



Ali James

Alistair divides his time between running a general dental practice in Burton on Trent and working at the Dental Hospital/School in Birmingham. He is also a clinical implant mentor for Straumann. During his work at the dental practice, Alistair's interests are minimally invasive dentistry utilizing the most modern materials and, indeed, evaluating them as part of the PREP panel. This runs alongside his interests in implant dentistry and the treatment of the nervous patient with adjunctive sedation techniques.

Alistair lectures in clinical dentistry at the University of Birmingham, teaching both undergraduates and helping out in the Master's programme. In his work at the hospital he is a specialty dentist in restorative dentistry, treating all aspects of restorative treatment. He has been part of the Readers' Panel for a number of years and is keen to get young dentists involved in reading and submitting to *Dental Update*.



David Watson

David Watson currently works in a varied post at Glasgow Dental School where he is a Senior Clinical Teacher in Restorative Dentistry, Clinical Lead for Outreach Teaching and BDS 5 Course Co-ordinator. In this regard, final year dental students at Glasgow spend half of the academic year in a variety of community outreach locations as widely dispersed as Dumfries in SW Scotland and Campbeltown in the Mull of Kintyre. This curricular development is the result of a partnership initiative involving University of Glasgow Dental School, NHS (Education) Scotland and six participating NHS Boards. The students attend eight Public Dental Service clinics in total, on a daily commute or residential basis. Their timetabling facilitates core module teaching back in the Dental School, allowing the students to enjoy the best of both worlds, with plenty of time in real life clinical environments working on patients. Overseeing this activity can be challenging, but is exciting and rewarding.

David's involvement with the Readers' Panel at *Dental Update* dates back to 1998: a liaison which he considers to have been both stimulating and educational. However, he retires at the end of 2016 and will be much missed for his valuable input.

Book Review

Evidence-Based Caries Prevention.

Ece Eden (ed). Switzerland: Springer International Publishing AG, 2016 (183pp, \$159 h/b) ISBN 978-3-319-40034-1.

Ece Eden, Professor of Pedodontics at Ege University in Turkey, has gathered 12 international colleagues to produce 10 chapters giving the evidence-base (or lack of it) for caries prevention; a short book, only 183 pages, of which 30 pages are references.

The first chapter on epidemiology introduces three visual/tactile caries detection/diagnostic systems, ICDAS, Nyvad criteria and a system designed for use in epidemiology called CAST. This system is illustrated with the smallest figures I have ever tried to see, just 14 mm square! Chapter 2 expands on ICDAS with more tiny figures, but majors on detection systems based on light transmission. Chapter 3 introduces the Nyvad criteria where a judgement of lesion activity and cavitation are logically presented, with the validated evidence-base as the relevant factors for caries management. Past caries experience is shown to be the most important predictor for future caries. The disagreements between these chapters are confusing for the reader but perhaps

the editor was wise to keep her big beast authors in separate cages to minimize blood on the pages!

Chapter 4 introduces fluoride and a number of products called 'biometric remineralization agents' where the evidence-base seems tenuous or non-existent. Non-existent evidence features in Chapter 5 where the use of antimicrobials in caries prevention is addressed. The words 'forget it, no evidence' sum up the discussion although, bizarrely, the final remarks do not reflect this. It seems to be suggested that antimicrobials may have a role! Chapter 6 is a useful discussion of diet and, although there is no evidence of efficacy, I found the section on probiotics most informative.

Chapter 7 reviews occlusal sealants and Chapter 8 gives existing evidence on the relatively new technique of approximal infiltration. Chapter 9 deals with the appropriateness of non-operative caries preventive measures including discussing patient motivation. This chapter is excellent, very thought provoking.

The final chapter is a series of sample cases, over various age ranges, to illustrate the use of preventive techniques. The idea is good but the actuality is a surprise because some techniques suggested have been shown in the

preceding chapters to lack evidence-base. It seems the editor is tearing up her text.

This is not a book for the undergraduate. However, those who teach cariology will be interested and likely to direct students selectively to individual chapters. Those involved in caries research will also find the text useful.

Edwina Kidd
Emerita Board Member

