lecturer. I have fond memories of working with them all.'

Changing roles

Lynne's next job was working for Professors James and Anderson, along with Gill Bradnock, in Dental Public Health. 'I remember us going to Guernsey and Jersey on survey trips,' she smiles. 'Gill and I would haul around an enormous portable computer and the Profs would follow with their bottle of 'Hibiscrub' and a box of rubber gloves.'

Further promotion followed, when Lynne was made Curriculum Secretary. 'I worked closely with Professor Lumley and others helping to rewrite, plan and

roll out the new student curriculum. In 1995, Lynne was promoted to School Manager. At the time, she was the first person in any university school to hold this position. 'My role has continued to evolve since then,' she says, 'reflecting the changes we've seen in the College and the School.'

'I don't have a typical day'

'We're busy all year round, and there are always deadlines to meet,' Lynne says. 'As a result, we certainly don't have a typical day. I like dealing with everybody here at the School and Hospital. This includes staff, students, patients and visitors to the building. We're a close-knit community,' Lynne explains. 'You soon learn that the decisions you make have implications for all of the people around you.'

'Dentistry is a small world'

'Dentistry is a small world,' Lynne said. 'Lots of the staff and students I first worked with have kept in touch with the School. Many of these old faces come back to teach, as they are keen to put something back.'

'When I joined I was the same age as the students,' she explains. 'I enjoyed working with them immediately. Our students are very dedicated. We see this every day, as they're with us all of the time. That makes us unique – many other healthcare students are taught in different places. And of course our students treat patients here too.'

Strong student support

'We get to know our students really well,' she says, 'and we're proud of the support they receive from us. We encourage an open-door policy across the School.'



Of course, it's not just students and University academics who Lynne works with. 'There's always been a good working relationship between the NHS and the University,' Lynne tells us. 'The new building is yet another good example of a joint enterprise' she adds.

Exciting times ahead

Last year, Lynne helped organise the Queen's visit to the site of the new Dental Hospital. 'It was fascinating to see the planning that goes into a Royal visit,' she says. 'An enormous amount of behind-the-scenes effort went into making the day a success.'

'The new build is a huge project of which we are all immensely proud', Lynne says. 'I'm excited about the opportunities it offers everyone involved with the School and Hospital. It's closer to campus and our students are looking forward to being in their new home.'

'There's always been a good working relationship between the NHS and the University, the new building is yet another good example of a joint enterprise'

Memories of a Wartime Student

Alan Vogt (LDS, 1947) sent us a fascinating letter and collection of photographs describing what life was like for a dental student midway through the Second World War, a world away from student life nowadays.

Unheard of in higher education today, Alan recalls having 'lofty visions' of taking a combined course of medicine and dentistry. Ultimately however he opted for dentistry and entered the programme in the second year.

Being a student in wartime Britain had its pros and cons, as Alan explains, 'During the war men were called up for national service at 18 but medical and dental students were exempt until they qualified or failed an exam for the second time during their course. We were required to attend Senior Training Corps parades once a week – a sort of students' Dad's Army. Fire watching was another duty. One evening, we went up the Old Joe clock tower to check for any fires – a wonderful view over Birmingham.'

Although the Dental Hospital, then located on Great Charles Street, was in desperate need of modernisation, this was postponed in favour of building a new hospital once the war was over. Despite the less than ideal accommodation, there is one memory that sticks in Alan's mind, 'No local anaesthetic was used for fillings and I once had a friend as a patient. As I was drilling his tooth, he let out a moan and said "not that you're really hurting me but I thought I'd remind you that you're not drilling into a piece of wood".'



3rd-year dental students



Dissection room

Current students might also find Alan's favourite revision tip useful – 'The "family tree method" involved writing on sheets of A4 with the subject at the top, divided into headings (the "children") and then sub-divided (the "grandchildren"). The subject was at my finger tips for revision just before exams.'

'I'm very grateful for all I learnt at the Dental School, in spite of all the limitations of wartime'



Final year - in front of the Queen Elisabeth Hospital, 1947.

Alan was also Chairman of the Birmingham University Dental Students Society (BUDSS) and qualified with LDS in 1947 (very few students qualified with BDS at that time). Two months later he was enrolled in the Royal Army Dental Corps, spending time in Portsmouth and Austria over the following two years. 'I'm very grateful for all I learnt at the Dental School, in spite of all the limitations of wartime'.

