

## **NZIDT Otago Branch 2006 report**

We are approaching the end of the year and I wanted to touch base with everyone. The Branch enjoyed the end of year function at Eureka Bar.

The 2006 NZIDT conference was a great success, with a record number of delegates attending (170 plus). On the Friday there were numerous dental company courses and trade exhibitions. The AGM discussion centred on the setting-up of a more professional organisation and as a result the membership fee is likely to increase to around \$150.00. While no one likes price increases it seems that with all the new compliance costs it was inevitable.

The NZIDT Executive has been busy over the last year predominantly dealing with the Dental Council / Dental Technicians Board (DTB). One of the emerging issues is the newly formulated Competency Standards; these standards are basically what we need to comply with in our everyday practice. In the event of a Competency review of your practice being conducted these are the standards that will be used to assess if you are fit to practice, "IMPORTANT STUFF". Behind the Competency Standards sit the Codes of Practice; these are the documents that give us the detail of how we should practice. They are on the Dental Council web page, at the bottom of the page (<http://www.dcnz.org.nz/dcStandardsCodes> ). They consist of:

- [Code of Ethics for Dental Technicians and Clinical Dental Technicians](#)
- [Complaints and Criticisms](#)
- [Control of Cross Infection](#)
- [Informed Consent](#)
- [Informed Consent form](#)
- [Patient Records](#)
- [Patient Registration and Health Questionnaire form](#)
- [Referral of Patients](#)

Other projects the executive is in the process of working on are; ID cards for members, new web page, a memorandum of understanding with the DTB and the establishment of a more agreeable consultation process with the DTB. The NZIDT has also formed a CPD sub-committee to verify CPD for people wishing to run CPD activities; this has been posted on the NZIDT web page.

For your information the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Otago is offering a one-week scientific update course in dental technology from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The course is aimed at helping candidates to prepare for the Dental Council of New Zealand Dental Technology Registration Examination, which is scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007. While this course is mainly for overseas dental technicians there has been interest from the general New Zealand dental technology community. The course will count towards your CPD hours and if you are short of hours this would give you all you need for the entire CPD period.

The course will cover the following areas with an emphasis on the latest developments in the evidenced based literature;

- Cross-infection control as it applies to dental laboratories.
- Complete dentures.
- Partial dentures.

- Removable orthodontic appliances.
- Metal-ceramic and all-ceramic restorations.
- Dental materials.

The programme will consist of lectures with handouts of selected readings and run from 9.00am to 4.30pm each day. Tea, coffee and lunches will be provided. The course fee is \$1000.00. If you are interested contact me and I will email you an application form.

I am already thinking about next years CPD and I have a few suggestions about topics including cross-infection control, light and colour in dentistry and patient records. I hope to see you at Eureka for a drink and a catch-up. Otherwise, I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday period.

Cheers

John Aarts