



Mountjoy

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School of Clinical Dentistry**
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Editorial

Welcome to Mouthpiece 2025!

This academic year has seen some big changes for the dental school, with our new Dean Professor Ali Khurram stepping into the role and our long-serving school manager, Anna Burrows leaving for a well-earned retirement. You can read Prof Khurram's first report as Dean on the following page and a lovely piece about Anna Burrows and her amazing commitment to the school later in the magazine.



We have all the usual Unit reports highlighting the fantastic achievements of the Dental School in teaching and research as well as showcasing individual and group achievements across many varied fields. This edition also has a strong focus on nostalgia, with an article from Alex Berry, our new school manager highlighting the some of the gems discovered from our clinical dentistry archive, which is in the process of being digitised. We also have a report and some photos from some reunions and alumni tours which have been going on recently.

We also have other articles on conference attendance by our DClintDent students, a novel dentine hypersensitivity study, an article by Punya Khurana, one of our graduating dental students this year on decolonising the curriculum, and a comical piece by Helen Rodd regarding a long-distance running event and some dodgy mathematic skills!

Congratulations to all our graduates this year. They all worked exceptionally hard and can be proud of their achievement in attaining their qualification, and of joining the wonderful group of people who can call themselves alumni of the various courses provided at the School of Clinical Dentistry, Sheffield. I'm sure everyone at the dental school will join me in wishing you a long and happy career, wherever that may take you. But please don't forget where it all started and maybe even come back to visit us sometime...

Graduation celebrations for the BDS students were held at the lovely venue of Wortley Hall near Barnsley and I understand there were similar celebrations for the graduating DH&DT students.

For the new graduates, and anyone else that currently doesn't receive their free annual e-copy of Mouthpiece, just email me, and ask to be put you on the mailing list for future editions (m.barber@sheffield.ac.uk).

Mark Barber, Editor

The views in Mouthpiece are not necessarily those of the contributing societies and associations nor the officers thereof, unless signed and attributed to them. Neither are they necessarily the views of the editorial staff nor any member thereof.

A Message from the Dean

It's a true privilege (and slightly surreal!) to write to you as the 'new'(ish) Dean of the School of Clinical Dentistry, a role I took up in September 2024 with pride, excitement, and a deep sense of responsibility. My journey with this School began over 20 years ago as a slightly nervous, wide-eyed PhD student trying to find his feet. Fast-forward two decades, and I now find myself at the helm of the very institution that has been such a formative part of my life.



After finishing my PhD in 2004, I ventured into NHS hospitals across Cardiff and Sheffield, working in maxillofacial surgery, medicine, and pathology. In 2011, I returned to academia as an NIHR Clinical Lecturer. Over the years, I've been extremely fortunate to build a rewarding career across research, clinical diagnostics, and education, culminating in a Professorship in 2022. I've had the privilege of leading our diagnostic oral pathology service, establishing the [NEOPATH](#) research group, and championing patient engagement through work with [The Swallows Head and Neck Cancer Charity](#).

Sheffield (and our School) has always felt like home. It's a place where the steel isn't just in the buildings, but in our spirit: resilient, warm, and quietly ambitious. Our School has a long tradition of producing exceptional clinicians, educators, and researchers but it also stands out for its strong sense of community, mentorship, and heart. That legacy (your legacy) continues to grow, and I'm deeply grateful for the part you've played in shaping it.

I would also like to update you about changes to our School Executive Team. We are pleased to welcome Alex Berry as our new School Manager, bringing with her a wealth of management expertise. Professor Dan Lambert has kindly agreed to continue as Deputy Dean, and we are also pleased to confirm the following appointments: Professor Cheryl Miller as Director for Research and Innovation, Professor Chris Stokes as Director for Education, and Dr Dan Brierley as Director for One University.

I'm also pleased to share that the recently concluded BDS Finals went extremely well, with our students performing to a high standard. The external examiners were particularly complimentary about both the calibre of our students and the excellent organisation provided by our professional services colleagues. I'm sure you will join me in wishing our new graduates every success as they begin their careers.

This edition of *Mouthpiece* captures so much of what makes this place special, from happy stories to the day-to-day work that keeps us moving forward. Huge thanks, as ever, to Mark Barber for pulling it all together and keeping the spirit of the School alive and well in these pages and keeping us connected as a community.

Wherever you are in the world or in your career, please know that the School of Clinical Dentistry will always be here to welcome you with Yorkshire warmth, plenty of tea, and maybe even a pathology slide or two.

Professor Ali Khurram

Dean, School of Clinical Dentistry

SCHOOL EXECUTIVE TEAM

SCHOOL OF CLINICAL DENTISTRY



Prof Ali Khurram
Dean



Prof Dan Lambert
Deputy Dean



Alex Berry
School Manager



Dr Daniel Brierley
Director of One
University



Prof Cheryl Miller
Director of Research
and Innovation



Prof Chris Stokes
Director of
Education

Academic Unit of Restorative Dentistry 2024-25 report

Staffing

The previous year has seen us recruit a fantastic group of excellent new tutors who bring experience, dedication and enthusiasm to our team! Our new tutors are Daniel Anderson, Sian Deakins, Samina Iram, Carla Irving, Chris Oldfield, Jagdeep Saimbi, Rajpal Tattar and Bahar Yuksel. All of these new tutors have settled in brilliantly and enhance the variety of experience and perspectives to our student teaching.

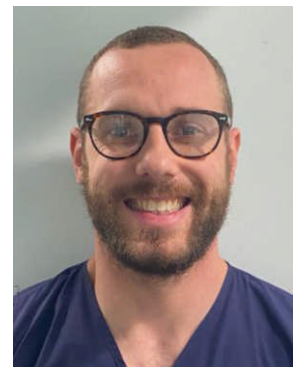


Left to right: Daniel Anderson, Chris Oldfield, Sian Deakins, Samina Iram and Carla Irving

We have also recruited Oliver Jones to a joint NHS/University role as Consultant/Senior Clinical Teacher in Restorative Dentistry. Ollie has come up through the ranks from his days as an undergraduate, all the way through to this senior role. His addition brings versatility and significant clinical experience to the team and will be a huge benefit to postgraduate and undergraduate teaching. Ollie has penned a few words to introduce himself:

I am a recently appointed Consultant in Restorative Dentistry and Honorary Senior Clinical Teacher, with my clinical interests lying across all of the disciplines of Restorative Dentistry including Endodontics, Periodontics, Prosthodontics and Implant Dentistry. Prior to my Consultant post I undertook core training jobs in Portsmouth and Birmingham, before completing my specialty training here in Sheffield.

I split my time between working for the NHS treating high complexity patient groups, and for the University teaching on both the Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses, with a focus on Periodontology. For any students wishing to get more of a flavour of Restorative Dentistry or the associated monospecialties, or of core or specialty training pathways, please feel free to contact me.



Oliver Jones

Teaching

The academic Unit of Restorative Dentistry continues to provide high quality teaching across the BDS programme and for the DClinDent postgraduate students. Our new(ish) facilities are now well-established, with the clinical skills learning environment and dental technology unit having delivered two academic years of highly successful training. The facilities have also been used for staff training sessions and external CPD training.

We've had success with the DClinDent students at the recent Membership in Restorative Dentistry examinations, conjoint with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Congratulations to those

students and good luck with your future endeavours, with a big thank you to the staff involved in the delivery of these high-intensity postgraduate programmes.

The curriculum review process is well underway with positive developments being planned for the teaching associated with the Unit, aiming for a more integrated BDS and H&T programme and developments such as a greater focus on digital dentistry and sustainability. I'm certain there'll be more details on the new curriculum in future editions of this magazine!

Research news associated with the Academic Unit of Restorative Dentistry

Insigneo Institute Entrepreneurs, Dr Caroline Harrison, Professor Cheryl Miller and team, including Paul Hatton, have reached the next stage of our commercialisation programme with their novel synthetic bone graft business, aimed at tackling antimicrobial resistance. InOsteon is a revolutionary new range of synthetic bone grafts designed to prevent bacterial infections and enhance bone healing without using antibiotics. In bone trauma cases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a significant threat, complicating treatment and increasing the risk of persistent infection, non-union, and amputation.



These technologies have been co-developed with surgeons and patients to deliver an injectable, non-setting, mouldable and convenient solution, helping both clinicians and patients get the best possible care. The entrepreneurial team are part of the Insigneo Commercialisation Journey for Medical Technologies and have recently completed large verification studies. Stage 3 of the programme will take them through the design of their new business.

Dr Ilida Ortega continues to produce high quality research in dental materials, including leading COST-Action skin models paper in collaboration with academics of Finland, Germany and Spain, delivering 2 invited talks at Universidad Politecnica de Valencia (Spain) and at University of Birmingham (UK) and presenting at National and International conferences. In addition to this 2 poster prizes were secured by 2 of her PhD students (Amy Morgan and Hasan Mohialdeen) and she has restarted her collaboration with Floreon: Securing EPSRC IAA funding to re-start work using their 3D-printing filaments; on this occasion to expand projects of Sustainability in Dentistry (working with Prof. Nic Martin). Ilida is also continuing her collaboration with University Miguel Hernandez (Spain), where she will be working with colleagues to explore new ways of characterising the mechanical behaviour of fibrous membranes for tissue engineering applications.