We would love to hear from you if you would like to share your old photos or stories about your time at the School of Dentistry.

The full text of Alan's memories can be found at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/wartimedentistry

'No local anaesthetic was used for fillings'

Oral cancer grant success

With oral cancer on the rise, the need for reliable diagnostics and effective treatments has never been more important. The School of Dentistry is researching new approaches to tackle the disease and has been awarded a major grant for a three-year project. It will focus on developing image processing methods for automatically extracting and understanding the contents of histopathological images of oral cancer.

The grant, worth £657,383, has been awarded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and will bring together scientists, clinicians and experts in artificial intelligence, imaging and computer science.

Professor Gabriel Landini, Professor of Analytical Pathology and Head of the Oral Pathology Unit, who is leading the project says, 'I am delighted to have received this grant in a particularly difficult funding environment. We believe that our approach is one of the first of its kind in histopathological imaging and will help pave the way for more reliable diagnostics in the future.'

The research will involve analysing samples of cancer tissues and developing software to extract from digital images the morphometrical information that is relevant to make a diagnosis. This also enables reasoning about the image contents, as well as detecting artefacts and characterising staining patterns of molecular materials. The results will not only give us qualitative but also quantitative data on the tumour tissues. In addition,




the automation of such techniques should enable pathologists to examine considerably more material than the limited number of microscopical sections which is current practice. The hope is that the findings will translate into tools for improving diagnosis and treatment options in various types of tumours.

Also involved in this project team are Drs David Randell, Shereen Fouad (School of Dentistry), Professor Hisham Mehanna (School of Cancer Studies) and Dr Antony Galton (University of Exeter, Computer Science).

www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer-of-the-mouth

Most cases of mouth cancer first develop in older adults who are between

50-74 years of age.

Mouth cancer is more common in  than in

In the UK
7,316
new cases of mouth cancer were diagnosed in 2012.

Outstanding research results for Dentistry

We are delighted that the School of Dentistry ranked top in the country for research recognised as internationally excellent, according to the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

The School of Dentistry performed outstandingly in REF2014 in its unit of assessment, and ranked first in the country for research recognised as internationally excellent (4*/3*). In addition, 100% of our impact

case studies were deemed 4* or 3*, demonstrating that our cutting-edge and high-quality research has considerable global influence and reach.

REF is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The next round will take place in 2020.

Find out more at www.ref.ac.uk



Alumni profile

Julian Webber

In 2013, Dr Julian Webber (BDS, 1974) was recognised for his 'outstanding contribution to private dentistry' at the prestigious Private Dentistry Awards. Here the world-renowned endodontist shares some memories of his time at Birmingham.

North London born, Julian was all set to stay in the capital for his dental studies. Captain of the school rugby team, Julian had ambitions to play for Guy's Hospital while studying there. So when they offered him a place, it seemed a done deal. But after an enjoyable visit to Birmingham for an interview he knew it was the place for him.

'We stank of Formalin for weeks'

Julian joined as a second-year BDS student in 1970. The course involved dissection classes in the Medical School, where the young dental students were lined up around a body. 'I was the only one prepared to cut off the head,' he laughs. 'We stank of Formalin for weeks.'

After gaining a distinction in his first year, Julian moved up to the Dental Hospital on St Mary's Row. 'We were the first year to complete the new curriculum,' Julian explains, 'and it proved invaluable. We were taught all the disciplines simultaneously, and learnt that good treatment planning is the basis of good dentistry.'

A close community

'The Dental School was a close community,' Julian says. He enjoyed its active social life, especially the Dental Students Society and the annual 'Incidentals' Christmas show. He played rugby for Birmingham Medics, and inter-University football for the Dental Faculty. Julian also turned out for

Birmingham Dentists FC in a local league.

From Shirley to Chicago...

After qualifying, Julian took a six-month house job in oral surgery. A year at a Shirley Dental Practice followed. Then in 1976, he set sail for Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago. He graduated with an MSc, becoming the first British student to gain a North American qualification in Endodontics. 'I'll never forget the standard of education I received in Birmingham,' he says. 'It allowed me to approach my North American studies with real confidence.'



