



CANDIDATES' ELECTION STATEMENTS

British Dental Association (BDA) **Principal Executive Committee Election 2020**

Please read carefully before casting your vote.

Please note that this booklet contains the election statements of all candidates standing in the 2020 PEC Elections. Please refer to your ballot paper to see the candidates standing for election in your constituency.

PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2020

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Shazia Kalsoom

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I am a working Associate in a good NHS position in the West Midlands. I am also studying part-time for an Msc, I have nearly 20 years of clinical (Independent and corporate) and teams experience. I believe in fairness, diversity and hard work. I am a good team player, communicate well and being in the middle of my career I can bridge the increasing gaps between the majority Associate workers and the Practice Principals, as well as the secondary care colleagues who are concerned about their NHS contract issues. I can offer the BDA a fresh approach combining my skills and experiences so we can work towards a better future for all our Dentists.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am standing for the PEC to highlight the significant problem of Associates being abused and deliberately underpaid when the government has honoured full NHS Practice contract funding in good faith. The Associates/DCPs I have supported during the Pandemic on the BDAG Facebook (British Dental Action Group) is concerning; such profiteering from the Pandemic should not be tolerated.

I understand many honest Principals and Corporates have honoured full pay & I believe they should be commended & favoured for future contracting.

I want to be active within the BDA to reclaim the championing of these issues and provide swift justice for those who have suffered from unfair relationships of power and trust on both sides of the principal/associate divide.

Without Associates, NHS contracts can't happen.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have nearly 20 years of experience partly in the old contract and mainly in the current one, which has provided me and the many Associates who come to me in confidence, an insight into the good and not so good of both systems. This has taught me how the BDA should adapt the system for the betterment of all. Coming from a BAME female background with a young family I appreciate the particular issues of the current generation of jobbing dentists and I represent the current diversity in dentistry. Through my forum of thousands of UK dental professionals, I have gained a wide view of the very problems that need fixing urgently and why currently many associates have little faith in the BDA today.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The BDA should be an all encompassing organisation for all dentists, representing Associates and Principals without conflicting any parties interest. It should be a strong force for our profession in times of hardship.

BDA should be a body that we are all proud of to represent us on a national forum and in negotiations with the department of Health and other stakeholders so that we can be confident that the BDA are representing all our best interests.

These characteristics would enhance the BDA reputation to a degree where dentists across the land would feel compelled to become members and receive the benefits of robust representation; where Associates would look for jobs at BDA member practices because they know they had signed up to BDA fair conditions and contract payments.

Anything else

I ask for your vote if you are an NHS/Private associate, and if you're an honest principal who believes in fairness and justice. When anything is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favour. Please show your support don't waste this chance to have your voice where decisions for your livelihood and job satisfaction are made. #No voice, No Power.

Malc Newsome

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified at Bristol in 1998, then moved to South Manchester where I worked as an associate alongside being a clinical assistant in Oral Surgery until becoming a partner in a practice in Wilmslow.

I bought my own practice in Stockport in 2003 where I have worked since, also working as a clinical advisor for the Healthcare Commission. My dental practice was a pilot practice for the new contract before continuing to become a prototype practice, I have been involved with the new contract since its inception.

I became the Secretary for Stockport LDC in 2009 and continue to be active in local policy and developments.

Professionally, I have an interest in oral surgery and have been placing implants since 2008 and am a member of the ADI.

My practice is one of the partner practices that hold the urgent dental care contract for South Manchester.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am standing for PEC as I feel that I would like to help shape the future of my profession that has given me so much. Dentistry is potentially at a crossroads at the moment with the current pandemic and contract discussions happening right now. I feel that this is the right for me in my career with the experience that I have gained in different areas to help shape the strategy of the BDA as a whole, but also remember it has individual members, like myself who it represents.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have had experience in wet fingered dentistry both as an associate and as a principal running a successful mixed practice, the associated business running alongside this and have taken an active role within my LDC. I have worked under fee per item, UDA, pilot and now prototype contracts which have given me an insight into how commissioning works from both sides. I feel that I am at the time in my career where I have gained experience in treating patients, running a practice and dealing with commissioners with the balance that I still have enough passion and energy to help direct the future of my profession.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I would like the BDA to be an active part in helping to shape our next dental contract, I would like the BDA to be at the table where sensible discussions and opinions are sought and given value. The BDA has to be a body that helps to shape the continuing evolution of the future of our profession, but also remember that it is made up of members who are individual people – they may combine to create a larger voice together but the individual should never overlooked.

Anything else

I relish the challenge that the future holds for dentistry as a profession, with my background, experience and skills in many areas of dentistry, the business of dentistry and the politics/ commissioning of dentistry I feel that I would be an asset on the PEC and would very much appreciate the chance to shape the future of the BDA.

Debra Simons

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I am a Dentist who has had some amazing opportunities during the course of my career, and the privilege to be in a really rewarding profession. I am on the GDC specialist list for Prosthodontics and Special Care Dentistry. I have worked in hospital up to registrar level, completed membership exams, a clinical MSc and a PhD. I have worked in NHS dental practice, in private practice, specialist practice, treated patients under GA/sedation, on a mobile dental unit, in their own homes, in hospital and residential homes, in a medium secure forensic unit, overseas for a dental charity, worked as a clinical dental advisor, an assistant clinical director and in special care dental clinics. I have to balance work commitments with family commitments, it's a challenge, not always easy, but as a career choice, I wouldn't change anything.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

The impact of COVID is affecting everyone, and has motivated me to apply for election as a PEC member. I want to help to keep dentists, their teams and their patients safe and dentistry sustainable. I feel the the BDA has shown real leadership and support to the dental profession when others haven't. I feel I can contribute to shaping strategy, ensuring it is delivered and making sure that the BDA maintains its strong voice in this challenging time. I think that both individuals and organisations benefit from strength in difference. Each individual brings with them a diverse set of perspectives, work and life experiences, as well as religious and cultural differences. I am passionate about equality and inclusion which is why I still work in the special care dental service and this may bring another view on dentistry to the PEC board.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As professionals we earn the trust placed in us by our patients by insisting on quality and striving to get the basics of quality of care – safety, effectiveness and patient experience – right every time. I actively encourage and welcome feedback from patients, families, carers, staff and the public and use this to improve the care I and the service I work within provides. I have set up and organised services for housebound patients, children with high treatment needs, homeless people, people suffering with substance misuse and published audits of these services with the aim of motivating and enthusing others. I think this aligns with the BDAs aim, which besides representing the profession in its dealings with governments, employing authorities, in negotiating pay, conditions of service and legislation is there to champion high standards and promote policies that benefit dental practice, dental care and ultimately all patients.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I feel the BDA needs to ensure it represents more members of the profession. There are over forty thousand dentists registered in the UK and the UK is a net importer of dentists. The direction of travel in England is firmly towards a smaller number of larger dental provider organisations in which dental professionals will work. NHS dentistry is increasingly being delivered by females who are predicted to overtake males in the next few years. The BDA needs to be relevant to them. Many of these modern young dentists are associates, working flexibly and the content of the BDJ and the BDA membership needs to be more appealing to them as well as the delivery of learning and CPD. The BDA needs to embrace technology and the current and future service models of dental delivery to be relevant to the future dental profession.

Anything else

I have spent my career so far striving to improve oral health and wellbeing and people's experiences of dentistry. I have learnt something from every dental colleague I have worked with, especially the younger Dentists who are experienced at reflecting and understanding how to move forward, learning from a mistake and sharing that learning and embedding it within their practice. I cherish their professionalism and enthusiasm. I would like to have the opportunity to bring all I have learnt to the PEC board and contribute to the direction of the policy and affairs of the BDA.

Eddie Crouch

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified in 1984 at Kings, had a period of house jobs and then entered practice. I set up my own practice in Birmingham in 1988 and trained as a Clinical Assistant in Orthodontics in a programme run from Birmingham Dental Hospital. Now my clinical work involves orthodontic care in South Birmingham.

I have been involved in Dental Politics within Birmingham LDC, regional committees and the BDA holding multiple posts. I have been a member of the BDA PEC almost continuously since it was formed, serving recently as Vice Chair and was proud to be elected Chair at the last meeting in September.

I have been part of many campaigns, most notably a successful challenge to the DoH in a Judicial Review on a termination clause in the 2006 PDS agreement, and was part supported financially by colleagues to which I shall always be grateful.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I was honoured to be elected Chair of the PEC recently, but I know such a position comes at a time of real challenges for the whole dental profession and services we provide to patients. I have campaigned tirelessly recently to secure support for colleagues in all sectors of care, some with more success than others.

We clearly have more to do to secure fairness for mixed and private practice, and associates, some who have not been treated fairly on pay and conditions. I have been engaged in lobbying MPs, officials from the NHS and spoken across the media in seeking support for everyone affected by the pandemic. I believe my experience will be essential to aid recovery for all affected.

I want the BDA to be the effective champion for the profession, as I believe it can and must be.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I am passionate and hardworking, when colleagues supported me through my Judicial Review, I have always done my best to repay that support with efforts for thousands who have contacted me, and on behalf of others at a national level. I continually seek improvements for our working lives.

I have a wealth of knowledge involved in the politics of dentistry, and am proud of the way I have worked with others within the BDA, and outside in arguing the case for dentists and the results that have been achieved. There is always more to do and more to achieve, and I am confident I have the drive and ability to do that.

It is important the BDA remains a financially successful

model to deliver these services, and I will continue to work on building the membership base.

It is important to listen to criticism and respond appropriately.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

My ambition for the BDA is to be effective for members and profession needed to steer us through the post covid restoration of dentistry. We were the place for reliable and informed news during the last 6 months, increasing numbers wanting to be members.

