

## Welcome to NES Dental Clinical Effectiveness

Welcome to the October 2019 edition of the Dental Clinical Effectiveness Newsletter. In this edition you will find details on the Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration, Fletcher of Saltoun Award, Clinical Effectiveness Training Day and much more....



Prof Jan Clarkson

**SDCEP** - The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme [[www.sdcep.org.uk](http://www.sdcep.org.uk)]

**TRiADS** - Translation Research in a Dental Setting [[www.triads.org.uk](http://www.triads.org.uk)]

**SDPBRN** - The Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network [[www.sdpbrn.org.uk](http://www.sdpbrn.org.uk)]

**QIiPT** - Quality Improvement in Practice Training

**SDPGF** - Scottish Dental PG Fellowship

## Oral Health Research Findings

In March 2019 a questionnaire was sent to dentists working in Scotland asking them about their current behaviour and beliefs regarding conducting oral health assessments, as outlined in the SDCEP Oral Health Assessment and Review (OHAR) guidance. The questionnaire was intended to inform the review of the evidence underpinning the guidance. Three hundred and eighty eight dentists participated in the survey.

The findings from this study demonstrated that most participants assessed and/or recorded many elements of the oral health assessment outlined in the guidance; all elements of an oral health assessment were considered important for treatment planning; and participants believed they had the knowledge and skills required to conduct an oral health assessment.

In general, participating dentists believed in the principles of the OHAR guidance, and that it would be beneficial if implemented, but there was a reticence to implement it fully, largely due to perceptions regarding time, financial reimbursement, IT systems and concerns about the risk-based recall.



## Clinical Effectiveness Training Day - 27th February 2020

The next Clinical Effectiveness Postgraduate Training Day will take place on Thursday, 27th February 2020 at Dundee Dental Education Centre.

This year the event offers the chance for all delegates to gain an insight into setting a research question, reviewing literature and looking at different types of data analysis. We will also be applying these insights to some clinical scenarios.

The event is free and you will be provided with lunch and refreshments together with verifiable CPD hours (hours to be confirmed). There are just a few places available so if you would like to attend please contact Lorna Barnsley at [SDPBRN@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:SDPBRN@nes.scot.nhs.uk) or on 01382 740912.

## Catalytic Grant Approval

A funding application to the CSO Catalytic Grant scheme has been successful. The project will be led by Laura Beaton, working together with colleagues from the University of Dundee, NHS Education for Scotland, the University of Aberdeen and the University of Glasgow.

It aims to answer the question: can co-design enhance national quality improvement interventions? The project will involve co-design workshops with dental practitioners to redesign the content and process of national clinical audits, using the audits for fluoride varnish and preventive fissure sealants as exemplars. This work will begin in early 2020.

## Fletcher of Saltoun Award

Professor Jan Clarkson (Director SDCEP) has been awarded the Prestigious Fletcher of Saltoun Award by The Saltire Society for her contributions to Dentistry through research and education.

The award was established in 1988 and is named after Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, a Scottish writer, politician and soldier who was a commissioner of the old Parliament of Scotland.

The award honours the innovative and culture-shaping work in the fields of Science, Arts & Humanities and Public life. The award ceremony was held in Aberdeen's Maritime Museum on Saturday 21st September 2019.

Previous recipients of the award include former First Ministers of Scotland, Donald Dewar and Alex Salmond.

Further details of the award can be found at:

<https://www.saltiresociety.org.uk/awards/history-and-heritage/andrew-fletcher-of-saltoun/>



Photograph Courtesy of Graham Clark, Photographer

## Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration

A meeting of the Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration (SOHRC) was held in Dundee on 1st October. SOHRC aims to support and encourage collaborative research projects and has representation from each of the Scottish dental schools. After an introduction from interim Chief Dental Officer, Tom Ferris, in the morning session no less than 27 PhD students presented summaries of their ongoing research projects.

Reflecting the rich diversity of dental and oral health research interests in Scotland, the extremely varied topics included: evaluation of the Smile4life programme; investigation of a novel dental implant coating; exploration of aspects of graduate's transition from dental school to clinical practice; investigations to evaluate and enhance the Childsmile programme.

After lunch, Prof. Jan Clarkson gave the keynote lecture, describing the work of the TRiADS programme and discussing global collaboration to improve the efficiency of translation of research evidence into clinical practice. Doug Stirling then provided an update on recent and current SDCEP activities.

## Smileawi — Update

Laura Wilson, Dental Tutor (QIiPT) recently visited Malawi as a volunteer with Smileawi to provide dental aid. This is a brief update of the trip as told by Laura.

Malawi with Smileawi has been an unforgettably humbling experience and almost impossible to sum up in a few words, but great people make for great experiences and without the fantastic team of volunteers I travelled with we would not have been able to help over 2917 patients in pain.

The charity was in Malawi for just over 4 weeks, with 26 volunteers in total splitting into two teams. Team 1 travelled out for the first two weeks and Team 2 arrived for the second two weeks. In total, both teams set up 31 rural clinics, extracted 4310 teeth and sterilised over 8000 instruments. The two mechanics we travelled with were able to put 6 hospital vehicles back on the road allowing doctors to reach villagers who are unable to travel.

We were welcomed with open arms by the Malawians who were so kind, gracious and looked after us so well while we worked. We had lots of laughs, highs, lows and even some tears but an experience I will never forget. I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone that sponsored and supported me as well as all the fantastic people I met in Malawi from the patients, interpreters, the amazing friends I've met who gave up their own time to volunteer for the trip and of course Vicky and Nigel from Smileawi.



Laura Wilson, front row far right with fellow volunteers

## SDCEP Dental Companion App—Now Live!

A new app to facilitate delivery of dental clinical guidance has been launched by SDCEP. The **Dental Companion** has been designed to provide an alternative way of accessing four of SDCEP's evidence-based guidance publications, with the option of adding other topics to give a suite of dental clinical guidance toolkits in a single app. A layering approach allows quick access to key recommendations for each topic, with more detailed information available if required.



SDCEP will evaluate uptake of the app and will ask for user feedback in the months following launch.

The SDCEP **Dental Companion** app is available to download from the App Store and Google Play for use on smartphones and tablets. A desktop version is also available at <http://companion.sdcep.org.uk/>. Visit SDCEP's website, [www.sdcep.org.uk](http://www.sdcep.org.uk), for more information on the **Dental Companion**.