

18 September 2006

NZIDT

NEWS LETTER

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS Inc.

The 2006 Conference and AGM are now just four weeks away. The introduction of the new HPCA act has given these events an unprecedented value. Conferences are still able to provide an opportunity to socialize with other members of the industry, and that is important, but even more importantly, they provide an opportunity to comply with the requirements of the HPCA act, and if we wish to continue practicing in this profession, we must comply, we do not really have any choice. The over-riding principal reason for this act is to provide **protection from harm to the public**. The Dental Technicians Board, acting on behalf of the Dental Council, have been tasked with designing regulations to satisfactorily comply with this act. Some of the controls and regulations presented by the board have been draconian, but to the Boards credit, they have been amenable to change through negotiation. This negotiation has often been required at short notice, and as volunteers, your executive have regularly been put under considerable pressure. Just taking the time required to read and digest the paper work can be a financial burden. This time put in at the work bench would reap a financial return, whereas reading these papers only prepares one for more valuable time required to respond. The NZDT Board toured the four major centers recently to explain where their work was taking them and us, and to hear some of your questions and criticisms. Some areas of ongoing concern are implant over dentures, where does responsibility lie, the status of laboratory auxiliaries, unregistered Technicians working in the industry, registering Technicians trained overseas and the qualifications that we in NZ can accept. The introduction some years ago of the "Australia—New Zealand Mutual Recognition Act" means that persons with similar qualifications can migrate and work in either country using the qualifications gained in their own state or country. This Act has implications now that were not as apparent when the Act was introduced. CORA is an organization with representatives from all Australian states and New Zealand, working to try and come up with a satisfactory regime to establish and maintain national standards for Dental Technicians. The NZIDT have been represented at the last two annual meetings and progress is being achieved.

A Word From Your President:-

Greetings all,

It has been a very busy time since our last newsletter. The executive have met twice for a full day of meetings with very full agendas. These meetings were so full on that tele/conferencing just would not have coped. The main issues were Dental Board requests for input to the many changes that are facing our industry. Five of our executive met with the Board in Wellington at their invitation and were able to explain that there was much concern being expressed by our members regarding registration issues, implant over dentures, competency standards etc. No conclusions were reached here but dialogue will continue and I am sure after our AGM there will be plenty more to discuss and negotiations will continue. NZIDT has finally been approved as a CPD provider and verifier. This has been a mammoth task and many thanks go to Steve Hellberg and John Aarts for all their hard work so we could achieve this result.

Branch meetings are taking place throughout the country and these are earning CPD hours if there is an educational content.

Conference time is rapidly approaching. This years scientific programme is available on the website. This programme earns 5.5 hours and the AGM once it is verified will be worth 1.5 hours.

There will be displays and lectures organized by the Dental Supply Companies on the Friday so it will be a busy weekend.

Looking forward to catching up with all of you in Wellington
Cheers,

Wendy McMillan

Informed Consent

"Informed Consent" means the patient has been given all information on treatment proposals, and on the basis of this, "consents" to the plan. The person must be able to fully comprehend the proposal and the likely outcome. If there is any doubt about the patients ability to fully comprehend, the patient must be treated as if under age 16.

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Avian Flue

The medical world has breathed a gentle sigh of relief, as it appears that the risk of a pandemic this winter has retreated. The risk is still there, just not as imminent as it appeared before the onset of winter. As winter sets in in the Northern hemisphere, scientists and medical experts are monitoring known risk areas for any further signs. No news is always regarded as good news, but the virus still lurks out there and the world needs to stay alert.

ADPAQ

ADPAQ stands for Australian Dental Prosthetists Association, *Queensland*. The ADPA and the ADPAQ have expressed a keen desire to keep in touch with the NZIDT and with any sort of luck, to be able to share in conferences etc. The ADPAQ have produced their first News Letters and kindly forwarded these to us. One item of interest noted was that the Australian Dental Association, Queensland branch have invited the ADPAQ to take part in one of their annual conferences in October. The plan is to have concurrent lectures on the Saturday with a mini trade fair specifically for Dental Prosthetists and Dental Technicians. We intend to reciprocate with our News Letter and hopefully some sharing of local information can take place. The ADPA already have a website at www.adpa.com.au and the ADPAQ intend to launch theirs at their AGM on 8th-9th December 2006.