It is vital that the BDA provide the political pressure on supporting all dental services form collapse. We must look at how the membership offer appeals to and what changes may be needed as financial challenges face the profession. But the BDA must itself remain financially stable to ensure it can deliver. I know the obstacles and am prepared to do all I can to face them and help in removing them.

The BDA must serve all members in whatever scope of clinical practice or academia they work in and my experience, across the whole range of committees that exist within the BDA will be important.

Anything else

I ask you to support my continued work for the profession and the BDA. I believe together with my colleagues across the BDA and my links to local LDCs and other bodies I am best placed to steer the BDA towards the organisation we need.

Please support my nomination with your vote.

Kain Rowlings

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I have enjoyed working as a dentist both in Australia and the UK for the last 22 years, completing further training as a Forensic Odontologist and in Implantology during that time. I have worked in both NHS and private dentistry, enjoying the challenges that both sectors entail. During my time in the NHS, I was also a Foundation Dentist Trainer for 9 years, an incredibly rewarding time in which I learnt as much as the Foundation Dentists I was training. Realising that the years seemed to be flying by in the fast paced world of dental care, I took the opportunity of becoming a practice owner 3 years ago. This was a challenging time but also such a positive experience, learning to work closely with my team and understanding the leadership and mindset you need to create a great practice.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

Having had broad experience in all sectors of Dentistry both here and abroad, I feel I can contribute a fresh and different perspective. I want to help other clinicians with the problems they face on a day to day basis; problems and challenges that I know and I have learnt from over the years. I feel very strongly about many issues now facing dentists, particularly during the recent pandemic that has seen many practices facing uncertain futures. I want to contribute to providing a clearer path for us to follow as a profession to allow for a brighter and more certain future.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

Having been involved in Dentistry for many years both here in the UK and Australia, I have experienced different ideas and approaches from the many clinicians and dental stakeholders I have come across. These have shaped my views as to how we can best move forward as a profession. One of the key factors being constant reflection and collaboration from the whole team and patients alike, therefore I have developed strong leadership skills thus I am able to create a good environment that is open to dialogue and progressive discussion. Having been a student, a postgraduate student, an associate dentist, a foundation dentist trainer and now practice owner I can best understand the problems faced by all involved in the profession.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

As the pandemic has put many of the regulatory bodies and supporting bodies such as the BDA under incredible pressure, I want to provide a clear and decisive voice as to how we can improve and safeguard our profession now and for the future. I understand many of those involved in the profession have felt anxious and unsupported during the pandemic and I want to be a part of re-engaging with our fellow BDA members and those in the wider dental community providing clear, concise and decisive steps towards a stronger, more united future.

Anything else

I look forward to hopefully having the opportunity to represent my peers and help to move our profession towards a stronger and brighter future.

Brian Westbury

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I spent many years in General Practice, NHS and private, as a practice owner and Provider. I have been a Vocational trainer. During that time I was an LDC secretary (4 LDCs) and LDC Conference chair.

I have been a BDA section secretary and Branch President. At GDSC I was on the Regns subcommittee, and also on the Sick Dentist (now Dentists' Health) scheme where I became chair for 10 years.

I represented many colleagues at Service and Discipline Committees and then joined a defence organization and was Senior Adviser and expert in GDS, NHS, and GDC cases and especially Health cases.

I have worked in Tanzania with Bridge2Aid on 5 volunteer trips.

I have even assisted with RCT on a tiger!

Currently I am the Academic-Dean at the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine at Royal College of Physicians part time. I also work independently as a Dentolegal Consultant.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

The BDA is the body representing all dentists. I have been a member since qualification. All my working life I have been assisting, representing and defending practitioners. The BDA has likewise done so. Over the years, dentistry has changed. First of all the change to Providers and Performers and more recently the increase in Corporate practice owners. I have seen the change and said publicly that the BDA must remember its first duty to actual dentists. Of course they must co-operate with practice owners and Corporates for the benefit of dentists and this is a difficult route to steer. I believe that the PEC must strongly take this line and remember the BDA's roots and who are actually its members. I want to be on the PEC to try and ensure that the BDA, as the dentists' Trade Union stoutly looks after dentists' interests.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I am first of all an experienced General Dental Practitioner having run two practices, both NHS and Private. I have also worked in hospital and the community service.

Whilst at the MDO, I managed a team looking after several hundred high risk dentists and successfully (mostly) returned them to standard risk by a large organized programme of remediation and practice visits.

I ran 4 LDC committees as Secretary for many years and then ran a successful LDC Conference.

At the FFLM Deanery, I am running our examination programmes and developing the dental examination for

membership in 2022. I have been promoting our first level examination of Diploma of Legal Medicine and this year have well over 100 candidates.

Both in practice and in other positions I have managed teams successfully. The BDA needs a proper management by PEC and I want to be part of that.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

Although there were other organisations, the BDA was always "the" Dentists' own body.

Over the years I believe that many of the younger newer graduates were not so convinced. There have been Young Dentists groups and meetings but BDA now needs to be seen by all the profession as the voice of dentistry for all of them.

Currently the BDA has gained much credence by its help and advice over Covid but the big next step is to get a good contract that actual dentists (performers) will appreciate. I specifically would like to see a fair Performer contract required as part of granting Provider contracts.

The new Indemnity arm of BDA is much welcomed and I hope that it succeeds as again I see it appealing to younger practitioners. I would like to see it expanded to other dental registrants.

I want to see a strong BDA.

Anything else

I am an Archers Addict (Radio 4 - not the drink).

David Bryden

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified in 1975 and following a short service commission in the Army joined General Practice in Louth, Lincolnshire.

I have established a small group of mixed practices and also have been providing 'Urgent Care Dental Services' out-of-hours since 1990 and now cover an area encompassing Hull, Grimsby and Scunthorpe 365 days per year.

I also provide facial aesthetic treatments and have post-graduate qualifications in Laser treatments, Botox and dermal fillers.

I have attended post-graduate courses throughout my career in many aspects of dentistry and have gained mentoring and implant qualifications.

I continue to practice NHS dentistry full or part-time depending on necessity in addition to managing a diverse team of 100 staff including 30 dentists from many different backgrounds.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am standing for election as a PEC Member as I wish to devote time to promoting the profession and would hope to advance the BDA profile with both the Government and public.

During COVID the BDA has sent clear messages to the profession which have been greatly appreciated. I foresee future uncertainty and would like to be part of the voice which shapes the direction of the entire dental service delivery going forward.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As I have been a member of the dental profession for many years I have encountered almost every conceivable staff, management and recruitment problem as well as numerous clinical issues.

I have negotiated and tendered for contracts with the LAT's (and formerly AHA's) and maintained a good co-operative relationship with the NHS administrators.

Having employed numerous overseas dentists, I am conversant with the various requirements to be fulfilled in order for them to be able to practise.

Given my experience and insight I feel I could give valuable input in directing the profession towards the achievement of a sustainable balance regarding patient care, work/life ratios, Business Development for success in both the short and long term in both NHS and Private dental sectors.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I fervently wish to support the profession to deliver clarity, particularly in times of confusion. I wish the profile of the BDA to be valued in the eyes of both the public and Government. Perhaps most important is for dentistry to be given its rightful place in the Health Service and its importance in general health and well being to be widely appreciated.

It is also important for the BDA to further promote, and be seen to promote, diversity and education to the profession and public.

Setting standards for excellence both in clinical care and support would enhance membership enabling the BDA to expand the variety and scope of services available.

Anything else

Despite being successful I understand the needs of the profession particularly supporting a) the emerging divergence of the profession, b) the career development of both UK and overseas graduates, male and female, whatever creed or orientation.

Although towards the end of my career, I am an active participant and keep up to date with the latest developments and embrace change.

I have a keen interest in nutrition and health. I read extensively on subjects of economics, history and science, which I feel may be useful in bringing a balanced view to any discussions.

I am extremely fit and active, have a personal trainer and participate in 2 hours of gym exercise daily.

I have previously been a Local Dental Committee member, given evidence at GDC hearings and currently am vice-chairman for the Parish Council.

I can guarantee to make any necessary time available to the BDA in fulfilling this role.

Anthony Kilcoyne

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I'm Anthony (known as Tony) Kilcoyne, Specialist in Prosthodontics, working in my own Private Dental Practice. Also:

Dental Foundation TPD successfully running an NHS FT scheme for 29 years in Yorkshire.

Former BDA PEC Board member, resigning in June because of serious concerns about BDA governance and gaslighting issues.

Former GDC Council Board member 2003-2013, both elected and appointed positions; Many standards used today came from the major GDC works done then.

Former Examiner at the RCS(Eng) London for both Membership Examinations and Fellowship Assessments.

Former Clinical Teacher in Restorative Dentistry at the LDI Leeds University and the EDI London University.

Lecturer and supporting colleagues for Clinical, Professionalism, Communications, Management & Leadership areas.

Media Spokesperson for various Dentistry topics and issues, over the last 10+ years.

Minority shareholder in a screening company regarding Covid-19.

Wide experiences in Corporate Governance, Business Ethics, multi-million pound budget handling, Strategic thinking, Inclusivity & Diversity.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am standing and asking for everyone's No.1 or No.2 vote for a UK seat please, to help the BDA come out of denial and hold an External independent investigation into the deep concerns about poor Governance and Gaslighting issues, already publicly whistleblown about, see: <https://tinyurl.com/BDAtoxic>.

