

## President's report for 2008-2009

The year has passed incredibly quickly and I cannot believe we were at a meeting near Liverpool this time last year. It has been a busy and a difficult year for the society. There are a number of initiatives from the GDC which has caused considerable concern amongst the membership. The most emotive has been the decision by the GDC to prevent future SpR trainees in Restorative Dentistry from automatically entering other specialist lists in Prosthodontics, Endodontics and Periodontics. I understand that the GDC decision is final and future trainees will have to consider taking the appropriate exit examination if they wanted entry onto another list. We wrote to the President of the GDC stating the concerns of the members and although he replied in a very conciliatory manner he made quite clear that the decision had been made. We now need to work alongside this to maximise the career opportunities of future Restorative Consultants and Specialists.

In a similar vein I was tasked by the SAC to help co-ordinate the curricula in Prosthodontics, Periodontics and Endodontics and together with colleagues we are nearly ready to submit them. I am grateful to Angus and Stewart and others who helped.

The other area with the GDC was flexibility in training. To my knowledge no decision has been made but it seems likely that this will pass through too. We must acknowledge that the numbers entering specialist training across restorative dentistry is low and insufficient to maintain effective numbers on the specialist lists. I might add this concern is also being felt by other Dental specialities! I hope that the planning and implementation of this will be carried out effectively and maintains the standards needed to fulfil the obligations to the public. I fear that this will be demanding.

I met with the CDO as part of the BARS grouping in the winter and despite a nearly 2 hour meeting I am afraid to say little outcome occurred. I wrote him a letter as an outcome to the meeting and at his suggestion, but sadly he did not reply.

Finally, I think the other challenge this year is how much we should pay for membership. I know with the onset of the new website and the need to provide better communication the costs to the society will increase. Sadly, the cost of banking has risen too and we need to consider an increase in subs. At this rather difficult economic time it is even more difficult prospect to consider. However, I believe it is a decision that needs to be made!

I hope this coming year is less challenging than last and we can look forward to some masterful inactivity. I hope though that you understand that together with our ACCEA responsibilities you are getting value for money and hopefully agree to an increase. I would like to thank the committee for this support and in particular Alex and Martin.

Kind regards and all the best

David