TAX TITBIT

For the first time since the days of Rob Muldoon as NZ treasurer, children may earn money without necessarily paying tax. From 1st April 2006 children can earn \$45-00 per week, or \$2340-00 per year without penalty.

A census taker in a rural area went up to a farmhouse and knocked. When the lady of the house finally came to the door, the census taker asked how many children she had and their ages. She replied. "lets see now, there's the twins Sally and William, they are 23, then Ruben and Ruth, they are twins and they are 19, then the twins John and Josh, they are 17"

"Hang on" said the census taker. "did you have twins every time"

"heck no," she replied. "lots of times we got nothing"

PEER CONTACT

Taken loosely from DCNZ News. If you are living and working in a remote area and peer contact is proving too difficult to achieve, you may need to try telephone/video conferencing or the internet. Failing that try contacting your nearest NZIDT executive member for help. If you are still experiencing genuine problems gaining your peer contact requirements, bring this to the notice of the Dental Council, telephone 04-499 4820

2006 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

A comprehensive programme will be available at registration. This list briefly describes the speakers and their topics.

Neil Waddell :- Condensing vs not condensing ceramics

Trevor Laingchild: Pursuing facial harmony

Brendon Torr:- Cad/cam technology

Neil Waddell :- Implant prosthodontics

Ray Sharkey :- Interplay of light in natural teeth

Stav Zervas :- Ceramics—start to finish

John Aarts :- Implant overdentures

Dr Andrew McKenna :- Implant supported bridges

Steve McGlynn:- Injection moulding for implant overdentures

Dr Allan Payne :- Old and new prosthodontic materials

John Egan :- Professional fees in Dentistry in NZ

Ken Pryor & Steve Russell:- A F/F case presentation

Dr Oliver Rohrer:- Anatomically based computer model.

Steve Hellberg & John Aarts:- CPD & the NZIDT

More information is available on the NZIDT website

PATIENT RECORDS

Patient records and their relevance to Dental Technicians and Clinical Technicians have been a topic of discussion amongst Technicians for years. Pre about 1980 records of patients were seen as a potential source of evidence to support prosecution of Technicians practicing direct to the public. This attitude was reasonably well entrenched amongst older Technicians and change took time. Time has now run out. Records must be kept. Records are *legally* regarded as "health information" and are considered an integral part of the provision of dental care. Accurate records will help with planning the outcome of that care. Accurate records can also provide a sound basis for defense in the event of a dispute. Records can also assist in patient identification in the case of forensic dentistry. The Privacy act 1993 applies to all personal information in New Zealand. The Health Information Privacy Code 1994 is part of the Privacy Act and carries the same legal status as the Privacy Act. Most health information is gathered in an atmosphere of privacy and trust and that privacy and trust must be respected at all times.

Records to be taken before treatment starts include:-

Full name and address, phone no. etc.

Date of birth.

Clinical notes including charting of existing dentition.

Notes of any condition seen in or around the mouth or throat.

Reasonable description of any dental appliances presented.

Medical history questioners.

Informed consent forms.

Copies of any correspondence.

Records of any financial transactions made or planned

Records during and after treatment include:-

Materials used including teeth brand mould and shade.

Impression types and techniques.

Centric registration especially if differing from standard

Relevant instructions given to the patient during procedures.

Relevant responses given by the patient.

Patient response at try-in and final fit.

Health information must be collected for the purpose of the care offered only and not for any other purpose

CORA

The Council of Regulating Authorities (CORA) for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists (Clinical Dental Technicians in NZ) has been the national peak body in Australia for more than a decade. CORA consists of delegates from all regulating bodies, educational institutions and professional bodies in Australia and New Zealand. The CORA conference and AGM were held at the Gold Coast, Queensland on August 31st—1st September. The venue is decided on a rotating basis. The 2007 CORA conference will be held in Canberra, and the 2008 event will be in New Zealand. CORA is funded by a levy paid by all regulating bodies on an annual per capita basis. This was the first meeting at which New Zealand had full representation.