I fear without a proper external investigation, then these worrying deep seated BDA issues remain and every single candidate wanting to make a difference here, risks being sidelined, misdirected, diminished, oppressed or even conspired against, no matter how valid, worthy or in-tune their ideas may be with the members and wider Profession.

I resigned from PEC in June with grave concerns remaining and since then, have called for an external investigative approach, similar to the recent BMA one (see <https://tinyurl.com/BMAinsight>), which has been greatly resisted and rejected. Without this, the BDA remains cripplingly compromised IMHO.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As you have seen from above, I am not afraid to speak out about serious matters that should be taken with the utmost seriousness, to benefit everyone.

I am a proactive and inclusive communicator and believe we need to excel at this aspect with members, 'yet to be' BDA members, other dental organisations and

stakeholders (a catch-all phrase in civil servant speak) but also the PUBLIC more directly too.

Our lackluster BDA media section needs an overhaul so that WE connect to the public proactively and regularly, not mainly as a reaction to bad news or criticism. Our Profession's perception needs proactively and positively tackling, so we are valued far far better.

The GDC needs some serious help too and I have the experience, skills and insight to help them discover we are not THE problem generally, we are actually the best protection patients can have.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I have been on the PEC most recently and understand the BDA's strengths and serious weaknesses, probably better than most now.

Ensuring the PEC and the EXECUTIVE go from Dysfunctional & Gaslighting, to synergistically functional and inclusive, is my No.1 goal.

Without this fix it simply cannot function correctly, fairly or ethically, let alone instil confidence and passion within our whole Profession, for Dentists and their Teams to serve the public well.

You will read many good ideas, causes and wishes from all the other candidates standing - all worthy people and well intentioned and deserving of support. However they stand LITTLE CHANCE whilst the BDA at the top remains dysfunctional and resists stubbornly, a proper external investigative audit, aimed at diagnosing and fixing itself constructively, without bias or compromise.

All I want (and ever wanted) was a BDA we could all be proud of - help me fix this!

Anything else

At the time of writing I have not received even an apology from the BDA. I have repeatedly requested an EXTERNAL independent investigation for these serious concerns regarding institutionalised gaslighting and any dysfunctional or conspiring groups within it.

This has been refused over a long timespan since June and whilst I and others have more information to give, without the external objectivity necessary, I fear their internal-only approach is compromised and will put people off coming forward to share their experiences too.

The BDA belongs to its members and the whole Profession deserves openness and transparency here - sometimes people are afraid or perceive disadvantages by stating their name publicly, but through your anonymous vote in this election, you can send a loud and CLEAR message they can't ignore.

So please step up, vote for me and do not be taken for granted any more.

Yours Sincerely,
Tony Kilcoyne.

Jason Stokes

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

It has been my privilege to be the elected representative on the BDA Principal Executive Committee for the Eastern region for the last 6 years. I also sit as the Chair of the BDA Health & Science Committee.

I am a GDP working in a small mixed practice in Norwich. I am an NHS performer and provider. I have been a member of Norfolk LDC for 25 years and have worked as the Chair and Deputy Secretary of the Committee. I have worked to support the activities of my BDA branch and section in a variety of roles throughout my career.

I also work part-time for Health Education England. For many years I worked as the Dental Tutor at Ipswich Hospital and also as the Training Programme Director for the Ipswich Foundation Training Scheme. I have recently started working as the Associate Postgraduate Dean for Dental Workforce.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

The dental profession and the whole world is entering a time of tremendous upheaval. The visions and assumptions of the past are becoming a less successful guide to the future. During this period we need a dynamic and proactive representative body more than ever. We also need to come together rather than fragment. We need to be truly “stronger together”.

The problems of the past have not vanished. We still have a dysfunctional relationship with NHS commissioners, a sclerosed and out of touch regulator, and a looming corporate presence.

In the past I have been fortunate enough to have had a very diverse career. This gives me an overview of the dental environment, an appreciation of working at the “coal face” and a vision of a future that will bring more not less challenges to the profession. We need to meet those challenges head on.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As a working GDP and practice owner I don't just understand the challenges of BDA members...I live them. I appreciate the importance of team working and the need for the profession to work together to achieve their shared goals. Working as a PEC member I fully understand the duties and responsibilities of the role.

I realise the importance of probity, good governance, and professionalism. When negotiating with the government and regulator we need to be incisive and single minded. We cannot be distracted by ego or self-promotion.

I come from a poor working-class background. Being the first individual from my family to attend University

has given me a view of the barriers that some groups and communities are forced to struggle against. This has reinforced my personal drive to value diversity and promote equality of opportunity, so talent is not wasted, and obstacles can be removed.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The dental profession is in many ways more diverse than at any other time. But, one aspect of dentistry is far less diverse: opportunity.

The BDA cannot live in the past. The Association needs to represent the wide range of members it serves. It must look to the factors that are reducing the options and choices of dentists. The future for of our profession should be healthy, growing, and dynamic.

The number of practice owners is dwindling, and the growth of corporates is accelerating. The BDA should only accept this new status quo if it benefits and develops the profession. If it stifles opportunity, then the BDA should fight for a different future.

We are now seeing “disruptors” entering the dental sphere. Competition is healthy, but only if we are all abide by the same rules that underpin professionalism. The BDA should fight for a level playing field.

Anything else:

Why do I deserve your support?

In my various roles I am lucky to meet a great number of dental teams. I see directly the pressures placed on established dentists working in a wide range of circumstances and the difficulties new dental graduates are facing.

I am confident that I can represent the profession as a whole and not the views and agenda of myself or an unrepresentative minority. My role on the PEC is to be the voice of the profession.

Jimmev Palahey

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified in 2004 and have worked in primary care as a GDP within the East Midlands.

I have always taken an interest in both my clinical work and tried to develop other aspects of my career alongside this as summarised below:

Clinical: I have achieved my BDS followed by my MJDF and postgraduate certificates in clinical teaching and orthodontics.

Education: I have worked as a Education Supervisor for over 10 years and was appointed as a Training Programme Director for HEE in 2018.

Business: I purchased my first dental practice in 2011 and now run a group of 4 mixed clinics across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire with over 60 members of staff serving over 40,000 patients.

Politics: I have been the chair of the Nottinghamshire Local Dental Committee since 2014, sit on the LPN and am the Discipline Specific Practitioner for the East Midlands at PLDP.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have always played an active role in the leadership and political aspects of dentistry through my work with the LDC, the LPN and with NHSE.

Standing for election on the BDA PEC seems like a natural progression and will allow me to widen my influence to more national issues and challenges facing our profession.

I enjoy liaising with multiple stakeholders and working on projects but keeping a eye on the bigger picture. Gaining this national perspective will help me with my more regional roles and providing help and guidance to my colleagues. It will also allow me to meet new colleagues and gain new insight.

My goal is to give something back to the profession that has served me well and help shape its future direction.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have a wide breadth of experience in many spheres of the dental industry which should help me to traverse the necessary topics presented at PEC and provide useful insight.

Having worked as a GDP, ES, TPD, LDC Chair, Clinical Director and Discipline Specific Practitioner, I am very used to juggling multiple workstreams in multiple organisations. This has provided a taste of the coal face and the ivory tower (on a regional level) which widens my perspective on issues and allows for genuine empathy with various stakeholders.

At 39, I am in a relative mid-point in my career which allows me to understand the concerns of the generation of

colleagues above and below me and help make decisions with a degree of balance. I feel that I am particularly capable of providing a rationale argument in the majority of cases and enjoy this challenge.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The Covid crisis has widened existing cracks in our profession and I am very keen to be involved in mending these divisions.

Creating a BDA for all and providing the reassurance of a strong bark and bite is paramount for confidence in the organisation and I hope to contribute to this narrative. No more associate vs principle, private vs NHS etc.

The future of NHS dental provision is a particularly important subject for me, both from a business perspective and from the position of a wet-fingered GDP. I am very keen that the BDA negotiate a new contract which is fair to my colleagues and my patients, and I hope to be involved in this.

With my educational background, providing real career progression for our younger colleagues and hope for their future is a particular passion of mine.

Anything else

The limited word count has resulted in rather skimmed down version of what started off as more extensive previous responses.

I hope that you will consider me for this position and I look forward to working with you if successful.

Mark-Steven Howe

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified from Birmingham University in 1988. After 4 years in NHS general practice I joined the Royal Air Force Dental Branch serving in the UK and overseas gaining my Diploma in General Dental Practice and Membership in General Dental Surgery. On leaving the RAF in 1997 I have been a full time general dental practitioner running a single handed practice in the Cotswolds. Since then I have completed my Fellowship of the Faculty of General Dental Practice (FFGDP) and a Masters in Evidence-Based Healthcare from the University of Oxford. I am currently undertaking a PhD at Peninsula Dental School in clinical risk. Finally I am an assessor for Fellowship for the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners UK, and an examiner at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. I also regularly contribute to the Dental Elf Blog, Dental Elf Covid-19 blog, and various journals.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have been a member of the British Dental Association since I qualified in 1988 but have watched as the BDA's membership has dwindled over the years. Most recently the challenges faced by the profession from the Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted many of the problems within the infrastructure of the UK dental profession but also within the BDA itself. As a private general practitioner in a rural practice I and fellow colleagues have felt a complete lack of representation by the BDA over this difficult period. Private practice fills many of the gaps in access and treatment that the NHS cannot provide and by virtue of this supports the provision of NHS care by offering the patient alternative treatment options. I would like to stand for election to give those small independent practices that serve their local communities a space at the table along with the NHS and corporate sector.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have been a member of the BDA now for over thirty years and I feel it is vitally important that future policy is rigorously appraised and challenged where it is lacking. This was one of the reasons my recent masters degree was in healthcare and not in dentistry. The profession can learn a lot by looking at how our other allied health professions function and face the challenges of an increasingly complex professional environment whilst acknowledging the specific challenges of dental care. Over the years I have worked in the NHS, military, group practice, hospital, and single handed general practice which has helped me develop a broad portfolio of academic, managerial, HR, and clinical skills. In addition my current doctoral research work at Peninsula Dental School has given me insight into the educational challenges for the current and future generations of dental care professionals.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I would like to see the BDA more openly acknowledge the role of the smaller and more diverse dental practices. Also I would like to see it robustly represent the profession as a whole, and acknowledge the importance of private practice as a vital component of future healthcare systems. We need to restore the confidence within the profession that has been heavily damaged by weak leadership and gratuitous regulation. Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic has shone a stark light on many issues within the profession and this should give us a golden opportunity to reinvent and restore our professional esprit de corps.