Dr Thomas Patterson's dental-focused research has centred on developing GrindCue, a wearable sensor aimed at diagnosing and potentially treating teeth grinding (bruxism). The project successfully passed Stage 1 of the University's Commercialisation Journey and has advanced to Stage 2, where we now receive dedicated support for detailed market discovery. Additionally, he secured funding to investigate novel bioelectronic technologies for next-generation neural interfaces, though the specific details currently remain confidential. Alongside Vitor Neves, we've also hosted a fantastic SURE summer project featuring Aliza Bano, one of our talented first-year BDS students, who developed glucose-sensing microneedles in the lab.

Dr Vitor Neves' lab has expanded and tracked international attention over the past year. Since September 2025, the Neves lab has recruited 12 new members in Sheffield, ranging from PhDs, to DClindents, a new NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow, and clinician academics from Undergrad to Postgrad. Additionally, the lab has 4 new members in Brazil, running 2 clinical trials. With regards to publications, Dr Neves helped DClindent student Mr Hengjia Zhang to publish a systematic review, reshaping the clinical academic path of the UoS. Additionally, Dr Neves research caught international

attention, and he was invited to co-host and present a Symposia at IADR on Craniofacial Stem Cells Metabolism. His group also attended various conferences such as the BSP and the Europerio in Vienna.

Prizewise, both Neves' lab PhDs Ms Bruna da Costa and Mr Rajpal Tattar were awarded the prestigious Royal College of Surgeon Pump and Prime Grant for their projects (a double win!), and Ms da Costa was the winner of the Research Day Presentation competition, with her excellent research on periodontal ageing. Dr Neves was awarded a Travel Grant and visited his collaborator Dr Jan Krivanek in Brno (CZ) to do a workshop on animal models for dentistry. Allowing them to secure a joint funding form the Company of Biologists to bring a member of Krivanek's lab to Sheffield. Dr Maryan Azam spent 6 weeks with us developing a project on dentin mechanosensation changes in the dental pulp during injury, which is currently ongoing. Finally, Dr Neves has established an international collaborative group to investigate Oral Ageing Biology, with members from the University of Sheffield, the University of Birmingham (UK), the National Institute of Health (NIH, US), and University Federal do Rio de Janeiro (BR).

Professor Nicolas Martin continues to lead the way in environmental sustainability in oral healthcare. He is the FDI (World Dental Federation) chair of the environmental sustainability group, producing a consensus statement, online resources such as massive online open courses (MOOC-1 and MOOC-2), publications, infographic resources and a toolkit. Our dental education research also continues to develop with Dr Jonnie Dixon completing his PhD in February 2025. His research explored how the dental curriculum evolves to incorporate new and emerging topics, with a particular focus on environmental sustainability. Jonnie has led the incorporation of environmental sustainability across all years of the BDS & DH&DT programmes using educational research approaches. His work has been adopted by the FDI World Dental Federation and the Association for Dental Education in Europe and has been published in 12 publications in Q1 journals. Ashley Towers has successfully completed his PhD after defending his thesis titled: "Deconstructed Learning in Pre-Clinical Dental Education Using Virtual Reality Simulation". His thesis presents a method to reveal the underlying cognitive knowledge associated with operative procedures and develop novel virtual reality exercises to focus on these aspects. Students taught using the deconstructed exercises demonstrated statistically significant better performance than those taught using "whole tooth" exercises which suggests opportunities for new approaches to support pre-clinical education.

Mark Barber (and colleagues)

Head of Unit

Academic Unit of Oral Health, Dentistry and Society

Professor Norah Flannigan, Head of Unit

After over 20 years of dedication to the School of Clinical Dentistry Sarah Baker, Professor of Psychology has left the University. She is a great loss to the School of Clinical Dentistry, but we wish her all the very best in her new adventure.



Orthodontic news

Regarding staffing in the Orthodontic department, I am delighted to report that a Trainee Orthodontic Therapist will be joining the team. Emily has been a dental nurse in the Orthodontic department at CCDH and we are all looking forward to working and supporting her in this new role.

Our MCLinDent students have now completed their second year and have worked and studied alongside our international DCLinDent trainees. We are looking forward to diversifying our academic orthodontic offering in the next few years with short courses.

The Orthodontic Department of CCDH is well renowned for its delivery of excellent teaching and I am delighted that we are implementing Aligner technology in our Masters and Doctorate programs.

News from Outreach and Primary Dental Care – 2024/25: Dr Tom Dyer

Outreach has had another successful year. It continues to provide fantastic learning experiences for students, which is testament to our enthusiastic and supportive placement teams.

Despite NHS and University sector financial challenges, the last year or so has provided opportunities to re-establish two Outreach placements. Last year, I reported that BDS students were to return to the Flying Scotsman in Doncaster, to gain experience in urgent dental care. This has been a great success and enjoyed and valued by students and the placement team alike. This year, we will pilot a new model for Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (DH&DT) students at CDS Wheatbridge clinic, Chesterfield, which aims to provide a different primary care experience and case-mix across their scope of practice. I'm also pleased to report the School has been able to extend the BDS student attachment to the NHS paediatric Complications of Excess Weight service, where they learn about the links between general and oral health, and contribute to the interdisciplinary holistic care of this high need group.



All of these developments are a result of collaborative working, often in tricky circumstances; they wouldn't happen without the enthusiasm, and persistence of those involved, as well as support from the School. There are too many people involved to name here, but I am grateful to them all!

At the time of writing in early July, we're looking forward to hosting the Outreach training days this month at Halifax Hall. Both days will be attended by placement teams and there will be a varied programme of educational developments, student support and faith awareness, and a clinical and educational update on paediatric dentistry.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the invaluable contribution over the last year of the School's Professional Services team who administer Outreach, especially Lois Logan, Sorina Morcov, and Jen Horsfield.

Paediatric dentistry news from Professor Helen Rodd and Fiona Gilchrist

Undoubtedly, one of our best bits of news for 2025 is that we have very fortunate in making a number of new appointments in paediatric dentistry over the past few months. Mona Agel (a previous Sheffield graduate) has been appointed to a substantive NHS consultant post; Jess Large (also a previous Sheffield graduate) and Joana Monteiro have been appointed as senior clinical lecturers/honorary NHS consultants, and both Fiona Sotir and Laura Timms have been awarded NIHR lecturer posts, in recognition of their outstanding academic trajectories as previous NIHR doctoral fellows. Both Laura and Fiona were awarded their PhDs earlier this year. These appointments have certainly helped to address our previous chronic staff shortages and the retirement of Prof Deery (still greatly missed!).

Another notable headline is the launch of an innovative pilot to enhance access to exodontia under general anaesthesia for children across Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, and Barnsley. Funding of around one million pounds was obtained from the ICB, following the development of a proposal by the Paediatric Innovator, led by Halla Zaitoun and Sarah Robertson. The hub is located at Doncaster Royal Infirmary and is led by a paediatric dentistry consultant (Mona Agel) and dental nurses from our Sheffield team. It is hoped that this much needed new service will help to meet ongoing demands and alleviate long waiting lists. The pilot will run for 12 months, and since its start in March 2026, over 100 children have been assessed and completed their dental treatment under GA. This service is adding much-needed capacity to reduce wait times and to test the regional hub model, which could be implemented permanently in the future.

The last 12-months have also seen a number of successful grant applications, conference presentations, publications and examination outcomes. Congratulations to Reuben Bennett, Ravina Mandair and Hoor Alrashed who recently passed their Membership in Paediatric Dentistry Examination. Hoor was also our first DCLin Dent student to complete the programme, which she did with flying colours! Laura Timms attended the 2025 International Association of Paediatric Dentistry Conference in Barcelona in June this year



Dr Laura Timms, recipient of the Senior Colgate Prize, with Prof Zoe Marshman at the IADR conference in Barcelona



Prof Helen Rodd and Dr Joana Monteiro speaking in Berlin at the Alliance of Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation annual conference.

and was awarded the highly prestigious Senior Colgate Prize from the British Society for Oral and Dental Research (BSODR). This prize recognises the best oral presentation by an early career researcher, specifically those within five years of obtaining a PhD. Laura presented her doctoral research on a feasibility study to use silver diamine fluoride for the management of early childhood caries within primary care settings. We are all super proud of her! Earlier in the year, Joana Monteiro received a Haleon Award from the Oral and Dental Research Trust to develop and evaluate a child-friendly measure of dentine hypersensitivity in children with molar incisor hypomineralisation, which is the topic of her PhD. She presented her research in Berlin at the annual meeting of the Alliance of Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation; Investigation and Treatment (AMIT) along with her 'comrade' Prof Helen Rodd, who was an invited speaker. Who knew that MIH now had its own named conference!



The new paediatric dentistry dental GA hub team, Doncaster Royal Infirmary

Research News by Professor Zoe Marshmann

BRUSH!

Supervised toothbrushing programmes have been in the news again this year as the government announced £11 million of funding for 2025/6 for local authorities to increase the number of children taking part from an estimated 150,000 to 600,000. Professor Zoe Marshman was invited onto BBC Breakfast to discuss the announcement and Naga tried her best to make sure she didn't get too comfy on the red sofa!

Here's a link to the toolkit developed as part of our National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded BRUSH project to optimise implementation of supervised toothbrushing programmes:

<https://www.supervisedtoothbrushing.com/>



Leading the way in oral health research

In another NIHR supported initiative, Professor Zoe Marshman and alumni Professor Chris Vernazza (now interim Dean at Newcastle University) have recently launched a new oral health research incubator. The aim of the incubator is to build capacity and develop research careers in oral health with an emphasis on informing policy across the UK. The work of the incubator will centre around bringing together a community of those working or aspiring to work in applied oral health research, increasing the visibility of policy-relevant research and ensuring sustainable support.

