



Peer to peer, to pier

Guy Deeming, orthodontic specialist and meetings secretary for the Orthodontic Specialists Group of the British Orthodontic Society, presents the line up for the British Orthodontic Conference, taking place this September in Bournemouth

The first joint meeting of the BAO (British Association of Orthodontists) and BSSO (British Society for the Study of Orthodontics) took place in Bournemouth 26 years ago, and it is to the very same sandy shores that 2012's conference returns. Whilst much has changed in clinical and academic practice, there is no doubting the inexorable ascent of the British Orthodontic Conference (BOC) to become the UK's most prestigious specialist conference - attracting in excess of 1,000 delegates to hear a unique blend of homegrown and international speakers.

One of the main attractions for this year's conference is sure to be Dr Ben Goldacre. Known to many as a best-selling author, broadcaster and journalist as well as a psychiatrist and statistician, Ben is to address the conference on the Sunday afternoon and, by all measures, should not be missed as he gives his unique take on the relationship between medicine and the media, as well as the darker side of research and its relationship with business objectives and big pharma.

Clinical presentations

For the main programme, the emphasis at BOC has always been to schedule presenters with a keen eye on the scientific basis for sound clinical decisions. With this in mind, international speakers such as Dr Sebastian Baumgaertel will present on mini-screw

anchorage solutions, Professor CH Kau will discuss the integration of cutting-edge technology into clinical and research practice and Dr Frank Weiland will consider the reality of our knowledge regarding self-ligating appliances. Homegrown presenters include Professor Donald Burden who will give the prestigious Northcroft Lecture, Professor Martyn Cobourne on the genetics of hypodontia and Dr Kathryn Weaver on eating disorders. Further highlights with particular clinical appeal might include Dr Ewa Czochrowska on treating patients with periodontal breakdown and Dr Ama Johal and Dr Shakeel Shahdad on the orthodontic-restorative interface.

The Sunday morning will feature a session coordinated by the University Teachers Group of the BOS for new researchers and is the perfect place to spot the next big thing in academic orthodontics. In parallel with this, the political session includes Sam Illingworth from the newly formed shadow NHS commissioning board and Dr Sue Gregory, deputy chief dental officer, amongst others. This forum in particular is a unique opportunity to listen, be heard and share experiences in this unsettled period of transition.

Extra activities

As in previous years, 2012 will see BOC focus on high quality, evidence-based presentations that will appeal to the whole team, whatever their field of practice. With this in mind, there are a number of parallel sessions to broaden appeal. The popular and relevant programmes for nurses and orthodontic therapists continue in 2012, the line-up of speakers including such luminaries as Jonathan Sandler, Rye Mattick, John Scholey and Simon Littlewood.

It would not be BOC without a packed social programme and trade exhibition. True to form, 2012's trade show is bigger than ever and includes a number of new names and products to pique interest. The social agenda includes a gala dinner, drinks reception, a golf



BOC speakers (clockwise from top left), Dr Ben Goldacre, Professor Donald Burden, Dr Sebastian Baumgaertel and Dr Ewa Czochrowska

competition and numerous opportunities to catch up with friends and colleagues.

In these political and economic times we can be certain of little. Now more than ever it is paramount that the specialty presents a strong and united front to promote and protect first-class care for patients and the integrity and position of orthodontics in the United Kingdom. It is without doubt that the bringing together of the whole team to share ideas and knowledge at the BOC has a vital part to play in maintaining unity and focus. It goes without saying, of course, that is also great to mix learning with socialising!



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qualified from Newcastle
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His specialist training was at Guy's and Kingston Hospitals. He currently works at Queensway Dental Clinic, a large multi-disciplinary practice between Middlesbrough and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne treating a full range of NHS patients.

**British Orthodontic Conference
23-25 September 2012**

Bournemouth International Centre
For further details, including the complete
programme, online booking and
accommodation/travel details, please visit
www.bos.org.uk

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