Anything else

Only with a strong inclusive membership that feels that its views are heard and represented can the profession speak truth to power and be heard.

Marion English

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Qualified from the London Hospital in 1979. I obtained my FGDP (UK) in 1997. I also obtained my MA in Medical Education from the University of Bedfordshire in 2013.

I have been a GDP in Hertfordshire since 1979.

Having worked as an Associate, I then bought a 4 surgery Practice. Following the sale of the practice I returned to the role of Associate.

I have been an FD trainer on the Eastern Region for four years.

I have been, and continue to be section secretary for North Herts BDA, and also branch secretary for Middlesex and Herts BDA.

I am a past president of the Middlesex and Herts branch of the BDA.

I was involved in the Herts Education Committee, and I have given careers advice to the school system in Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield.

I created and ran a dental nursing course, which I ran successfully for 10 years.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have been a BDA member since I was a student at dental school.

My purpose is to represent the interests of members.

I would hope to impact the profession in supporting members, and influencing the strategy and policy making decisions of the BDA.

Dentistry is facing profound challenges. The very survival of practices is threatened.

The financial impact of Covid-19 has been devastating.

Views and concerns of the profession must be the primary focus.

Over regulation and rising litigation has led to very high stress levels.

However, there may be an opportunity to break from the failed 2006 contract.

We need to assist members in providing and improving services to patients.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I worked in a 4 surgery practices associate, principal and associate for many years.

I believe my business skills, managing staff, producing contracts, and developing practice policies would be useful.

In 2005, I created the Dental Nursing Course at the QEII Postgraduate Centre in Welwyn Garden City, which I ran successfully for 10 years.

In June 2020, I volunteered and was trained as a qualitative

fit tester with a colleague and travelled across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, as part of an LDC initiative, to get GDPs back to work at a low cost.

Visiting many practices, I was able to canvass the views of many colleagues and gained insight into all the problems they faced.

My experience as Branch and section secretary, running a practice, training an F.D. and as an LDC member, including attending PAG as required, gives me a wide breadth of useful experience.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I want the BDA to thrive.

It is important to relieve stress in the profession.

Getting involved in the BDA enables GDPs to meet other dentists, share ideas and problems, and learn from experts.

I believe we need more dentists to join the BDA, to get involved, make a positive difference and ensure their voice is heard.

Having spoken to many dentists whilst fit testing I believe that I can help the BDA to improve their messaging to professional colleagues, and, in particular, the younger dentists, who need encouragement to engage with us.

I am genuinely concerned to want to change things for the better, and to work hard to ensure this happens.

I am not afraid to speak out against the consensus when I feel strongly on an issue, and have the energy enthusiasm and commitment required.

Anything else

My experience as a fit tester has shown me the profound impact of the pandemic, first hand, on practices, and practitioners. We are all facing difficult times, and I want to help.

I have been an LDC member for many years.

In recent times I was Chair of the Herts LDC for 6 years.

I was asked by the Area Team to volunteer to attend PAG when other members were not available.

It has proved an interesting experience. I was glad to assist the GDPs facing complaints, and offer assistance.

I was also invited to the LPN as a GDP.

On behalf of Herts LDC I have attended LDC/ NHSE meetings.

I was nominated and agreed to represent the area on water fluoridation.

I attended the Starting Well Core events in Luton and Stevenage.

I have been involved in the Oral Health Alliance for Hertfordshire and attended several meetings.

Prashant Amin

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I graduated 1995 from Guy's, completing Vocational Training on the Whipps Cross Scheme. I worked in mixed general practices as an associate before setting up a mixed practice squat in 2000 in Middlesex and a private squat in 2015 in Buckinghamshire. I am an Educational Supervisor currently with my 7th Foundation Dentist. I have completed two formal postgraduate courses gaining an MSc (Implant Dentistry) and PGCert (Dental Education), in amongst the numerous CPD courses and seminars covering all aspects of general dentistry to aesthetic medicine. I am passionate about Digital Technology and the advantages it brings to healthcare and have invested in digital workflow CAD/CAM dentistry and implantology, dental lasers and operate a virtually paperless practice. I am the Registered Manager and CQC lead at both practices and lead our Clinical Governance programme. I am married with two children, love travelling, scuba diving and golf but my handicap needs improvement!

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have been a long-standing BDA member and have seen it change and develop over the years. At times in the past, it has been criticised for not doing enough to support the profession, especially at times of great difficulty and change but I feel that there is a balance between representing the profession, working within government frameworks, whilst ensuring viability to continue as our trade union. The present situation with the pandemic, has highlighted how important and instrumental the BDA has been in the negotiations and discussions for policy development in conjunction with other health and government bodies. Now more than ever, our profession needs strong representation, leadership and direction. I believe with my experience as a practice owner and clinician, that I understand what is needed to take the BDA forward in these unprecedented times, whilst looking at the future developments for dentistry in the UK.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

My skills and experience have developed over my 25 years in general practice.

Having been an associate, I understand the implications of being self-employed in multiple practices and it's unique challenges.

As a practice owner, having developed two successful practices, I was directly involved in and gained skills in developing business plans, negotiating contracts, with the then PCT, NHSE, staff, associates and suppliers. I understand the many facets to negotiations but it is important to ensure our business and professional interests

are fully represented, understood and achieved.

I lead the practices' Governance programmes, am the CQC Registered Manager and an Educational Supervisor. I am an executive member of my LDC.

These roles mean I have the necessary skillset and organisational understanding to have an effective role on the PEC to ensure the most appropriate direction and strategy for the BDA is developed as a business and effective professional trade union.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The BDA needs significant increase in membership especially younger colleagues. More members mean that we are truly representative as our professional trade union and therefore carry the weight of the profession behind us. This will be crucial in the next 12 months and beyond, when we will see a different NHS contract being implemented and new ways of working. Stronger together, fully inclusive, to effect appropriate changes.

Another ambition is where COVID-19 has had severe financial and psychological impact on all of us, the BDA is well placed to support practices and practitioners under pressure and those colleagues who are struggling with the 'new normal' way of working. There is potential to further develop specific business support and mental health support for all BDA members in practice, NHS or Private and also extend this to provide support to our amazing staff.

The BDA should provide certainty in an uncertain future.

Anything else

I believe our profession has been and is at a crucial point in the healthcare system. From being completely closed during lockdown, adversely affecting patient care and practices' cashflow and viability, to being back to working in challenging conditions.

The BDA needs to remain at the forefront in the decision making processes going forward and being on the PEC, I want to ensure that it being the representative of our profession at all levels, our needs and concerns are understood, opinions voiced, heard and acted upon.

I believe the need for the BDA Benevolent Fund has not been as important as it is right now to support colleagues in need. I also have involvement in supporting a few charities outside my professional world and see the positive impact that charitable action can have for organisations such as MIND, The London Fire brigade, Age UK and Cancer Research UK amongst others.

Farah Ramjoh

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

With 16 years in the profession I have witnessed huge changes magnified by our current situation. I am the Owner of a small mixed practice in a high needs area in West Hendon, Barnet.

I completed a BSc in Physiology and Neuroscience prior to dentistry at The University of California, San Diego and Queen Mary and Westfield, London.

Having been an Educational Supervisor for the North Central London Group and currently Honorary lecturer at Barts and the Royal London, I have had access to teaching newly qualified graduates. This prompted me to complete a PG Cert in Dental Education after my MJDF and Diploma in Restorative dentistry at the Eastman.

I have been past Chair of Barnet LDC for several years and all these groups have proved vital in maintaining links with other dentists during lockdown.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

There is great anxiety as to what the future of our profession holds both in the short and long term.

Prior to Covid, the low levels of motivation within the workforce, increased litigation, overregulation sandwiched with the now “new normal” and financial burdens pose questions of the profession that many would never have previously considered.

Now more than ever the profession needs to unite and provide strength in numbers. Although I have been a BDA member for 16 years, it is their stoic efforts during the pandemic that have been exemplary. During lockdown they have provided timely and accurate information easy to assimilate in these difficult times.

I would like to contribute to this great organisation knowing that their daily updates and constant support have been a lifeline to many dentists.

A new concern is making sure dental health is not overlooked in the Public Health shake-up.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As a youngish single-handed female practice owner of Guyanese heritage in a high needs mixed practice, I am in a unique position to voice some of the concerns and struggles in these difficult times.

All Practice owners are aware of the ongoing struggles of litigation, compliance and finance that burden practices.

My experience as an Educational Supervisor working with HEE, together with my role as Honorary lecturer at Barts and The Royal London, has broadened my experience of dentistry to not solely based in practice, but towards dentistry as a whole.

As Assistant Treasurer for Barnet LDC for 2 years I have experience of budgets within an organisation and the importance of transparency and accountability.

As past Chair for Barnet LDC I have liaised with several organisations, hosted Symposiums and given speeches and proposed motions at LDC Conference.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

Although the suspension of “units of dental activity” has been welcomed, we require further work from the BDA to replace this failed system that has demoralised a workforce and fuelled an access problem.

Still, many of the changes have little input from the profession. I would call upon the BDA to attempt to close this divide between the profession and those that lead make decisions within dentistry.

The existing contract has led to increased numbers of dentists wanting to leave the NHS. This shortage of dentists UK-wide has led to patients without access to routine dental care.

I would ask the BDA to take steps to reinvigorate NHS dentistry enabling new graduates to stay in primary care and providing recognition and importance of our discipline within the whole of healthcare.

Anything else

I would like to thank the BDA for being an instrument that has enabled the profession to pull together and help each other in ways I have not witnessed before.

From their daily updates, zoom meetings and free webinars, other dentists have been inspired to form groups on social media. From these new platforms, many barriers of age, gender and dental experience has been broken down. Instead, I have witnessed dentists pulling together on matters from sourcing PPE and screens, to how to access a fogging machines, and tips on resilience.

A new age of dentistry is dawning.

Aadam Zia

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

My name is Aadam Zia, I'm a GDP practicing in Warwickshire and originally from Birmingham. I graduated from the University of Glasgow 2017 and have been operating in general practice since. I began my career in the Scottish Highlands, Inverness. Subsequently I moved back down South and have worked in multiple mixed practices around the West Midlands. I've experienced both corporate and independent practices. I currently enjoy practicing all aspects of dentistry, progressing my skillset and working as a team to maintain a high standard of care.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I feel there are many voices in dentistry that remain unheard and do not always have a platform to voice their concerns. I am committed to being part of an organisation that brings these opinions to light. Also the opportunity to engage further with my profession and colleagues is something that i am passionate about. I want to have a positive impact on the future of dentistry, which at this time remains unclear.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I am organised, punctual and thorough, so I plan to be productive and proactive in discussions regarding the BDA at committee meetings. Having worked around different parts of the UK, I have a good understanding of the landscape of the profession. I've been able to understand a variety of perspectives from a diverse group of dentists. This has developed my levels of communication, which is paramount to being an effective organisation.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

My hopes for the BDA are to have greater reach, a stronger network of proactive dentists and a louder voice at a time where we need to maintain a strong position in uncertain times.

Anything else

I would like to thank the BDA for this opportunity.

Judith Husband

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Since qualifying from Liverpool Dental School in 1997 I have enjoyed working in all sectors of clinical dentistry in England. Undertaking competitive NHS tendering for PDS contracts resulted in me successfully managing and working in prison dental care as a provider of services to a number of different prisons.

I am now an associate dentist in a mixed private/ NHS general practice near to my home in rural Northamptonshire. Serving my local community has proven incredibly rewarding - caring for my patients under both private and NHS arrangements.

To balance my clinical commitments, I formed my consultancy company three years ago. This has provided an opportunity to work with a wide range of companies and individuals, providing insights into our profession and sector. It builds on my experience, and interest, in the opportunities and challenges for the delivery and funding of sustainable dental care.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

Throughout my career, including as an undergraduate, active involvement in our representational structures has been a key tenet of my professional life. It is my belief that to shape our profession we must be involved and proactive. One of the most powerful drivers for change should be our association; our union and our voice.

The BDA needs to be the voice for all members of the profession. Although recognised in the existing PEC strategy, diversity and engagement has not been successfully addressed. Our profession is evolving, and with increasing numbers of us choosing to be associates our governance and representational structures must address our very real differences (indeed tensions at times), with practice owners.

The PEC decides and drives the strategic direction of the BDA and identifies priorities; it is essential non-practice owners have a strong and confident voice when policy is formed and decisions made.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

All teams need a balance of experience and fresh perspectives. With four years away from BDA committees and the "London bubble", I possess a unique combination of in-depth, robust knowledge of BDA governance structures coupled with a fresh, independent approach.

Business success is essential to support member services, fund representation and lobbying activity and enable us to use, where necessary, litigation. I believe my recent experience and acumen developed through growing my

own service-related business will contribute to ensuring the financial success of the BDA.

A key role of the PEC is to challenge the senior management team, and each other. This spirit of open, professional challenge is a culture I would hope to share and encourage.

Formal qualifications from the Institute of Directors and experience with similar mutual organisations enable me to bring examples of best practice, as well as being, when needed, a critical friend.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

We are facing a time of rapid change across the four nations, especially in NHS contracting. The current situation has, on occasion, highlighted the inequality with regard to contracting in particular. The need for fairness and transparency has never been greater and I see new, pro-active PEC members as being at the heart of dealing with these failings.

The dental profession is evolving and it is essential the BDA supports our changing profession to ensure its ongoing relevance. More of us are choosing to be associates, and there are a growing number of women and younger dentists that must not be left disenfranchised by the BDA.

The BDA must be a voice for all, with the diversity of the PEC reflecting the diversity of the membership. Inclusivity and engagement must become more than policy buzz-words. Providing they become a primary focus of the BDA will be my priority if elected.

Anything else

"Openness", "transparency" and, in the current climate, "challenge" are what all organisations require if they are to maintain their relevance.

I believe that for too long the BDA has lacked balance in its policies and decisions made with regard to the various diverse groups it looks to represent. We deserve an organisation that is a voice for ALL members, no matter their gender, work-pattern or age. I am the person to provide that voice.

In this spirit of openness, I declare my interests in dental organisations with whom I am currently involved -

Member of Wesleyan Members Advisory Board

Member of Dental Protection Board

Trustee of Oral & Dental Research Trust

Judith Husband Consultancy Limited

Elected member of Northamptonshire Local Dental Committee

Elected member of LDC Conference Agenda Committee

Dentistry Online Editorial Board

Saju Simon Manjooran

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I have been practicing dentistry for 36 years since 1984. I have worked in Primary care (General dental practice for 10 years - NHS General Dental practice as well as in Private dental practice as an associate dentist), community Dental care services (2 - years - Dental officer and Senior Dental officer), Secondary care and Tertiary care in Hospital jobs (15 years - SHO, Registrar, Staff Grade and speciality Doctor in OS & OMFS), Faculty Dental Hospital jobs (7 years).

I completed my BDS (1984), MDS (1989), NBDECerti(USA) (1996), FFDRCS (1996), FDSRCS (1997), LLB (U. London) 2016.

I was a LDC committee member 2018- 2020 (London), presently Committee Board member in ADI, UK (2019-2021). Also selected as SAS Doctors Tutor (under Oxford HEE) in the hospital (FHFT) where I am working now.

Every year I volunteer in my church for the Shelter project charity, to help the homeless people during the winter time.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

With many years of my dental professional and life experience by working in Primary care jobs (NHS as well as Private Dental practices), Community Dental care Services jobs, Secondary and Tertiary care Hospital jobs and Faculty Dental School Oral Surgery jobs has helped to me to understand the challenges we face as a dental professionals in our jobs by my professional and personal experiences in different jobs.

These experiences of mine, I believe will help me to contribute immensely to BDA as PEC member and as part of the team for the efficient functioning of BDA for its members in these present challenging times of dental profession in UK.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I believe my leadership skills along with my Legal professional background will be valuable skills I will bring to the committee, if get elected.

Also a personal level note, while I was working as an associate dentist few years ago in a Multi-Corporate dental practice company Ltd in UK, I was subjected to exploitation and unfair discriminatory treatment. So I raised my concerns as NHS whistle blower, but by their financial strength and with their legal team, they took the case to GDC and I was suspended by GDC for 9 months. I had to represent myself with out a legal team against barristers and solicitors and I lost the case, unfairly in GDC. That made me join for LLB and completed it in 2016.

These heart breaking personal level experiences of mine, I believe will give uniqueness in my role as PEC member, if I get elected.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

These are challenging times as a dental professional in UK, I believe BDA has got very important role to play for its members in supporting them in these difficult times.

If I get elected as PEC member, I am committed to work efficiently as best as I can with in my abilities in the best interest of all BDA members with absolute honesty, integrity with accountability and transparency.

Anything else

Nil

Sumair Khan

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I have been a primary care general dental practitioner, in England for over 20-years.

I am the senior partner and NHS Contract Provider- Performer, for 3 (mixed NHS and Private) dental practices; in London, Oxford and Essex.

Following my BDS (1996) and MFDS RCPSG (1999) I completed an MSc in Implant Dentistry from Warwick University 2005-2008; and a Diploma in Restorative Dental Practice from UCL Eastman Dental Institute 2012 - 2015.

Considerable experience as a VT/ DFT Trainer (2002-2014); as a Training Programme Director (2010-2014); as a Patch Associate Dean (2014-18); and also interim Associate Dean for DFT across HEE London & KSS Nov 2016 - Jan 2018.

I am currently the TPD for the Oxford scheme in HEE Thames Valley & Wessex.

I also provide GDP Appraisals and manage Dental Registrants in Difficulty, and completed a PG Certificate in Leadership Coaching & Mentoring in 2019.

I love what I do and do what I love.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

Since I moved to HEE Thames Valley & Wessex in January 2018, I have realised the importance, and effectiveness, of empathetic educational and pastoral support for primary care GDPs and colleagues in difficulty within the dental team.

My recent training in Leadership Coaching & Mentoring, enabled me to explore the problems and challenges being faced by dentists today, and to evaluate the different methods being implemented by our leadership teams to resolve them.

Morale within the profession was low before the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic and lockdown, exposed weaknesses and toxic cultures within the leadership of our regulatory, educational and commissioning institutions, and within local committees and networks.

I would like the BDA PEC to support a culture change within the profession, encouraging colleagues to support each other, with respect and empathy.

For the BDA to develop a reputation of inclusiveness and providing effective advice and supporting all members, from all backgrounds.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have been a member of the BDA since I qualified in 1996, and strongly believe that all dentists should be part of a union or representative association.

I have benefitted from many years of professional advice from the BDA, managing disputes within my practice teams. I was subject of a complaint from a colleague and a disciplinary hearing, a few years ago.

The BDA employment expert was incredibly supportive, ensured that my responses were measured, and the outcome was fair.

My extensive experience of supporting GDPs, through performance reviews and appraisals, has given me a good understanding of how the BDA can develop a culture of empathetic coaching and mentoring support, within the profession.

I have considerable experience of sitting on National Advisory Groups for DFT and understand the importance of regional variation, and ensuring that the specific needs of regional groups are considered when planning national policy.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I would ideally like the reputation and membership numbers of the BDA to improve, so they represent the view point of the majority of dentists in the UK.

Membership of the BDA should be as meaningful and important to all dental colleagues, no matter what stage of their career, and the benefit of having a dentists "trade union" should be obvious and tangible.

I would like all GDPs in the UK to see the BDA as a supportive and empathetic institution that can offer them resources, advice and support, in addition to education and training, on all aspects of their professional life, throughout their entire career.

Finally, the BDA should challenge the issues of racial or religious discrimination within the profession, and become a safe place for dentists to call-out inadequate leadership, bullying, harassment, conflicts-of-interest and nepotism by self-serving leaders, without any fear of reprisal or victimisation.

Kick It Out

Anything else

Dentistry is currently facing unprecedented change and it is essential that dentists across the UK, come together and that everyone has their opinion heard and considered.

As a profession, we have been over-regulated and there are stark inequalities in the distribution of wealth/ contracts and career opportunities within the profession, and in different regions of the UK.

Working as a wet-fingered dentist providing both NHS and private treatment, gives me credibility with my GDP peers, including my partners, associates, DFT trainers, foundation dentists and my implant-dentistry trainees.

I aim to be an open and honest person, and my professional reputation and integrity are very important to me. I thoroughly enjoy my current leadership and educational roles.

I feel that a culture of servant-leadership, inclusiveness, empathy, coaching and mentoring is missing from the profession today.

I would relish the opportunity to "do my bit" for the professional trade union of dentists.

Charles Stephanakis

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I have been a totally private general dental practitioner for 31 years and in that time owned 3 practices including my current one in the centre of Cardiff. I was also involved in trying to set up a dental corporate in the late 90's. I have never been involved in any part of the BDA organisation or committees but have always been a member from my student days. In recent times with the COVID-19 crisis, I, like many independent dentists in Wales saw there to a be total lack of support for private dental practitioners. From not only the Welsh and British Government's but also the BDA, all of whom seemed only concerned with the plight of NHS dentists. As part of a private group I have campaigned to be heard and private dentists in Wales now have a voice and are listened to by both HIW and the Government.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

The COVID-19 crisis confirmed to me what I had felt about the current BDA. That it was totally focused on NHS dentistry and supporting members who worked within that structure. It appears to me and many dentists I have spoken to that it is time for the BDA to acknowledge the major part private dentistry plays not only in the dental health of the UK but also in supporting the NHS by taking away much financial pressures it would otherwise be under. I want to change this, give private dentistry a proper voice within the BDA, help steer it away from an NHS focused association, especially when probably more than 50% of us provide private work. The BDA needs to be more open in its dealings with government etc. During COVID the politicians/press we spoke to heard from the BDA only after we had brought things to their attention!

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I am not tainted by coming up through the ranks of the BDA committees and so will have a fresh approach to the reforms that surely the BDA needs. I can listen and realise that this is not an overnight job or that I am always right or have all the answers. But I passionately believe the changes that are required can only be achieved by someone willing to be different and not be afraid of the resistance to change that appears to be firmly entrenched within the BDA. Not having an NHS agenda will enable a more balanced approach to the future and give that voice to private BDA members that appears to be missing when talking to Government, the GDC and all other dental health regulators. The establishment needs to change and I can be the mouthpiece of people wanting that change.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

For it to reform and truly represent all the dentists of the UK, it does not at the present time.

To stop the drain of members from the association due to so many feeling not represented or that those who are representing them appear ineffectual.

For the BDA to be a more open book that is accountable and acknowledges both its success' and failures.

For the BDA to be more of a force when dealing with Government etc.... To start to not to take no for an answer. If COVID has taught us anything it must be that those in power aren't always right. Why can't we shout a bit more when we know they are wrong?

Anything else

If the BDA doesn't change it will cease to be seen as the UK dentists' representative and others will take over its position.

We need to look at what other independent groups have done and achieved. Learn from them and work with them.

Now is the time to acknowledge that the BDA has let many of its members down.

I could just moan about the current state of the BDA or just walk away from an organisation I have been part of all my professional life. But I have decided to step up to the be the change I want to see. I hope I will be given the opportunity.

Satnam Moonga

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Primarily a GDP, I have been an associate and Principal GDP for most of my practicing career.

Current FD Trainer for over 15 years.

Dental Practice Advisor (DPA) for over 5 years with the PCT.

Past Periodontology tutor at Kings College School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Clinical member of the GDC Fitness to Practice Panel for 10 years. Sitting on GDC fitness to practice cases I provided an insight into the working life and stresses of a GDP I added balance to cases whilst not excusing occasional bad practice.

LPN Chair for Thames Valley. Now Clinical member of LDN Thames Valley.

LDC Secretary Buckinghamshire.

PASS group member organising pastoral care for dentists in difficulty.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

There is a disconnect between the dental teams in practice, and the NHS/CDO/CQC which have such a profound affect on our practising lives.

More dentists are moving away from organisations like the BDA and LDC's as they have little faith that enough is being done.

As a member of the PEC I want to actively represent dental teams who are unhappy with how we are treated.

Many people feel the BDA does not represent us; I will represent wet fingered dentists. We are logical, educated professionals who are being dictated to with disdain, through media rather than individually with respect, and we need to change this.

We have high standards we are expected to uphold, and we should continue to uphold the high standards we have always maintained...I want others to be held accountable, and the BDA needs to express the frustration felt by the dental profession.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As a DPA I stopped the PCT refusing to honour the 2% carry forward of UDA's overperformed, and represented dentists interest as a lone voice.

In my role as LPN Chair, I ensured that clawback money was redistributed as extra UDA's and dental money was invested back into dentistry. This required leadership, and I do not shy away from tough conversations.

Representing dentists as LDC secretary ensured that single handed practices are treated the same as corporates, and we've stopped NHSE forcing small

practices to open at weekends.

I have also mentored young dentists in difficulty through my LDC role, as well as supported past FD's to progress to practice ownership.

I am passionate and believe strongly that dental teams are not treated with the respect we deserve, with little consideration that we have businesses and staff to manage. I am not afraid to make our voices heard.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The BDA must be an organisation people want to join, worth both their time and money, representing us most where it really matters; with the CDO/CQC and NHS.

The direction of the BDA should not be the remit of a few individuals but an overall representation of what the membership want. Rather than a paternalistic organisation which 'feels it knows best' it should be a mouthpiece for the changing population of dentists we have, with the experience of the PEC enhancing the process not dictating it.

I would liaise with other dental organisations inclusive of all types of NHS, Mixed and Private practice, to ensure the BDA uses its seat at the table to represent us all with regulatory bodies who appear to offer much guidance yet little evidence base. I also want the BDA to support colleagues' mental health through this difficult time, acting pastorally too.

Anything else

The BDA has just recently started to communicate more effectively with members.. this needs to continue and be more regular. This may be for information, guidance, and more importantly for support. We need to own the BDA and feel it is worthwhile.

The BDA needs to acknowledge the anger in our professional community. There is a time and place for diplomacy which it does very well. However, there needs to be the more aggressive side to the BDA to make sure we are not side-lined as has been done throughout the Covid crisis.

The BDA needs to be transparent and honest, admit mistakes and failures, and look for a steer from us, it's members, to change and keep it's finger on the pulse of clinical dentistry.

It needs to offer hope for the crisis FD's face in training, and vision for younger dentists embarking upon their careers through inclusion.

Mark Bishop

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

After graduating in dentistry and a short period in clinical work I made a full time commitment to basic sciences. I taught Anatomy and Oral Biology and I did scientific research mostly on pulp and dentine in the UK and in North America (1974-2000). In 1998 I started a training in Endodontics and in 2002 I set up a private referral practice in Endodontics in Guildford. In my practice I experienced the invasion of the CQC and the deterioration of the GDC into a rogue organisation. I witnessed the reaction of the profession to these incursions. Both private practitioners and NHS dentists were struggling and continue to do so. These problems led me to question how the all important patient-dentist relationship was surviving the onslaught. I published an essay 'The patient-dentist relationship and the future of dentistry' (BDJ 225:1057-1062, 2018). The essay included some tentative proposals for change.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

The PEC determines the strategy and direction of the BDA both as a trade union and as a business. The BDA provides education, advice, indemnity insurance and other resources which are popular with the members and successful as a business. The BDA exists for its members who are all dentists.

I was elected to the PEC in August 2019 to contribute to the BDA as a trade union. My concern was the need for reform of the GDC which remains a rogue organisation wreaking havoc with dentists' lives. This and the continuing struggle with NHS dentistry and corporate management need definitive action that will bring about reform. The restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic have largely demobilised dentistry. Is it not time to ease the restrictions and respect individual dentists' abilities to make their own decisions? I wish to be involved in the front line to bring about such reforms.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

My experience of clinical work and the threats to its adequate performance have made me recognise the central importance of the patient-dentist relationship in the members' working lives.

Working on the PEC for a year has allowed me to learn how this board functions. With the recent election of three new officers for the PEC, I see an opportunity to dig deeper and set some ambitious goals for its members. My experience in scientific research has given me the ability to see through arguments that fail to address the problems. I am willing to point out the problems repeatedly and relentlessly and to suggest means for reform. My challenge is to persuade some of my friends on the PEC that reform is needed and

achievable. The will to succeed will be needed in order to improve the patient-dentist relationship no matter what circumstances dentists work in.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The BDA is well set up to provide education, advice, indemnity insurance and other resources and I would like it to continue to perform well in these areas.

My ambition for the BDA is for it to be instrumental in enabling the ability of members and all dentists to perform dentistry of quality without inhibition. This will be achieved by tackling "head on" the main problems identified by the members in a survey i.e. the GDC, the NHS in practice and the influence of corporations running dentistry. The BDA must also debate the wisdom of the heavy restrictions imposed on the profession by the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like to help create a feeling that BDA membership is a must for all dentists. I believe that this will come about once the profession can see that we are taking meaningful action to solve the problems they have identified.

Anything else

At the beginning of 2020 dentists were beset by problems. The Covid-19 pandemic made things worse and dentistry was effectively shut down. The oral and dental health of the nation suffered enormously while the profession was largely demobilised. While the dental profession has had some influence in determining how to proceed it has not been possible to practise routine dentistry. A question arises as to who are the most appropriate people to make decisions about the practice of dentistry. Those who know about dentistry are the dental surgeons, not the government. I believe we need to establish a greater sense of respect for our own highly skilled profession so that we can assert a stronger influence on the health of the nation. Please vote for me and I will endeavour to help make the practice of dentistry an experience of true quality for both the patient and the dentist.

Hesham Emam

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified as a dentist in 1998. For the last 14 years I have been based in South Wales, as a Specialty Doctor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Morriston Hospital, Swansea and as an associate dentist in Dew Street Dental Practice, Haverfordwest. Since qualification, I have earned the Membership of Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and a PG Diploma in Medical Education from Cardiff University. I am also a final year student, studying for an MSc in Dental Implantology from Cardiff University. I have been a member of the BDA since 2002, a BMA local negotiating committee member since 2014. I sit on FDSRCSEng Board as an invited member and SAS Representative. Main area of interest is Oral Surgery and Implantology.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am standing for election as a PEC member to represent my colleagues and fellow members of the BDA in Wales at the forefront of the association I have been a member of for more than 18 years. It is a great opportunity to bring my knowledge, skills and experience in union duties to the decision making committee of the BDA and join the team of active and enthusiastic dental professionals representing our profession, and looking after the rights, needs and professional aspirations of dentists and DCPs all over the UK. During these difficult times for dentistry, when there is a genuine need for collaborative efforts to revive the livelihoods of many dental services and personnel, I find myself obliged to be proactive and reach out to those in need of help, by fighting their corner and pushing for policies and actions which will make a real difference to them.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have practiced dentistry in both primary (NHS and Private) and secondary care for 18 years. I have been an SAS grade dentist in OMFS for 15 years. I have always been academically active, earning 3 PG dental degrees and another in medical education. I have been a member of an active BMA local negotiating committee, an SAS representative on RCSEng SAS forum and FDS Board for more than 6 years. Also recently I was invited to sit on the SAS committee of the AoMRC and on the BDA CCHDS. I have attended many high profile meetings, conferences and training seminars, through which I became skilled in defending rights, pushing policies and negotiating terms and conditions that would meet the needs and aspirations of my fellow colleagues. If elected, I will put all this wide skill mix and long experience at the disposal of the BDA through its PEC.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I am aware that the BDA is about to set up its strategic plan for the next three years and I have high hopes that this plan will take into consideration the current huge challenges facing the profession and threatening its very existence, whether political, economical, ethical, theoretical, environmental, or logistical. In a fast and ever changing world, the BDA needs to stay as the fortress defending the rights of dental professionals, take serious steps to raise its profile to meet the needs of its members, up its game and radically update its products, to catch up with technological advances, specially in the field of continued professional development for members, an area where I have special interest. There needs to be a stronger representation and better support for the members through efficient legal teams and political lobbyists, supported by a robust and stable financial status within the structure of BDA.

Anything else

If elected, I will dedicate my time, efforts and experience to push for a modern, responsible and balanced agenda, that looks after the urgent as well as the long term needs of the profession, maintaining the traditions of the BDA but expanding its scope of practice and sharpening its image as a true advocate and representative of able and skilled dental teams. I will also use my position as a representative on other influential dental and medical bodies to add to and improve the existing networking and collaborative mechanisms within the PEC and other BDA structures, to strengthen the collective voice of the profession. Representing both primary and secondary care sectors, I will endeavour to raise the profile of the BDA in both arenas and invite more of my colleagues to join its membership, giving it a stronger and more valid presence when representing our profession.

Abimbola Giwa

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I graduated from dental school in Lagos, Nigeria and I have over 26 years post qualification experience including a postgraduate specialisation in paediatric dentistry. Currently, I am a clinical senior lecturer in paediatric dentistry at Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry/Queen Mary University of London where I have been for the past 12 years. As a clinical academic at QMUL, I have been involved in delivering dental education and training of the highest quality to undergraduate and postgraduate students. My role involves contributing to educational policy, curriculum planning and development as well as management of assessment processes. I am privileged to be part of the delivery of good quality, robust education to future dentists and leaders in the profession. I am passionate about my role as an educator and absolutely committed to ensuring high standards and excellence in dental education.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am passionate about excellence in dentistry and indeed how it is perceived by the wider society. I bring a strong sense of purpose and responsibility including a voice for dental academia, a constituency underrepresented at the PEC. I want to help shape the BDA's future agenda and strategic direction with a view to delivering the results members want. The BDA needs to be accessible to all dentists, an association they want to belong and become a body speaking for all. Global events have ensured that we can no longer do 'business' as usual. Meaningful change is required for us to provide the kind of leadership and representation needed to drive the BDA into a new era, sensitive and responsive to new ways of working.

I have a good appreciation of factors that promote tensions and divisions and want to contribute to efforts which minimise, prevent and eradicate them.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have a lot to offer the BDA and PEC in the current socio-political climate. As a skilled educator, one is constantly looking for innovative ways of delivering dental training. Always trying to maximize advances in technology as it applies to dentistry, I have a special interest in dental education research and possess a master's degree in clinical education.

Being an experienced clinical academic and having trained a generation of dentists who aspire to take over leadership of the BDA and similar organizations in the future, I will bring insight into the thoughts and hopes for our profession from the students, teachers and clinicians point of view, as we work to move our profession in the desired direction. A place where platforms for the practice of dentistry, in a rapidly changing socio-political environment are relevant to all stakeholders and also sustainable.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I would like to see a BDA that recognises, respects and values diversity at all levels and all areas of its activities. At the moment there just isn't enough diversity represented in the BDA! We must promote and become used to the representation of all groups and champion diversity in the BDA, reflective of the dental profession. Whilst looking at promotional media used to publicise the BDA recently, I observed the lack of diversity representation. This is cause for reflection for us all! Every member of the BDA and indeed the entire dental profession should be able to identify with activities and representations within the organization, "a space for everyone". This is an area I want to see the BDA make and achieve significant progress in. The BDA must demonstrate and purposefully celebrate its diversity to command the necessary regard and esteem from its members and the wider profession.

Anything else

As a clinical academic dentist, I am absolutely committed to ensuring high standards in dental education and training that will advance the profession within the UK. I am also an excellent organiser with the ability to manage change and produce excellent results even under pressure.

I examine at the National Examining Board of Dental Nurses diploma examinations and the Royal College of Surgeons of England Licentiate in Dental Surgery examinations, where I also serve on the core assessment group.

I would like to contribute to a vision of promoting diversity and inclusivity within the BDA and the community at large. I understand the challenges around underrepresentation, marginalisation and prejudice, and I know how to help eradicate them. Helping the BDA become a lobby/professional group that truly reflects what it says and what it believes in. Change is necessary, change is here, let us act now for ourselves and posterity.