For more information and to join the network of interested professionals and representatives of industry and patient groups visit the incubator webpage:

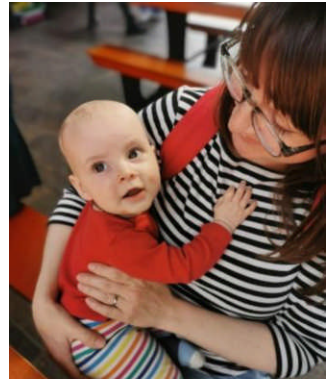
[NIHR-supported incubator in oral health research: informing policy across the UK | Clinical Dentistry | The University of Sheffield](#)

Academic Unit of Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy

I returned from a lovely maternity leave to a job I adore and the best team of colleagues you could ever hope for, but nonetheless in challenging times for the university.

Despite the ongoing upheaval for professional services staff who provide the backbone to every activity within the dental school, service is as strong as ever. We processed 100+ extra applications for the Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy than in previous years; almost 360 and selected an excellent 24 students who have already found their feet in lectures. It is always exciting to watch how they make the transition from the lab to clinics in August, just after we have bid farewell to our final year students in June.

This year, more students than previously have successfully lined employment up post-graduation, at rates more commensurate with the high level of service they will provide helping to attend to the dental needs of the country.



Kate and Kit Peysner



Emma Bingham

Progression in Direct Access and prescribing equates to an autonomous workforce who will continue to drive our profession forward.

We are led by an inspiring trailblazer in Emma Bingham, who we are immensely proud of in her elevation to Professor - the first in the UK in our field! Our graduating students have the hard work and tenacity of Emma and our colleagues in the BSDHT and the BADT who have encouraged, supported and forced forward long overdue industry developments to the benefit of the UK population.

Within the team, Stephen Davies, Jude Moss and Jess Varley have all become Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

Longstanding team member Esther Machon continues to work across both undergraduate courses in Pre-Clinical Skills and Core Clinical Skills, setting our early-year students up with a foundation of excellent clinical skills. Avril Ware has had articles published in Dental Health and continues to work across both units within the dental school as Clinical Coordinator. Special thanks to Avril for deputising so brilliantly for some of my roles while I was on maternity leave. Adam Holder has produced a set of fantastic slides to embed sustainability in our curriculum that have been very well received.

A significant proportion of the output of our team is conducted in addition to the day job, and it is an honour and a delight to be part of that team. Exciting times are ahead with the curriculum changes being planned and fine-tuned!

Kate and Kit Peysner



Esther Machon and the Third Year DH&DT Near Peer Tutors



Adam Holder



DH&DT Team at the Graduation Ball



Jude Moss and her teammates fundraising for the Alzheimer's Society

Academic Unit of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Staffing and research

We wish to welcome to 2 Clinical Tutors in Oral Surgery to the unit. Hassan El-Awour has joined us from Canada, and Tee Neng Goh has joined us more locally from Doncaster, both are experienced Oral Surgeons, and we are delighted to have them join our team.

Dr Hanya Mahmood was appointed to Senior Clinical Lecturer/Honorary Consultant in Oral Surgery last year following completion of her PhD. Hanya's clinical interests include dento-alveolar surgery, paediatric surgery, trigeminal nerve injuries/repair, and facial pain. Since taking her post, she has gained a "Data Innovation Award" of £99,742 from Cancer Research Horizons (H.Mahmood, A.Khurram). This will establish the UK's first digital dataset for oral precancer enabling researchers, scientists, and commercial entities to utilise it for advancing research, as well as for training, testing, and validating AI models.

Dr Atkins, Dr Claire Wilson, Dr Sophina Mahmood and Dr Hanya Mahmood are currently running the Sheffield arm of large NIHR trial ((MITIGATE) into chronic myalgia temporomandibular disorders. This is a randomised controlled trial of Botulinum toxin type A, lidocaine, and amitriptyline/gabapentin for the treatment of this condition. The neuroscience research team led by Professor Boissonade and Milena de Felice continue to be involved in multiple projects with UK and international collaborators:

Neuroscience research: Boissonade group

Chronic pain:



28 million people (UK)



Greatest cause global disability



Suboptimal treatments



Very few new analgesics



Poor translatability

Examples of recent/current projects in chronic pain:

- Spatially resolved single-cell analysis of transcriptomic changes linked with neuropathic pain in humans: Dan Lambert, Simon Atkins, Theodore Price (UTD), Diana Tavares Ferreira (UTD), Natalie Wong, and Emanuele Sher (Eli Lilly); **Battelle/BBSRC/Eli Lilly** – Martina Morchio
- Lymphotactin in arthritis pain: Victoria Chapman and David Walsh (Versus Arthritis Pain Centre, University of Nottingham); **Versus Arthritis** – Sara Memarpour Hobbi
- The role of resolvins in chronic pain: Dan Lambert, Nikita Gampfer (University of Leeds); **MRC** – Natalie Wong
- Identification and quantification of neurological responses in patients with dentine hypersensitivity: Mark Barber, Mahnaz Arvaneh, Hannah Barnes, Katy D'Apice, Charlie Parkinson (Haleon); **GSK/Haleon** – Natalie Wong
- Targeting neural-stromal crosstalk in cancer pain and tumour progression: Dan Lambert, Ilda Ortega, Ali Khurram, Milena De Felice; **MRC** – Anthea Ma

Neuroscience research: Boissonade group

Nerve repair and wound healing: Sheffield is a national referral centre for patients with trigeminal nerve injuries. These injuries lead to loss of sensation and function, and development of pain. Treatment options are limited and recovery is rarely complete.

Examples of recent/current projects in nerve repair:

- Native extracellular matrix for peripheral nerve regeneration: Fred Claeysens, Simon Atkins; **EPSRC** – Sara Memarpour Hobbi
- Design, manufacture and testing of advanced nerve guidance conduits: Fred Claeysens, Simon Atkins, Juan Melendez (State University of New York); **Dr Jeff Wadsworth** – **Battelle** – Rebecca Lomax
- Peripheral nerve tissue engineering using natural polymers: Ipsita Roy, John Haycock; **EPSRC** – Emmanuel Asare
- Developing functionalised electropun scaffolds to exploit neural-stromal interactions in wound healing: Dan Lambert, Ilda Ortega, Anton Nikolaev; **EPSRC** – Peter Goulding
- Robot enhanced growth acceleration of in vitro neurons (REGAIN): Nicola Green, Fred Claeysens; **EPSRC** – Haley Stang













Presentations/Prizes:

Congratulations to Sophina Mahmood and Hassan El-Awour who won the first and second place poster prizes at the RCPSG Glasgow Oral Surgery Symposium respectively: Sophina for 'Implementing Pentoxifylline and Vitamin E for ORN prophylaxis: A local perspective' Hassan for 'The MRONJ mystery: are we targeting the wrong villain? Hassan has also presented at the International Conference of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Singapore.



We are very proud that Hanya Mahmood has been awarded the BSODR 'President's Prize' and was invited to present at IADR 2025. This award is given *'to an Early Career Researcher who is deemed to have excelled in the early stages of their research career and who has made a significant contribution to basic, translational, or clinical dental research.'*



She has also presented her research into AI-based detection of oral cancer at the Falconi Anaemia Europe Scientific Meeting, Genoa, May 2025. (photo below) and INTERCEPTOR EU Cost Action Meeting, Zagreb, June 2025. She was also - Chair, organiser and presenter for symposium on 'Emerging techniques in early oral cancer detection' accepted as part of Scientific Programme at IADR 2025.

Congratulations to undergraduate Hamdah Kamali who won the Sheffield Dental School prize for the Association of British Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons undergraduate essay competition. We hope this indicates a postgraduate move to Oral Surgery!

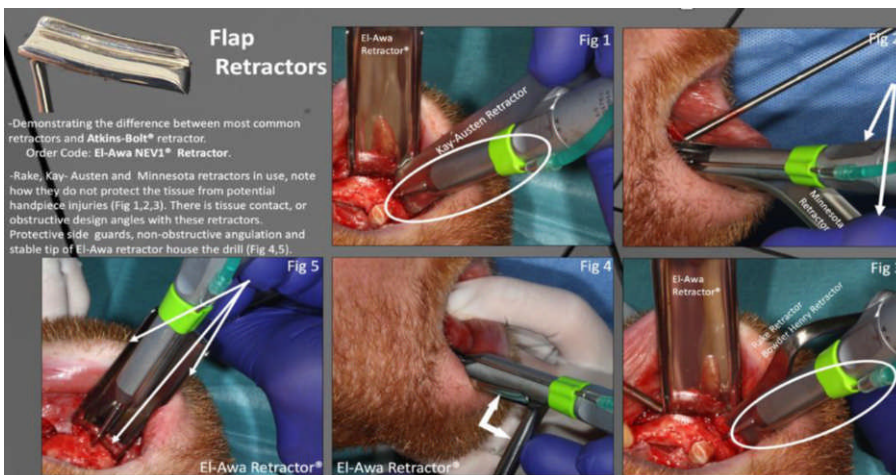
Drs. Atkins, Bolt and El-Awa continue to progress collaborations with The British University in Egypt (BUE) Faculty of Dentistry through the Memorandum Of Understanding held with our own School of Clinical Dentistry, and a recent visit included a busy schedule of external examining BUE's second cohort of implantology diplomats along with guest lecturing and discussions on how future collaborations could be expanded. The three also met with the University's Vice Chancellor and were welcomed to the implantology graduation ceremony, where Dr. Atkins gave an invited speech.