Putting a lot back

Returning to the UK in 1978, his career progressed quickly. Along with spells at Wimpole Street and Harley Street, Julian taught both undergraduates and postgraduates. To this day, Julian lectures dentists and fellow endodontists worldwide. 'I like to think I've put a lot back,' he said.

Julian is the driving force behind the Saving Teeth Awareness campaign (www.savingteeth.co.uk). It aims to raise awareness of the benefits of root canal treatment and the choices patients have. The campaign provides information to patients who think they might have an infection, which could result in tooth

'I've been very fortunate to work in private practice since the 1970s, and I'm not ready to retire yet,' he said. 'Physically and mentally, I feel like a young man.'

loss. It argues strongly that saving a tooth should always, where possible, be the first choice. There is widespread support for the campaign from dental professionals, celebrities and patients.

He also founded the Young Dentist Endodontic Award. This award is for all UK dentists who have graduated in the last three years, whether they are in their Foundation Year or just starting their careers.

Julian now designs and co-develops endodontic instruments with Dentsply, which has simplified treatment for thousands of dentists worldwide. A fellow of the International College of

Dentists, Julian has been President of the British Endodontic Society and is an active member of the American Association of Endodontics.

Winner of prestigious award

In 2013, Julian was both surprised and delighted to be recognised at the Private Dentistry Awards for his 'Outstanding Contribution to Private Dentistry'. 'I've always believed passionately in the importance of saving teeth, and the role of endodontists in providing care for patients who may be faced with tooth loss and its associated problems.'

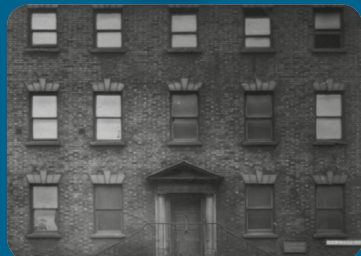
'Not ready to retire yet'

Julian opened the world-renowned Harley Street Centre for Endodontics in 2002, where he continues to treat and teach. This state-of-the-art facility treats patients using the latest operating microscopes, digital X-rays, and computer systems.

'I've been very fortunate to work in private practice since the 1970s, and I'm not ready to retire yet,' Julian says. 'Physically and mentally, I feel like a young man.'

Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry 1858-2015

1858



Birmingham Dental Dispensary – the original dental hospital in the city – was founded at Oddfellows Hall, Temple Street.

1863



With patient numbers growing, a new home is found at the Homeopathic Hospital in Upper Priory.

1880



Teaching of dentistry begins, with students paying 75 guineas each for their education.

1882



The hospital and school move to their third home – in Newhall Street, sharing a building with a brewery and a maternity charity.

1892



The number of students increases dramatically following the merger of Mason College and Queen's College, the original accrediting body for the programme.

1900



Student numbers expand further after Mason College receives its Royal Charter and becomes the University of Birmingham, the first UK university to grant dental degrees.

Universitas 21

Strengthening relations at home and abroad

With 25 member institutions located in 16 countries around the world, Universitas 21 (U21) is a network of research-intensive universities striving to improve global citizenship and innovation.

A founding member of U21, the University of Birmingham provides the opportunity for its staff and students to study or research abroad, allowing them to experience new cultures and develop strong relationships with partner institutions across the globe. Exchange bursaries, PhD scholarships and fellowships are available to help encourage and enable participation in the scheme. The University also hosts visitors from other U21 institutions.

Within U21 there are several collaborative groups formed around particular disciplines. These groups enable colleagues from that area to

explore opportunities for interaction on research projects, facilitating information exchange and sharing of resources.

Health Sciences Group

A delegation from the School of Dentistry, including two current students, alongside other representatives from the University of Birmingham, recently attended the 2015 conference for the Health Sciences group, which was hosted by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in the beautiful surroundings of Santiago, Chile.

The theme of the five-day long conference was professionalism across the healthcare disciplines. Throughout their stay, the staff and students from the School of Dentistry enjoyed sessions on dental public

health, service leadership, teaching and research as well as the chance to discuss how these ideas could be implemented back in Birmingham.

Professor Damian Walmsley was elected the Deputy Chair of the U21 Health Sciences Group and will organise the next international conference, which will take place at the University of Birmingham from 12–16 September 2016.