CORA has a few hurdles to overcome in the next 12 months and this meeting gave the newly elected executive some inspiration and ideas on how to tackle the issues.

CORA has been successful in regard to standardizing education around Australia with the National Health Training Package. This package was reviewed and Di Lawson (CEO Industry Skills Council) addressed the meeting. CORA signed off on the package for both Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists. The registered training organizations around Australia will now turn the competencies into courses that could start as early as July 2007. The Certificate 3 in Dental Laboratory Assisting has also been approved and should be available in 2007

The second issue is the standardizing of legislation around Australia and New Zealand. The big issue for Dental prosthetists is the standardizing of “scopes of practice” There are many inconsistencies between states including Implant overdentures.

Registration of Dental Technicians has become an issue again. Tasmania and Victoria are looking at the possibility of reregistering Dental Technicians and New South Wales is to have a review of the Dental Technicians Registration act. CORA has been instrumental, along with the ACDLA and the ADPA, in lobbying the Minister to keep registration. There is also the possibility of Australian National Registration There has been a tentative agreement by the State Ministers of Health to register health professionals nationally. This appears a logical progression but the criteria are that the professions must already have registration in all states and territories. Where does this leave Dental Technicians? CORA voted to support Dental Technicians in their effort to be part of the National registration of health Professions.

The next issue for Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists is an Australian / New Zealand examination for overseas trained applicants. The executive has been very busy with this issue over the last year and CORA reached agreement at this Conference to begin a National Trans Tasman examination under the auspices of CORA in 2007. It was decided by vote that. “The Council of Regulating Authorities For Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists should become an incorporated body”. This was done to facilitate the exam procedure.

Snoring

The majority of the population believe snoring to be a normal bodily process, just like balding. Wrong. Snoring is often a sign that something is wrong. Snoring affects about 80% of men over 40, and about 20% of women of a similar age. Snoring may well be a symptom of “sleep apnea” and that can be a serious health problem. Most people snore because the tongue and soft palate fall back towards the throat and obstruct the airway. The body recognizes the reduction of air and attempts to increase the supply by heavier and deeper breaths. This increased air velocity causes the soft palate to vibrate creating the snoring noise. The noise often increases in volume as the body tries harder and harder to get the oxygen it needs. Unless the snorer changes his or her position enough to allow the tongue and soft palate to come forward and breathing to become normal, the bodies demands for oxygen will wake that person This interrupted sleep is “sleep apnea”. The severity of the “sleep apnea” will depend on the number of interruptions the snorer experiences, but any level can be very serious. Various snoreguard devices have been developed and most do work. Present scopes of practice prevent Dental Technicians and Clinical Dental Technicians from fitting these devices. This may change in the future.

CORA Representatives

Licensing

Dental Technicians & Dental Prosthetists Board - ACT
NSW Dental Technicians Registration Board
Dental Technicians & Dental Prosthetists Board—
Queensland
Dental Board of South Australia
Dental Prosthetists Registration Board of Tasmania
Dental Practice Board of Victoria
Dental Council of NZ Dental Technicians Board

Education

Australian Defense Force
Central TAFE, Western Australia
Gilles Plains Institute of TAFE, South Australia
Griffith University, Queensland
RMIT University, Victoria
Southbank Institute of TAFE, Queensland
Sydney Institute, Randwick College, New South Wales
Dental Council of New Zealand Dental Technicians Board

National Associations

Australian Commercial Dental Laboratories Association
Australian Dental Prosthetists Association
New Zealand Institute of Dental Technologists
Australian Public Sector Health Union

Invited Guest

Australian Dental Council

Executive Council

Chairman	Neil Sullivan SA
Deputy Chair	Graham Key NSW
Secretary	Craig McCracken Vic
Treasurer	Nik Peacock Tasmania
Committee	John Aarts New Zealand
	Robert Boshier NSW
	Jane Evans Queensland

ivoclar vivadent

Invitation

Ivoclar vivadent would like any Dental Technician attending the IDS in Cologne Germany next year and who would be keen to visit ivoclar vivadent Head Quarters as their New Zealand guest, to contact them. ivoclar vivadent will meet train ticket costs from Zurich to Liechtenstein, two nights accommodation and a factory tour. It is an interesting experience. Anyone interested should contact either Deona or Peter at ivoclar vivadent

Hygiene

Winter is more or less over, but the winter bugs are still waiting out there, just waiting for a weak moment in someone's defenses to strike. Winter weather means our bodies need more energy just to keep our temperature in the correct range. This energy usage can leave our natural defenses at more risk and the cold or flue virus or bacteria can find it easier to get established in our system.. Early spring and a mild day encourages us to leave our jacket at home. 3pm the temperature drops significantly. Our bodies defense system demands more energy for heat and this can be at the expense of our immune system. Colds and flues are caused by viruses. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, they are only effective against bacteria. Bacterial infections can cause cold or flu like symptoms, but these are more often responsible for infection in one particular site :-i.e. ear, tonsils or sinuses.

If you have a viral infection there are no instant cures. A warm comfortable environment with plenty of rest is the best treatment. This gives your own body's defenses a better chance to fight of these viruses. Your body's own immune system is the protective army and this system will fight and eventually kill of these viruses.

Avoiding these viruses is not easy. Some measures will help.

Cold and flu viruses are spread by transferring droplets of fluid from your nose or mouth. Dentistry places all staff in almost constant contact with saliva. Cold and flue viruses can survive in saliva that has dried, especially on porous surfaces like paper or cardboard. Keeping non sterile objects like dentures, impressions and instruments in containers or trays that can be sterilized will help stem the spread of these viruses.

Keep your hands away from eyes, nose and mouth

Do not share cups, glasses or cutlery.

Use tissues to contain sneeze's and coughs.

Use tissues to blow your nose then dispose safely.

Wash hands regularly and dry well.

If you must use your hands to contain a sneeze, wash ASAP

In the working environment, encourage staff with symptoms to stay at home, discourage infected patients, and if they do need to be treated, treat with caution and sterilize or disinfect the treatment area thoroughly. Plenty of ventilation reduces the concentration of airborne viruses.

Branch Meetings

Branch meetings are up and away at last. Members seem to be realizing that this is the way the dental world is going, and if we want to stay on board, we just have to go with the flow. Going with the flow does not mean thinking everything that is handed down from above is set in stone, never to be changed. Rather, the NZDT Board and NZ Dental Council are amenable to change if sufficient numbers challenge their decisions in a logical and well thought out constructive manner. These people are not the enemy. They have a job to do, they will do that job to the best of their ability, and they will take cognizance of the wishes of the industry.

The Waikato / Bay of Plenty Branch . They appear the most progressive branch at the moment. By holding their meetings at a centre near Te Rau they are catering for an extremely large area..

Dunedin and Christchurch are both active but no reports yet. Both are planning meetings post the October conference with Christchurch already setting the date for 30th November. 6pm Oral Health Centre. Entrance Antigua St The DT Board Road Show was well attended and took some precedence over branch meetings.

Wellington is also very active but disappointed with the turnout at the last meeting. The speaker was a Chemist speaking about various medications and there relevance to dentistry. Next meeting is planned for Monday 2nd October, 7-00pm at the Petone Workingmens Club.

Methylmethacrylate

Surgical gloves are of limited value when handling methylmethacrylate as methylmethacrylate can rapidly penetrate most of the glove material used.

You know you are maturing when:-

There is more food than beer in the fridge

6-00am is getting up time, not bed time.

Really loud music actually hurts

This News Letter is published quarterly if possible. Articles of interest are earnestly sought, as are advertisements for buying or selling, situations vacant or situations wanted etc. Please forward anything even slightly relevant to:-

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