Hanya Mahmood has organised and led a multidisciplinary research workshop on oral dysplasia with Ali Khurram (University of Sheffield, Nov 2024). The event hosted more than 60 attendees including eminent UK and international scientists, clinicians, surgeons, pathologists, oncologists, charity representatives and patient advocates working in the head and neck cancer research space. Representatives from NIHR, Cancer Research Horizons, Yorkshire Cancer Research and Sheffield Centre for Health and Related Research were present, furthering Sheffield's excellent international reputation in this area.

Other:

Dr El-Awa continues to utilise his expertise in the design and manufacture of surgical instruments along with Neville instruments. Neville instruments is in its 99th year and the links forged with the University continue to offer innovation and excellence. Our unit (lead by Dr Hanya Mahood/Dr El-Awa) conducted a national survey of UK dentists' and surgeons' preferences during various oral surgical procedures, and as a result have manufactured a new retractor (Atkins-Bolt) which provides superior access and soft tissue protection due to its design, angulation and comfortable handle design.



Simon Atkins

Head of the Academic Unit of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Academic Unit of Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology

This has been another eventful and for many members of our unit a very successful year. Our success at the BSODR annual meetings continued when in September 2024, in Newcastle, Faisal Alhedyan won the Senior Colgate prize, Chandra Ramalingam won the Best Poster prize and Asma El-Howati won the Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology Research group prize. This year's BSODR meeting was held in June in Barcelona, in conjunction with PER and IADR, and Faisal presented his work in the Hatton Award session and whilst he did not win the prize I know he will have represented us well. We continued our winning streak at the BSODR/IADR Barcelona meeting as Hanya Mahmood was presented with the Presidents Prize, Laura Timms took the Senior Colgate prize and Hasan KM Mohialdeen won the Best Poster prize. Whilst Hanya, Laura and Hasan may not be members of our unit I just wanted to emphasise the success of the School as whole, whilst continuing to celebrate our unit members success.



Faisal receiving his BSODR Senior Colgate Prize



Chandra receiving her BSODR Poster prize award

At our School Research Day David Openshaw was runner-up in the First Year Oral presentation competition, Anisha Bhanjal won the Poster Prize and Chandra won the "Gone in 60 seconds" competition



David Openshaw was runner-up after his 1st year presentation at our School Research Day



Anisha won the Best Poster Prize at the School Research Day



**Chandra was champion of
Gone in 60 seconds**

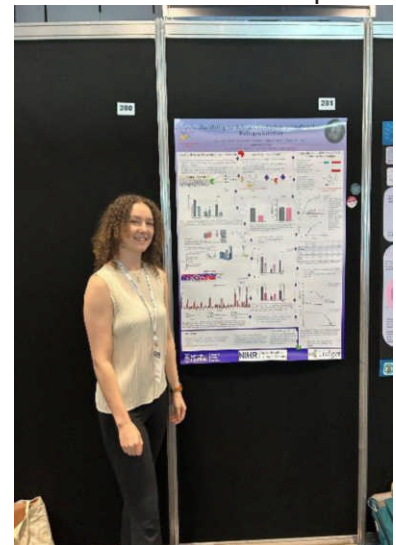
Lucas Lacerda de Souza joined our unit as a Visiting fellow under the supervision of Professor Khurram and very soon after his arrival won the best Oral Research Presentation prize at the Annual BSOMP Meeting in Southampton. Welcome and congratulations to Lucas.

Klaudia Slowik has had a very successful year as she was awarded Wellcome Trust funding for a summer student, she won best poster at Industry Day on wound Healing & Transdermal Drug Delivery and was also awarded an Armourers & Braziers travel award - congratulations to Klaudia

Rachel Furnidge also won an Armourers & Braziers travel grant and a number of our PGRs went to the annual Microbiology conference where Chandra gave a talk and Samie-Jo won poster prize - many congratulations.

A number of our ECRs have had success in having their papers published including Klaudia and Jake Edmans who had a paper accepted by the Journal of Control Release, a phage paper resulting from Ghada, Elspeth and Karolina's work under the supervision of, Graham has been published and Amy Harding had a paper accepted by the International Journal of Pharm just before she left Sheffield to take a Fellowship at the University of Liverpool.

Isabel Perreira returned to the unit as a Postdoc to work with Luke Green and very excitingly has just bought her first house - welcome back Isabel and hope you will be very happy in your new home. Another returner to the unit is Leo Siquara who briefly returned in August but is now back as a post doc under the supervision of Dan Lambert - great to have you back Leo! Amy Morgan finished the Cardiff half marathon and in doing so raised £600, very well done Amy.



**Samie-Jo won Best Poster
prize at the annual
Microbiology conference**

We have had a number of PhD successes including Fatima Elalawy, Irene (Lin) Zhang, Shivani Joshi and Cerys Evans. Sadly Shivani will be leaving us as she has been offered a PDRA position at Cardiff University and very excitingly Cerys not only passed her PhD viva she has recently taken up a post-doc position in the department and also got married - all in the space of a very short time. Many congratulations to all.

Clearly we have had another great year and whilst I am sad to be leaving the School (but happy and excited for the next chapter of my life) I know that the folks I leave behind will carry on this tradition of being extremely successful; I will miss you all very much.

Professor Lynne Bingle



Post-PhD viva for Shivani



Graduation day for Irene



...And for Fatima



And, as our daughter put it,
the end of an era with the last
graduation ceremony for Colin
and me

Anna Burrows

Anna joined the Dental School over two decades ago, in 2002. Since then, she has worked with six Deans, three Faculty Directors of Operations, at least four Heads of Faculty, and three Vice Chancellors. In that time, she witnessed more restructures and strategic initiatives than you could shake a stick at, but it is no coincidence that during Anna's long tenure, as a School we have been generally left to our own devices. I've been told many times that we are regarded as a well-run School. Anna can take a lot of the credit for that.



I first met Anna over 15 years ago, when she was on my interview panel. She was the only friendly face (ok, there may have been a couple of others), obviously trying to encourage and support me, nodding and smiling, through the interrogation. This support and encouragement was typical of Anna, as she supported and encouraged so many staff in the School. She was a particularly strong advocate for professional services staff; over the years Anna did everything she could to protect and support staff in her team, and continued to do so until her last day in the job.

Anna's commitment to the school was shown in the long hours that she worked, a lot of that work being very challenging. She was always the first to put her hand up to join difficult meetings, draft or look over important letters and emails, and offer wise words in challenging situations. She's faced GDC inspections on many occasions, sat through numerous faculty annual planning round meetings, liaised with colleagues in the Trust over complex matters, and represented the School at stressful and work-intensive disciplinary hearings. In many instances she was one of only two people in the School (the other being the Dean) to know about very challenging issues, but you wouldn't have known she carried the weight of this – always remaining good humoured and calm throughout. And all this on top of the stress of being a Blades fan!

Over the years, Anna supported pretty much everything in the School, not just the work of the School Manager but also helping with open days, public engagement events, starring in Dental Revue Videos (and also starring with Billy Crystal in the film *The Princess Bride* - seriously), organising summer barbeques and responding to endless complaints about the temperature of offices. She did so with fairness, honesty and equanimity. She worked incredibly hard through the COVID years, working particularly with Chris Deery (the Dean through most of the COVID crisis) to make difficult decisions 'on the hoof', sometimes with very little guidance from outside the School or even from the government. I think it's fair to say she hated working at home but just got on with it, doing her best to keep the wheels turning, as she always did. She put up with me and Paul Hatton arriving at her office at 6 pm to ask her about something without telling us to go away, as I'm sure she often wanted to do, and perhaps in not such polite terms...

Anna was highly commended for a Vice-Chancellor's Award in 2022, was recently recognised as one of the University's 'Inspirational Women', and I'm sure there have been other accolades, but probably not enough. She gave so much to the School over the years, being one of its strongest advocates and supporting staff and students alike. She will be hugely missed. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Anna a very well-earned long and happy retirement.

Dan Lambert

Deputy Dean and former Interim Dean of School

Celebrating Sheffield Success at IADR 2025 - Showcasing Our Global Research Excellence

I'm really pleased to share the fantastic success of our School at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) 2025 meeting in Barcelona last week — one of the biggest gatherings of dental and oral health researchers worldwide, with over 4,000 delegates in attendance. Our School had a strong presence and achieved some incredible successes throughout the conference.