United Nations Millennium Development Goals initiative

Current BDS students Raj Banga and Jessica Huang gave presentations on United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDG) projects they are involved with, including recognising the importance and usefulness of social media in health care and education.

The UNMDG initiative was developed as a result of the UN Millennium Declaration, aiming to tackle major international issues such as ill-health, lack of education, poverty and hunger. A little closer to home, the University of Birmingham UNMDG committee organised a visit to a primary school in Sutton Coldfield where more than 20 current dental students promoted oral health to children aged 7–10 through a variety of engaging and exciting activities. These included tooth brushing, diet advice, tooth anatomy

Exchange bursaries, PhD scholarships and fellowships are available to help encourage and enable participation in the scheme.

and 'a day at the dentist'. The sessions were extremely well received and the children particularly enjoyed dressing up as dentists to learn about the equipment used to look after their teeth.

The group have also visited a home for the elderly in Edgbaston where they facilitated sessions on oral health, oral and denture hygiene, physiotherapy and healthy living advice.



Earlier this year, dental students volunteered at the Midland Langer Seva Society, where they served food to just under 200 homeless people inside an hour outside Moor Street Station in Birmingham city centre.

Find out more at:
www.universitas21.com

Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry 1858–2015

1905



The hospital and school moves to new premises on Great Charles Street to accommodate the growing number of students, patients and staff, who contributed £1,100 of the £10,000 cost of the building.

1965



The dental hospital and school's sixth home opens at St Chad's Queensway, next door to Birmingham General Hospital (now Birmingham Children's Hospital).

2011



Initial planning permission is granted to build a new Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry at Pebble Mill, Edgbaston.

2013



Construction work begins on site at Pebble Mill, Edgbaston.

2015



The new Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry at Pebble Mill is officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen.

Thank you to Tim Griffith who sent in this picture of the Dental School graduates of 1965, who got together in November in Stratford-upon-Avon to celebrate the 50th year since their graduation.



Back row, standing, left to right: Guy Hartopp, Mike Stacey, Pete Harris, Bob Smith, John Smallwood, Gerald Neal, Ian Lowe, Tim Griffith, Dick Hartley **Middle row, standing, left to right:** Mike Rowley, Robin Grapes, Bob Brody, Jeremy Dix, Roy Coppack **Front row, seated, left to right:** Denise Hartley (nee Chelmick), Janet Stevens (nee Picken), Liz Prosser, (nee Herman), Marilyn Lee (nee Ibell), Jill Campbell (nee Beddow)

Professor WRE Laird (1939–2015)

Last year, we were sad to learn of the death of Professor Ronnie Laird, a prominent figure at the University of Birmingham.



Ronnie was appointed Professor of Dental Prosthetics and Head of Department at the University of Birmingham from 1984 until his retirement in 2004. He was Director and Head of the School of Dentistry from 1989 to 1994. During this time, there was turmoil and change at the University and Ronnie was asked by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Michael Thompson to undertake changes in Dentistry. Ronnie kept the ship afloat and Birmingham emerged a much stronger school.

Appointed as Public Orator for the University at degree ceremonies, Ronnie introduced well known honorary graduands prior to the award of their degree. His introductory speech for each of the awardees was meticulous in preparation.

Externally he served as Chair of the Council of Deans of Dental Schools (1993–1995), President of the British Society of Prosthetic Dentistry (1996) and both member and Chair of various GDC committees (1989–2003). He loved teaching dental students and a Facebook page set up as a memorial has received over 100 likes and many more comments. All attested to his fairness and expertise as a teacher in prosthetics.

Ronnie loved people, he loved conversations and he was in the true sense of the word, a raconteur. He was never stuck for a story, an anecdote or a joke. At work gatherings or family events, he was often called to give the speech of thanks as he had a great gift of capturing the moment in a few words.

Stay in touch

Update your details
or share your news
with us via

mds-alumni@contacts.bham.ac.uk
+44 (0)121 414 3488.

Network with us



@unibirm_MDS



The University of Birmingham
Alumni and Friends



/collegemds



Dentistry blog:
<http://brumdentists.com>

www.birmingham.ac.uk/mds-alumni



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk