

## Ringling the Changes

A new year is upon us. It promises to be one which will offer considerable opportunities and challenges for the dental team. Now that the necessary legislation has been passed by Parliament, the General Dental Council will be going full-steam ahead with the registration of Dental Nurses and Dental Technicians, and the founding of two new classes of Dental Care Professionals (DCPs) – Clinical Dental Technician and Orthodontic Auxilliary. Guidelines for mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and revalidation for all DCPs will follow. As a result, the provision of CPD for all team members will become an increasingly important issue.

*Team in Practice (TiP)* was established with the primary aim of providing continuing education for all DCPs. From now on, DCP Affiliate members of the FGDP(UK) will be able to receive a certificate confirming completion of the CPD quiz, which is helpful for those who are beginning to log their continuing education activities – see the back page for further details. *TiP* and the CPD quiz are also available on the Faculty's website ([www.fgdp.org.uk](http://www.fgdp.org.uk)), along with other information in the DCP area of the site which may be of interest.

Regular readers will notice that the format of this issue of *TiP* has seen some changes. In addition to two of the traditional 'scenario' articles, which in this issue relate to misinterpretation of advice about alternative therapy and the importance of reading the instructions on new materials, there are also a number of new features. These include a report on one of the Faculty's divisions from a DCP's point of view, a profile of the *TiP* Editorial Board member Anthony Laurie, and an introduction to the background and purpose of one of the DCP groups – the British Dental Hygienists' Association. Inside is also an update on the proposed changes to the dental nursing NVQ, as well as guidance from the British Association of Dental Nurses on routes to statutory registration.

Some of these features are likely to make a regular appearance in *TiP*, while new initiatives are also being planned. As detailed in the last issue, during 2006 it is likely that many of these content developments will be facilitated by the increased emphasis on the online version of the journal.

We would very much welcome your feedback on any of the changes, as well as your suggestions for future articles. Please email Charlotte Worker at [cworker@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:cworker@rcseng.ac.uk).

**May I wish all readers a very happy, healthy and successful New Year.**

**Ken Eaton, Editor**