Prize Winners:

- Laura Timms - *Senior Colgate Prize*
“Silver diamine fluoride for Children in Primary Dental Care: a Feasibility Trial”
This is the fourth year in a row that Sheffield has won this highly prestigious award which is a remarkable achievement.
- Hasan KM Mohialdeen - *Best Poster Prize*
“Assessing the Educational Effectiveness of Multi-Texture 3D-Printed Models for Teaching Clinical Skills in Restorative Dentistry”
- Hanya Mahmood - *BSODR President’s Prize Lecture*
“Digital analysis of oral dysplasia to aid early cancer detection”
- Zoe Marshman (with Nicola Innes, Cardiff) – *IADR Giddon Award for Distinguished Research in the Behavioural Sciences*

Invited Talks & Leadership Roles:

- Barry Gibson – Talk in the symposium *“Navigating the Patient Journey: From Tooth Loss to Life with Dentures”*
- Zoe Marshman – *“Practical involvement of children in research”* and *“Monitoring uptake of supervised toothbrushing in deprived areas of England”*
- Dan Lambert, Ali Khurram & Hanya Mahmood – Chaired the symposium *“Emerging Techniques in Head & Neck Cancer Research”*
- Vitor Neves - Co-chaired the symposium *“Unravelling the Glucose Metabolism Effect on Stem Cell Response to Damage Repair and Regeneration in Oral Tissues”*

Poster Presentations:

- Vitor Neves – *“Glucose Metabolism and Metformin in Healthy Individuals with Periodontal Disease”*
- Joana Monteiro – *“Living with MIH-related tooth hypersensitivity: Children’s perceptions and experiences”*. Joana was also awarded the Haleon ODRT Award to develop a child oral health-related quality of life measure specific to MIH.
- Jonnie Dixon – *“Integrating environmental sustainability in the dental curriculum: process and outcome”*
- Tom Broomhead – *“Exploring Gum Health Impacts in Six Countries Using Standardised Data”*
- Jennie Ross – *“Educational Interventions and Workforce Retention: A Scoping Review”*
- Faisal Alhedyan – *“Investigating the Epigenetic Mechanisms Driving Oral Cancer Progression: A Tissue-Engineering Approach”* (Hatton Prize Competition)
- Heba Salama – *“Oral Health and Well-being: Insights from Personal Narratives”*
- Bruna Dias Carvalho da Costa – *“Understanding the Role of Glycolysis in the Gingivitis-to-Periodontitis Transition”*
- Chris Platais – *“Malignant Transformation of Oral Verrucous Disorders at a Tertiary Referral Centre”*

A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone involved whether presenting, supporting, supervising, or cheering from Sheffield. This includes our brilliant researchers, students, technical teams, the research hub, professional services staff, and academic mentors. Your commitment, creativity, and teamwork made this success possible.

This is a real demonstration of the strength and breadth of our School spanning basic science, clinical research, educational innovation, and social science. I am incredibly proud of the way our colleagues and students represented Sheffield on the international stage. I'm sure you'll all join me in congratulating them for flying the flag for our School so brilliantly.

Professor Ali Khurram

Dean of School



Novel dentine hypersensitivity study at the University of Sheffield

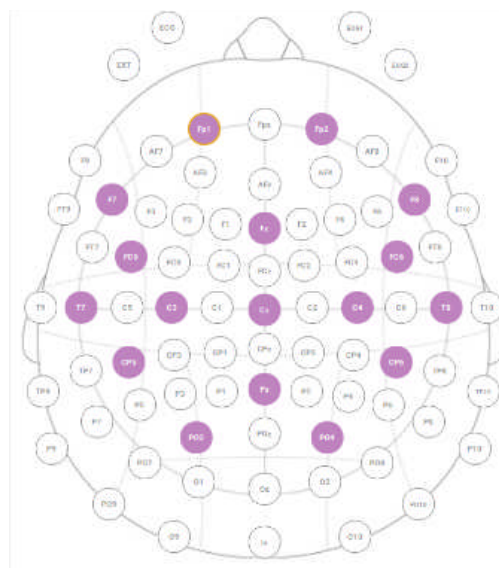
Over the past academic year Natalie, Katy and I have been busy recruiting and testing participants for a study investigating dentine hypersensitivity. The aim of the study is to find a way of quantifying dentine hypersensitivity. Most studies investigating dentine hypersensitivity aren't able to objectively quantify brain activity related to the sensation. We are using the air from the 3 in 1 as an evaporative stimulus and a thermal probe that starts at 20C and slowly cools to zero as a thermal sensitivity test. A particularly novel aspect of the study involves using electroencephalography (EEG) to record brain activity when a tooth is stimulated by these evaporative and thermal stimuli. We have been recruiting participants with and without dentine hypersensitivity to compare the differences in brain activity. We have almost completed our testing and will hopefully have some interesting results by the end of the year.

The study is being led by Professor Fiona Boissonade, Dr Mahnaz Arvaneh and Mr Mark Barber, and is funded by a grant from Haleon.

Hannah Barnes



Hannah, Natalie Wong and Katy D'Apice with the testing equipment and EEG



Measurement locations for the EEG

Learning Experience: EuroPerio11 through the Eyes of Sheffield Students

May was a special month for Periodontology, the EuroPerio11 took place in Vienna (14-17th), the largest Periodontology and Implantology conference globally. After a few years of absence, this time the University of Sheffield, School of Clinical Dentistry was present with a group of postgraduate students (DClinDent and PhD) alongside the Postgraduate Periodontics Lead Dr Vitor Neves.

EuroPerio11 brought together thousands of clinicians, researchers, and students from around the world. The event was both exciting and inspiring, with an impressive scientific programme that covered the latest advancements in periodontal and implant dentistry. Sessions ranged from innovative surgical and non-surgical therapies to digital dentistry and emerging regenerative techniques.



Dr Neves (centre) and members of the DClinDent perio team

As DClinDent students, attending EuroPerio11 felt especially important. It provided us with the chance to engage directly with cutting-edge research and to see how evidence-based knowledge is influencing clinical practice on a global level. We attended sessions on minimally invasive techniques from Pierpaolo Cortellini, soft tissue management from Francesco Cairo and Giovanni Zucchelli, Soft tissue management complications with Otto Zuhr, and regenerative periodontal procedures from Anton Sculean, amongst other topics and presenters. These align closely with our clinical

training and future ambitions, so it felt great to be exposed to excellence. Overall, we had a great experience, and it was good to see the face of the authors we read about during our studies.

Beyond the academic content, the opportunity to network with other students, experienced clinicians, and internationally recognised researchers was equally rewarding. Specifically, the British Society of Periodontology (BSP) organised a social night, in which we had the opportunity to meet students from many other areas of the UK. We gained fresh perspectives, discussed clinical challenges, and explored potential future collaborations. Attending the congress as a group also strengthened our sense of community within the DClinDent programme.

The EuroPerio11 was a truly enriching experience. We returned with new knowledge, clinical insights, and a clearer understanding of emerging trends in periodontology. Importantly, it reinforced our motivation to continually strive for excellence in both research and clinical care. We felt proud to represent the University of Sheffield at such a prestigious international event, and we look forward to applying what we have learned in our ongoing studies and future professional practice.

If you missed this one, don't feel **FOMO**. This year, the BSP is organising the [Oral Health Summit 2025](#) in Edinburgh (November 27-29th) which will bring together speakers from the UK and Europe. Additionally, EuroPerio12 will take place in Munich in 2028! Dr Neves would like to see as many of you there as possible, perhaps even presenting groundbreaking work!

If you are interested in understanding more about periodontics and our DClinDent or PhD Programmes, do not hesitate to contact Dr Neves.

Preserving Our Past: Digitising the School of Clinical Dentistry's Archive

The School of Clinical Dentistry holds a rich and diverse archive of documents, photographs and objects that together tell the remarkable story of our community. With items dating back to the 19th century, this unique collection also includes first-hand accounts of dental training through the 20th century, alongside the history of our School buildings, students, staff, evolving technology plus the founding and growth of the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital. From the early days of dental training in Sheffield through to the opening of the School's 'new wing' in 2008, these materials offer a fascinating window into our shared past.

Until now, much of this archive has been kept safely in storage, with only a small number of items on display around the School. We want to change that, by carefully cataloguing and preserving what we have, and making it accessible online to students, staff and alumni.

Earlier this year, we took an important step forward. In April and May, we welcomed Hin Wing Joshua Wong to the School on a paid internship as part of the University of Sheffield Internship Programme. Joshua's project focused on cataloguing the collection and beginning the digitisation of our archive of photographs and documents. Currently studying for a Master's in Cultural Data Management and Communication, Joshua brought cutting-edge knowledge and real passion for digital heritage to the project.

In just a short time, Joshua made an incredible impact. With meticulous care, he catalogued and scanned a significant portion of the collection, laying the groundwork for a new website where we'll soon be able to share this archive with the wider School community and our alumni.

It has been fantastic to see his dedication and attention to detail breathe new life into our historical materials. We owe a huge thank you to Joshua for all his hard work - and to the University of Sheffield for supporting such valuable projects.

We now have a prototype website to build on and in time we hope to add many more digitised resources as they are catalogued. We look forward to sharing more about this project as it develops.

We welcome contributions from alumni to help grow and enrich this archive — your photographs, documents, or memories could play a valuable part in preserving the story of our School. Together, we can ensure its history lives on for generations to come.
alex.berry@sheffield.ac.uk

Contact

MDS Graduates 1930



Annual Dinner 1898



Alex Berry, School Manager

No.	NAME	Age	Date of Entry	PARENTAGE	PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION	OTHER PLAC
199	Kallik Kaja Katusen	19.6	Oct 2/39 L.S.			
200	Grayson Charles Herbert Derych	19.0	Oct 2/39 L.S.			
201	Creighton Gretney Bomer	19.11	Oct 2/39 L.S.			
202	Burnham Denis Chester	17.4	Oct 2/39 L.S.			
203	Trinker Stanley Raymond	19.7	Oct 3/39 L.S.			
204	Taylor Roy	18.5	Oct 3/39 L.S.			

Yearbook 1939



Class photo 1970



Class photo 1984



School under construction 1991



Fig 2 Professor Colin Smith greets the Duchess of Gloucester on her arrival to officially open the new school in 1992.

Opening of the School by the Duchess of Gloucester 1992

A runner's sad tale of a child's watch and an unfortunate timing error

June 2023. Three friends and I were staying on the Isles of Scilly (a gorgeous collection of small islands off the Cornish coast, reached by a very rough 3-hour ferry crossing). One morning, while leisurely collecting shells, a sweaty procession of insanely fit runners hurtled past. I asked a couple of bystanders what was going on, and heard for the first time, the utterly captivating words; 'The Scilly 60' (<https://scilly60.co.uk>). This was a 60km race around the five inhabited islands, with time cut-offs. If you didn't make the time, the boat left without you for the next island, and you had to get on the 'boat of shame' (i.e. the spectators' boat) for the rest of the day. It was a race of some jeopardy and the race organiser, Wez, would blow a horn at each time cut-off and even if you were only one meter away from the finish line, you were out of the race. But there was no question, I simply had to sign up for this event the following year as I aptly headed towards my 60th birthday.



On returning home, initial bravado and dreams of competing in the Scilly 60 began to wane. The harsh reality was that no amount of training would equip me with the ability to maintain the required race pace of 7:30min/km. I was a regular fell runner, covering 10-20km distances, but at a more leisurely (snail) pace. For some reason, I kept returning to the website and, one day, to my utter delight, saw that a '42km fun run' was on offer in June 2024 (note the irony of it being called a 'fun run', it was anything but fun). I signed up immediately and signed my unsuspecting hubby up too (poor James).

I live in Edale where hilly trails and inclement weather offer the perfect training conditions. So, January 2024 I printed out the Scilly 60% training timetable, confident that I could make the cut-offs if I faithfully followed this schedule. But life doesn't always allow you to stick to schedules. In April, my lovely younger sister started a truly horrendous course of treatment for her throat cancer. I spent most of my time commuting between work in Sheffield and looking after her in Oxford. Running was no longer a priority. My sister was still really poorly in June, but had finished her head and neck radiotherapy, and absolutely insisted that James and I head off to the Isles of Scilly.

Race day arrived, along with some unseasonably stormy weather. But nothing could dampen the joy I felt at being part of this unique and wonderful event. Running along the cliff paths with the occasional hail shower stinging my face, sharing boiled potatoes on a lurching boat of jolly participants were just some of the unforgettable experiences. As we approached the final island, St Agnes, Wez gave us a surprising but very welcome reprieve: the cut off would not be enforced which meant we would all be finishers (hurrah). But I can't lie, my legs were pretty tired by the time I headed up the final little rocky outcrop (known as Gugh), and I finished 7 minutes over the original cut off time. James was also over time, so we were determined to return in 2025 and do better!

Luckily for us, we got our Scilly 60% places for 2025 and arrived on St Marys (the main island) in high spirits, with three other chums: Ben (aged 58, fit but never run a marathon), Tim (aged 59, good road runner but not a trail runner) and Martin (aged 61, climber and a previous non-runner). I had 'bigged up' the event so much they had been compelled to enter too. There was

a fair amount of pre-race banter about who had done what training (very reminiscent of our time as dental undergraduates in Bristol when Ben and Tim denied doing any revision and then, surprise surprise, did extremely well in all their exams). Race day (June 20th) was absolutely scorching, the conditions could not have been more different to the previous year. Tim, Ben and Martin are inherently competitive and attacked the Scilly 60% with utter determination and grit. Tim was 13th overall, Ben was 15th and Martin was 19th (and first male over 60). James, is inherently non-competitive but completed the 42km in time.



So, what of my race? I trotted around the first two 10km islands. St Martins and Tresco comfortably with about 10 minutes to spare, loving the running. Bryher was a bit 'hairy' with only 36 seconds to the cut-off, but I enjoyed all the drama of it all and encouragement from the crowd to get me over the line just in time. I set off at the back of the pack on St Annes, but my legs felt fine. Up until this point, I had kept an eye on the time by asking other runners (with fancy watches) what the pace was, and how far we had left to run. Unfortunately, there was no-one to ask on St Agnes, and when I reached the sandy

causeway which led onto Gugh I was faced with a difficult decision. According to the £4.99 child's watch I was wearing, I had been running for 46 minutes. In my hypoglycaemic and befuddled state, I calculated that I therefore only had 21 minutes to cover the remaining 3km around Gugh (because 77 minutes minus 46 minutes is 21 minutes, right?). I reasoned that as I couldn't possibly run 3km in 21 minutes, I would be better off having a fizzy drink at the pub and admitting defeat. So that is what I did. But I ran the last 5km on St Marys with James in about 40 minutes and didn't even feel too tired at the end, although I was hugely disappointed to have a DNF next to my name.

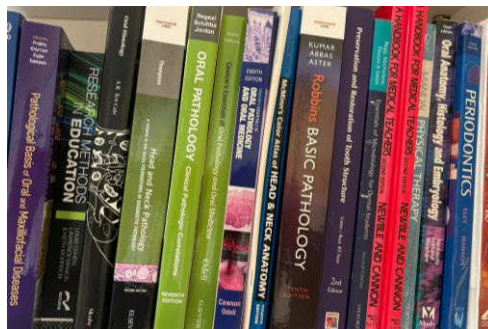
That night, as we relived every km of every island, over a few beers, I told the lads the sad tale of my inadequate 21 minutes to run Gugh. They looked at me in disbelief – and pointed out that I had in fact 31 minutes. Unfortunately, my dodgy mental arithmetic and crappy watch had seriously let me down. The horrible truth started to dawn; I might have had a chance to make the cut-off if I had actually gone for it. Not only that, but I would also have won the trophy for fastest woman over 60 (as the only woman over 60). Gutted, just gutted. To cheer myself up I decided to run St Annes and Gugh the next day and flew round the course with a pace of 7.18min/km. Clearly, this can not be the end of my Scilly 60% story, so I have put in an entry for 2026 (along with James, Ben, Tim and Martin). But this time I will invest in a more reliable timing device.

Helen Rodd

Decolonising Dental Education: A Demographic Breakdown of Teaching Resources at the University of Sheffield

Introduction

Dental education is heavily reliant on textbooks and learning resources that shape students' understanding of clinical practice, patient care, and ethics. However, there is growing concern that these resources may lack diversity. The School of Clinical Dentistry, Sheffield, is actively working to decolonise its curriculum which includes assessing and addressing any biases in the resources used.



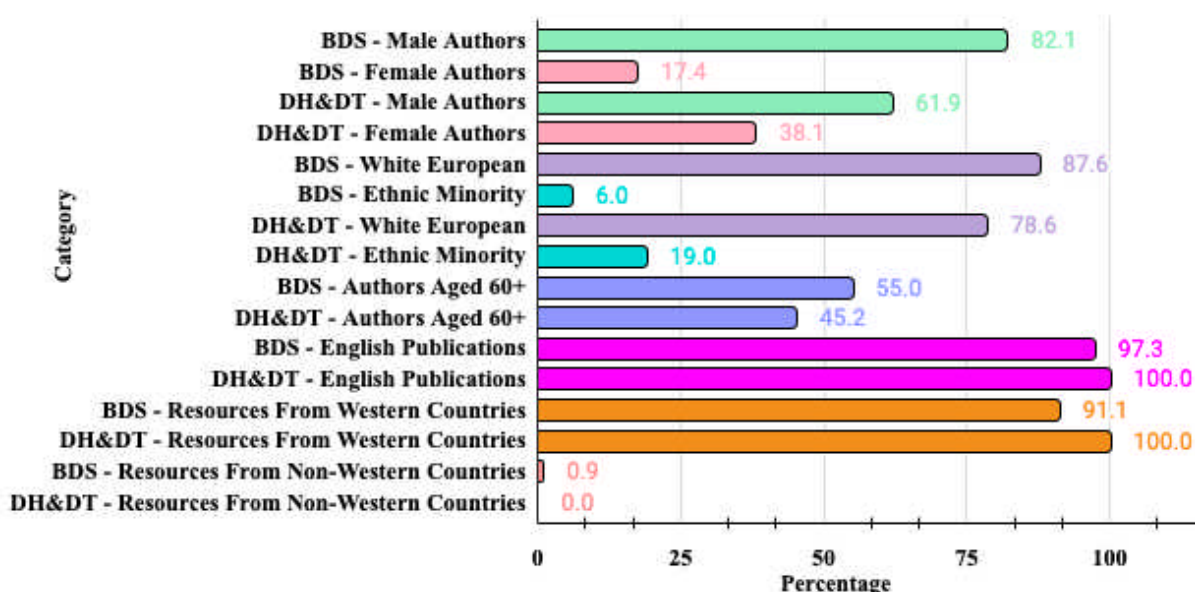
There are 2 areas of bias: authorship bias, related to the demographic characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity) of the authors, and content bias, related to the diversity represented within the material, particularly in clinical images and patient demographics.

The aim of this evaluation was to assess the demographic makeup of authors in our Dentistry (BDS) and Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (DH&DT) recommended reading lists, identify any trends or biases, and to use this information to inform efforts to make the curriculum more inclusive. A summary of our findings is discussed in this report.

Methodology

Data was gathered from the official Leganto reading lists across five years of the BDS and three years of the DH&DT programme. A total of 112 resources with 218 authors for BDS, and 24 resources with 42 authors for DH&DT were analysed. For each author, demographic characteristics (gender, estimated age, and ethnicity) were identified using publicly available data. Resources were also analysed for country of origin and original publication language. Although one of the project's aims was to evaluate image representation (e.g. skin tone diversity), this was not feasible due to the nature of the clinical imagery and lack of source information (see Limitations).

Key Findings and Discussion



Bar chart showing percentage of authors by demographic categories for the BDS and DH&DT courses

1. Gender Representation: BDS reading lists were heavily male-dominated (82.1%), with DH&DT reading list showing slightly better gender diversity (38.1% female). This shows marked contrast with current workforce data showing 53.2% of registered UK dentists and over 90% of dental care professionals (including hygienists and therapists) are female (GDC, 2024). Despite the growing female presence in dentistry, there is underrepresentation in specialist roles - only 34.2% of GDC-registered specialists are women - likely contributing to the gender imbalance in authorship.

There is a higher the proportion of women in specific specialties - such as 89.7% in DH&DT, 72.2% in Paediatrics, and 60.2% in Public Health - reflective of a greater representation of female authors, with 70.0%, 47.4%, and 37.5% of female authors representing the respective categories in specialty-specific resources.

2. Ethnic Representation: 87.6% of BDS authors and 78.6% of DH&DT authors had White European heritage. Ethnic minority authors represented just 6.0% and 19.0% respectively. By comparison, 47.2% of UK dentists identify as White, while the remaining 52.8% represent Asian, Black, Mixed, or other ethnic groups (GDC, 2024).

Although the ethnic background distribution of dentists and authors is somewhat similar, the ratio differs significantly. While it's often suggested that textbooks predominantly authored by White Europeans may not reflect the clinical and cultural experiences of diverse populations, this assumption may not always hold, as an author's ethnicity doesn't always correlate with content. Our evaluation aimed to explore this, but limitations in available data prevented a full assessment (see Limitations section).

3. Age: The majority of authors - 55% in BDS and 45.2% in DH&DT - were aged 60+. This is a predictable outcome given that academic authorship often follows decades of clinical experience. However, it creates a generational disconnect. With 46.5% of UK dentists under age 40, it's important that educational materials also reflect contemporary practice norms, evolving cultural awareness, and newer models of care.

4. Geographic and Publisher Bias: Almost all resources (97.3% BDS, 100% DH&DT) were published in English, by institutions in the UK, US, or other Western nations. This reinforces a Global North dominance in the production of dental knowledge, which has implications surrounding cultural relevance and visual representation, with the assumption that current western texts lack diversity - a critical issue that this study hoped to address but was unable to due to access limitations (See limitations section).

Such hegemony in publishing risks undermining global understandings of disease presentation, treatment norms, and cultural care models - ultimately narrowing students' perspective.

Limitations:

- **Access to Demographic Data:** Lack of explicit demographic data meant we had to rely on indirect methods to estimate author characteristics, leading to potential inaccuracies.
- **Inferences from Surnames and Profiles:** Ethnicity was inferred from surnames and public profiles, which can be misleading especially due to colonial influences, and oversimplify complex identities.
- **Image Content Diversity:** We couldn't assess image diversity, as clinical images (e.g., radiographs, histology, intraoral images) don't show visible skin tones. Future studies could seek more information from publishers.
- **Author Demographics and Content:** While a diverse author group might influence content, it doesn't guarantee diversity. However, it helps assess representation in the academic field.

Conclusions and Implications

This evaluation reveals a clear overrepresentation of older, White, male authorship in Sheffield's dental curriculum resources. Comparing our results to existing wider literature,

we can see these patterns closely align with national-level trends in higher education. Schucan, Bird and Pitman (2020) examined 1,275 texts across 30 undergraduate modules in the UK and found that 87% of authors were white and over 70% were male, with a dominant representation from the Global North, particularly the UK and US.

A decolonised curriculum does not merely mean including authors from different backgrounds - it requires systemic efforts to reshape the values, imagery, and authorship embedded in teaching. Although it can be difficult finding representative resources which satisfy teaching criteria, we must make an active effort to:

- Source texts with diverse authorship and inclusive content.
- Collaborate with initiatives like Bridging the Gap to integrate diverse clinical imagery.
- Advocate for publishers to provide transparency on author and image demographics.
- Critically review not just who writes the content, but how patients are portrayed within it.

Acknowledgements

This project was made possible by the Sheffield University Internship Programme. With many thanks to Punya Khurana (5th BDS student) and her supervisors Dr Daniel Brierley, Professor Stokes and Professor Bingham.

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1974 Reunion tour

Our time at Sheffield Dental School started in 1970, and we graduated in 1974. We have regularly held reunions, starting at 10 years in 1984, but 2024 was very special as it is 50 years since qualification, so an evening was planned with a dinner at Halifax Hall Hotel, on Friday 1st November. This was attended by 15 graduates and 14 partners.

Also special, and a thanks to John Scott of our year and his son James, was a visit to the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital. This was arranged on the Friday afternoon for those who wishes to see the changes that had occurred since we left.

We were met by James Scott, who is now a Registrar in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, as well as Professor Khurram, for a tour. Professor Khurram is Dean of the Dental School and has more letters after his name than there were in several of my essays as a student! He first took us to the top floor to see the research facilities, and spoke about the work being done, especially in the field of head neck cancer.

After that, the group gradually descended through the floors looking at the changes. Although there were many similarities in terms of hands-on treatment, the biggest change in all fields was the use of digital technology in producing various prostheses. I found the use of 3D printing particularly fascinating. It was interesting to note that Covid affected the ability of dentists sending extracted teeth to the hospital for students to practice on, and so consequently, model teeth are 3D printed with layers approximating the hardness of enamel and dentine, but also amazingly printed the root canals. These are more expensive than natural extracted teeth but allows students practice that is otherwise difficult to achieve. We also had a chance to see the students doing what we would refer to as Junior Phantom and were surprised to see that they are still taught amalgam.

It was an intriguing look at the advances that have been made in the last 50 years. The course is now 5 years rather than the 4 years it was when we were students. My feeling is that the degree is now much more academic but that we graduated with more practical skills for working in General Practice, at a time when admittedly the range of treatments available was much more limited.

All in all, it was a wonderful afternoon and a trip down memory lane (wasn't this the prosthetics floor in the early '70s?).

Thanks to John and James Scott for organising the visit, to Professor Khurram for giving up his time and showing us his research, and to all the other people who talked to us about their skills. It would be fascinating to know what will be in another 50 years, but we won't be here to find out!



More reunions!



The class of 2005 attended for a reunion tour on the 27th June 2025, shown here posing for a photo in the dental school lecture theatre

The Story of SUDSS 2024/25

Looking back on the year with SUDSS, what made 2024/25 special came down to three things that mattered most: inclusivity, connection and prioritising mental health. These foundations shaped everything we did - from events to the way we supported one another as individuals. This year taught me that leadership isn't about standing in front; it's about building bridges. We raised money for causes that matter and reminded each other that dentistry isn't just a course - it's a community. What we built together was more than a calendar of events; it was a culture of making a positive change. And that's only a glimpse of what the Committee achieved through their hard work and dedication. So, for now, put your feet up, grab a cup of tea, and join me as I take you through a year that has truly earned its place in the SUDSS history books.

Welcome to Sheffield: Where It All Began

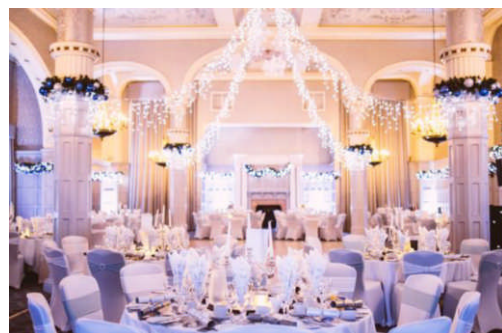
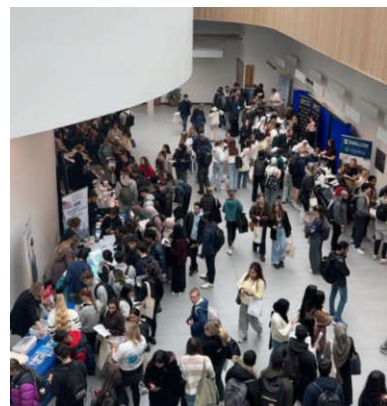
We kicked off the year by making sure our new first-years felt welcomed into our beloved city with three fantastic events during Freshers' Week. The week kicked off with the ice breaker, which meant that first years could get to know one another in a set of team-building challenges. From there, we moved straight into Dental Family Bowling, where first years were welcomed into the arms of their loving dental parents and families. The new addition of a sober social to the calendar was popular, with over 120 students in attendance! We wrapped the week up with Primary Impressions with a fun social at Revs - a simple yet effective event to finish a welcoming week to all new first years!



Education took a leap forward this year, thanks to Ellie and Phoebe bringing back in-person PALs revision sessions to help third years with their exams. But we didn't stop there - we launched SUDSS Talks, bringing in speakers from all over the country to talk about different career paths in dentistry. The SUDSS Careers Evening made a comeback too, and what a comeback it was. Eleven speakers shared insights into everything from implant dentistry to practice ownership to special care dentistry. The best part? Students could chat with these professionals afterwards over drinks to help fast-track their futures.

New Look, New Opportunities

We completely refreshed our merchandise this year—new sports tops, quarter zips, trousers, the works. The pictures honestly speak for themselves. But the real game-changer was our Trade Fayre. We moved to The Wave Building and hosted our biggest one yet - 15 companies and over 300 students (and staff!). The new venue created this amazing open atmosphere where people could move around, chat properly, and yes, grab plenty of freebies. It felt more like a festival than a Trade Fayre, which is exactly what we were going for.



The Dental Ball and Our Charity Work

The Dental Ball was our "Night at the Oscars". We had caricature artists, chocolate fountains, ice cream stations, and our own Oscars ceremony. The whole evening raised over **£1,000** for Sheffield Children's Hospital—a charity that's close to our hearts.

Our charity work didn't stop there. We kept the Staff vs Students Football match going but added Netball too, raising over **£500**. But our absolute standout moment was the Mouth Cancer Sponsored Walk. Over 50 volunteers joined us for a 13.5km walk around Sheffield's most beautiful spots. Starting from Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, through Weston Park, Bole Hills, the Rivelin Valley, and back to the Dental School.

Having Joss, the President of The Mouth Cancer Foundation, walk with us made it even more special. By the end, we'd raised an amazing **£2,407.84** - our biggest fundraiser of the year. Our pride and joy, Smile Squad kept doing brilliant work in the community too, with student volunteers teaching kids about oral health across Sheffield.

Building Connections Beyond Sheffield

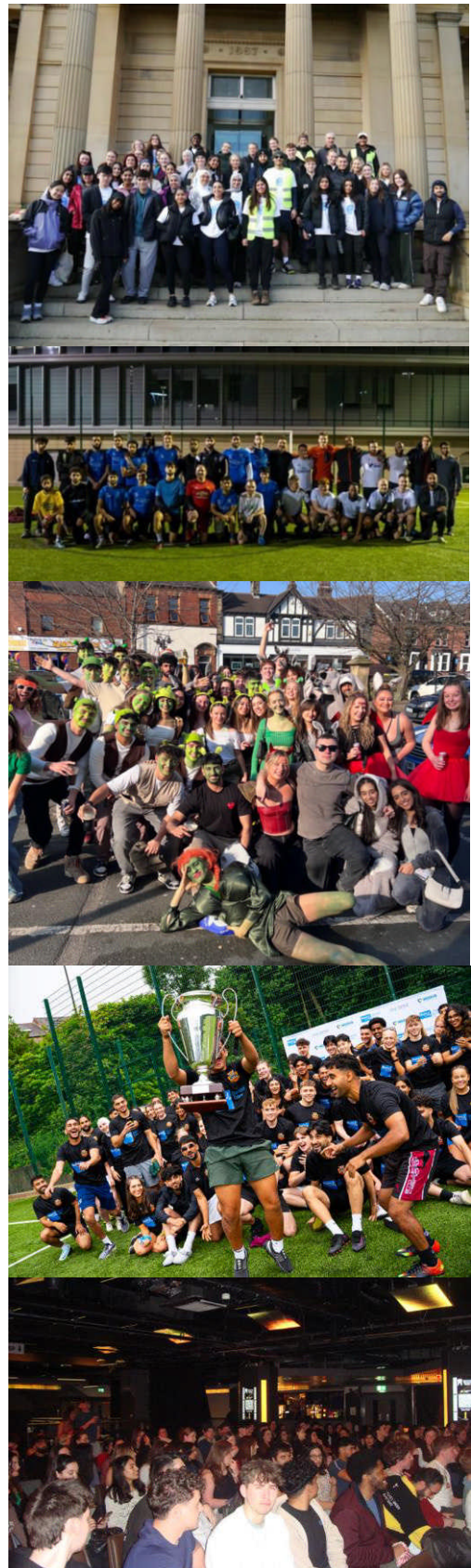
One of our big goals was connecting more with other dental schools, and the results were fantastic. The Otley Run with Leeds Dental Society was brilliant, with Sheffield dressed as Shrek, Leeds as Donkeys, all in glorious sunshine. You can't ask for much better than that. We also introduced something completely new: a Padel social with Leeds and Newcastle. Back home, we made sure students knew they could drop by at lunch if they needed someone to talk to, whether about dental school problems or just life in general. We also encouraged Dental Parents to organise more family gatherings with younger years, making sure everyone felt supported and had someone to turn to.

The Return of the Lost Art: The Dental Revue

We were proud to bring back one of the lost arts of the Dental School - The Dental Revue! For those that aren't aware of what the Dental Revue is, this is an evening of Parody videos and skits where tutors, staff and students come together to watch the cinematic productions. The famous raffle was a big hit with prizes including Come Dine with the Clarkes, a Steak Dinner with the Oral Surgery Consultants, and the much-anticipated return of the Staff and Students Ale Tour with Duncan and Dave. The whole evening raised **£1,558.25** for the Archer Project, which does incredible work supporting homeless people in Sheffield. With 150 students in attendance, what a way it was to end the year.

Hosting (and Winning) BDSA Sports Day!

This year SUDSS were the proud hosts of BDSA Sports Day. We welcomed over 600 dental students from all 16 dental schools to enjoy a weekend of sports and two-night out socials. But in SUDSS style, we took it up a notch, with a festival vibe and a live DJ blasting music in the sun, which gave Glastonbury a run for its money! Not only did the weekend go extremely well, but what better way to top it off than SUDSS taking home the BDSA Trophy! A weekend to remember for everyone, and a big thank you to Zora, Zac and the rest of the BDSA Sheffield Committee for all their hard work in bringing BDSA Sheffield to life.





Looking Back and Moving Forward

And that's our year - SUDSS 2024/25 in all its glory. We turned our vision into reality, and we have enjoyed every moment of it. I want to thank every single member who played a part in making it so special. Together, we raised **£6,050** for charity!

Finally, I'd like to give a huge thank you to the SUDSS Committee, who never questioned bringing our big vision to life. The positive change we built this year is what SUDSS is all about, and I couldn't be prouder of what we achieved together.

As I hand over to Zac and his incoming Committee, I couldn't be more excited about what's ahead. I know they'll take everything we've built and push it even further. SUDSS is going from strength to strength, and I can't wait to watch it all unfold.

Fabian Farbahi

President, Sheffield University Dental Students' Society 24/25

Introduction to the new SUDSS committee 2025-2026

What an amazing year it has been for SUDSS. The ball is well and truly rolling, and I'm so excited to take things to the next level. A big thank you to Fabian and his committee for raising the bar with a thoroughly impressive year of events, topped off with the return of the Dental Revue back in March. He's still gutted his video didn't win!

So, where are we taking SUDSS this year? My biggest focus is on making SUDSS for everyone, with events that cater to as many of our cohort as possible. We'll be shaping things around your ideas, not just ours, and making sure there are ways for everyone to feel involved. That means a wider variety of socials, more support when it comes to academic pressures, and opportunities to connect outside the clinic or lecture theatre.

A key part of delivering inclusive and affordable events is having the financial freedom to do so. SUDSS already has a great working relationship with many sponsors thanks to last year's committee and BDSA Sports Day. I aim to maintain and build on those connections while also establishing new ones, giving us the scope to subsidise more events and offer a wide variety of opportunities throughout the year.

This year's committee is bigger than ever, with representatives from H&T and all BDS years. We plan to hold a mini-election in September for a 1st BDS representative to ensure even better representation. Our hope is that the student voice will be louder than ever, allowing us to shape our events to what people genuinely want. Haiqa, our H&T rep, will play a big part in helping us better connect the BDS and H&T cohorts. Our usual Icebreaker is already lined up for September to get first years from both courses off to a great start.

Another priority is continuing to build connections with other universities through inter-dental school events. After the roaring success of this year's BDSA Sports Day, hosted right here in Sheffield, we were thrilled to bring the trophy home. Sheffield came out on top, finishing first ahead of 15 other universities. We're incredibly proud of everyone who took part, from players to pitch side supporters. The momentum continues with the Newcastle Dodgeball Tournament on Saturday 5th July, followed by the Ottley Run with Leeds at the end of September. More info to come soon.

BDSA buzz still lingers, and we're excited to bring back the SUDSS Sports Membership. This will offer subsidised access to campus league teams for just £18 a year. Whether you're in it to win or just want to have a laugh and meet new people, there'll be something for everyone.

Last year, SUDSS raised over £6,000 for charity, including £2,000 from the incredible Mouth Cancer Awareness Walk. That's more than double what the Medical Society made, and something we're incredibly proud of. Charity is a key part of many of our events, and we're determined to keep that momentum going this academic year. Our Smile Squad outreach programme will continue to be at the heart of this. It gives students the chance to deliver engaging oral health education in local schools and communities, helping us make a real impact beyond the dental school.

Supporting the mental health of our own members remains just as important. We'll keep running events that offer a timeout from the intensity of dental school and encourage reflection, connection and calm. My fingers are very much crossed that the puppies will make a return to the common room.

Mental health isn't just about relaxing. It's also about reducing stress and feeling more in control. We're keen to build on the success of PALs and increase the number of hands-on sessions, including suturing and composite workshops. We're also working on practical "how to" guides for each year group, like how to submit your CSLE booklets without tearing your hair out!

I'm incredibly excited to keep the momentum going and work with a fantastic committee to make this year the best one yet. We're already planning events, chasing sponsors and getting everything in place.

Thanks for reading, and please feel free to reach out with any ideas you'd like to see brought to life. Let's make 2025/26 yet another year to remember!

Zac Blackwell

SUDSS President 2025/26



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