Tony Aneiros Caamano

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I am a Principal Dentist based in Essex in partnership owning two private practices: Start Smiling, Ingatestone and Grange Green Dental Practice, Billericay. I qualified in 2004 from QMUL with Honours and represented my college at the Gold Medal Award UL. I completed VT in the Eastern Deanery and worked in a mixed Practice from 2004 -2014. I thoroughly enjoyed working in a VT practice and was involved with helping VTs establish themselves in general practice. I completed the Postgraduate Certificate in Dental Education at Bedfordshire University and became a joint VT equivalence trainer and then FD Trainer in the Eastern Deanery. I completed MJDF at the RCS of England and in 2016 I completed a Masters Degree in Implant Dentistry at Bristol University with Merit. Since 2014 I work solely in General Private Practice and mentor associate dentists at our practices, with particular interest in implant and occlusion cases.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have always been a supporter of the BDA, been appreciative of the educational and support facilities it has provided me and been inspired by articles in the BDJ and courses held by the BDA. I am incredibly proud to be a member of our profession and have enjoyed my time educating fellow dentists and in term have learned a great deal in this process. I would like to be part of a team bring a unification of the dental professionals and helping to support others as I have been in the past. I have 16 years of experience now in dentistry and still enjoy my career and see many positives ahead. I feel that there is a lot of anxiety and stress being felt amongst members of the profession and there has been a loss of camaraderie. I would like to help the BDA be relevant for all dentists.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

Having completed training for VT/ FT and Dental Education I have developed my skills of listening, teaching and being unbiased with feedback and presenting points of view from alternative perspectives. This has helped to allow collaborative communication between myself and patients/ fellow professionals. I have experience in training dentists as well as dental assistants and hygienists so I am aware of the needs of various members of the profession. Having owned and run practices for over 6 years I am aware of the administrative, compliance and financial sides of dental business and practice. I understand the NHS contract obligations and the needs of dentists to obtain targets and how this effects upon their work and day to day operations. I hope that this cumulative experience and interaction will give my a good insight and foresight for how strategies and policies of the BDA will impact the profession.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

We have a good local BDA network in Essex. It is my first place for CPD, looking for advice and dental socialising where fellow colleagues can meet and 'debrief' each other on how things are going. I would like to see the BDA have this similar feeling represented nationally and be a place where dentists, nurses, hygienists and therapists look to for guidance and support. I would like the BDA to be seen as having the rights and well- being of the dental profession as its primary goal/ obligation and giving the dental profession and patients backing in politic and legal rulings. It would be good to see the BDA recognised a strong voice/ union for the dental profession and obtain an increase in members through a greater confidence in its aims/ goals.

Anything else

I have a great enthusiasm for developing my dental skills and continue to take courses/ CPD every year. Through being a General Dental Practitioner I still have regular experience in all aspects/ fields of dental care. I think this allows me to relate to multiple dental fields. As well as the professional side I have a great interest and pleasure from social meetings, sports (especially golf) and bringing dentists together for events (I was the British Dental Association Golf Society Captain 2017-2018-not related to BDA from Wimpole Street) I feel my communication skills come across as honest and measured and give me the ability to easily mix with different professional and non-professional colleagues and patients. I am open to education and learning in areas outside of dentistry to develop myself and help others around me.

Hannah Woolnough

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I am an associate dentist working in general practice. My clinical practice has been diverse, with jobs in community dental services, the prison service and out of hours, as well as both NHS and private practice.

In addition to my clinical roles, I have spent the last 10 years working in education and mentoring, initially as a DFT trainer, before going on to become a Training Programme Director and Dental Workforce Support Advisor.

I am Chair of the Suffolk LDC, Suffolk section of the BDA, and treasurer of both the section and the Eastern Counties Branch. I am also chair of the BDA's English Country Council and chaired the UK Council in 2019. I sit on the BDA Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

The profession is changing. We need to ensure the leadership of the BDA can adapt to these changing times and be truly representative of its members. I am a passionate supporter of the BDA, but I feel it can do more with the right leadership and management at the top. There is enormous evidence that the more diverse the board, the more successful it is and when I look at the current situation, I can see why it is struggling.

The BDA has its heart in the right place and the potential to be truly great, but I believe it needs shaking up at the top, and I think I am the person to do that.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

My many years of work at both local and national level in the BDA has allowed me to understand the role of PEC members. I have attended PEC and spend much time working alongside individuals who hold these positions. My educational experience and knowledge of HEE, NHSE and the BDA would permit me to make informed and valuable contribution from the word go. I am not delusional about the reach of the job, I make no promises about ridiculous, pie in the sky reforms that I know that neither I nor the BDA can pull out of a hat through blind determination alone.

HEE has diminished the educational provision in our local centres, NHSE cuts yet closer to the bone and the GDC reforms continue to move at a snail's pace. Now is the time we need an organisation that fights for our rights for all sectors of our profession.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The BDA has shown itself over the recent pandemic situation to be of huge value to the profession. The dedication of the team, and the individuals who volunteer themselves so readily to help, is undeniable. Clear leadership is lacking from our regulators and the BDA has

never needed to be as strong in this role as it is now.

I would like to see an organisation that is as responsive to the changing demographic of the profession as it has been to the challenges of Covid-19. An organisation which champions those who have no power and allows for doors to be opened where previously they have appeared to be closed. The work of Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee is important, but the change must come from the top. I would like to see a PEC who inspire every individual in the profession to get involved, and can benefit all.

Anything else

Fundamentally I am standing because I detest injustice, discrimination and the degradation of the profession, and I am a firm believer in the BDA and what it stands for. Rather than complain about things that annoy me in the pub, I will use this position to support the profession and advocate for those who cannot do so for themselves.

I am no wallflower and those who have met me will know that I will not shy away from calling out behaviour that I disagree with. I will not tolerate discrimination in any form. This is an opportunity to utilise the positive power that already exists within the BDA, and push it forward to become the organisation every member of the profession needs for the future.

Philip Lewis

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I've been a qualified dental practitioner for more than 40 years. During that time I've practiced as an associate and principal in NHS and private practices as well as taking a clinical assistantship in the hospital service.

Throughout my career I've taken a keen interest in professional development, joining many dental societies as well as serving on a number of committees and boards. I continue to write regularly for the dental press, lecture and participate in webinars.

I currently run a general dental practice on the Isle of Wight with the help of a dental therapist. I was recently elected President of the Mouth Cancer Foundation and am helping to expand its educational services both for patients and the profession.

I remain very active within dentistry and am enthusiastic about the future of the profession.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have been a BDA member since qualification and have always believed it is vital that all areas of the profession are represented by a strong and influential association. I have served on various other BDA committees and have seen the hard work and depth of commitment from fellow members in improving conditions and offering support to all colleagues. I would now like to be part of the policy making team to continue taking the profession forward.

I haven't always agreed with everything the BDA has done and will continue to put my views forward if I feel that would be helpful. As a democracy all views must be considered but I believe the essential thing is to reach consensus to be able to support colleagues and the public we serve.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I've served the BDA at Section and Branch level in the roles of section member, secretary and chairperson and branch representative as well as media spokesperson. I've acted as LDC treasurer, started the Somerset Independent Group, supported my wife who started the Dental Support Group at a time when there was little contact among team members, served on the boards of several dental societies and magazines, written articles and given lectures.

Outside of dentistry I've acted as chairperson of an arts society, vice-chairman of a regional theatre, chairperson of a chamber of commerce and school governor. I'm media-trained and have appeared on radio and TV. My experience of committee work is quite extensive and my communication skills will help me make a real contribution to the work and promotion of the BDA.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

To continue supporting colleagues and by enhancing professional life improve the services we offer to the public.

To listen to the views of all colleagues and take these viewpoints into consideration when formulating policies.

To always support colleagues but especially during these difficult times when many dentists are facing both financial and emotional challenges trying to deal with a formerly unknown situation.

For the BDA to promote itself as a truly inclusive association recognised by everybody to have the interests of its members at heart.

For the BDA to be known as the 'go to' place for all members and increase its membership by stressing the value of belonging.

To continue to actively engage in education and expand these services wherever possible.

To make the BDA a truly popular association and make sure all members find its representatives approachable and helpful.

Anything else

These are exciting times from which the profession will emerge stronger, more efficient and more successful.

It may not seem like that right now but the pandemic will not last forever and the reflection and changes we've had to make in all areas of our practice will empower us to face the future with confidence.

We need support.

We need guidance.

The BDA, as our professional organisation and trade union has the ability to represent us at all levels and powerfully promote our case. I want to be part of that. I want to help dentistry flourish through the current crisis and beyond.

I've always held a passionate interest in the development of the profession. Being on the Board would allow me to participate in improving the future of all colleagues and represent everybody's views.

It would be a privilege to serve.

Lauren Harrhy

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified from Cardiff 2009. I am married with three young children.

Over the years I held several associate posts around South Wales and was proud when I bought my mixed practice, and rebranded it as Sparkle Dental Centre, in 2017. Sparkle is the lead practice of our local dental cluster and is also involved in the Welsh GDS contract reform initiative.

This year I was appointed as a Foundation Trainer on the East Wales scheme. I have always wanted to give a new dentist a supportive start.

I have spoken on Mental health and equality at conferences, including the BDA President's Mental Health Day, and lectured at the Invisalign Growth Summit.

This year I have also taken an associate role twice a month. It's interesting to see both sides of the fence!

I've made several TV and radio appearances for the BDA and been quoted in the national press.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have shown that, through the use of social media, I have been able to bring dental professionals together to help support each other and that's what I envisage as the future for the BDA. To unite the dental profession and create a stronger union.

I wish to be an ambassador for the profession and encourage all members to stand up for what is right and fair. I would also like to influence decisions about the organisation at board level, to continue to take the BDA in a positive direction.

Lastly I would like to share ideas and support our representatives to be able to negotiate the best deals and working conditions for all dentists. To help to ensure that the BDA are able to ask questions of the regulatory bodies and "powers that be".

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As a practice owner I am aware of what it means to be responsible for an organisation.

I am one of the founders and trustees of Confidential – A Helpline for Dentists in Crisis. As well as the practical skills this has given me an insight into being part of a board.

I was inspired to take a more active, representative role a few years ago and was appointed to several committees. I am currently the Acting Chair of YDC, the Vice Chair of the WGDPC, Representative to U.K. GDPC and I sit on Welsh Council. This enabled me to influence BDA policies for the benefit of dentists and our patients.

I'm involved with several Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working groups both within and out of the BDA. Being involved in these projects has given me a passion for removing barriers that still exist for women and ethnic minority dentists.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

- To increase our membership to make our voice as strong and united as possible.
- To offer a valuable source of support and advice for members.
- To work together to make improvements in the working conditions of UK dentists be they private, NHS or mixed, GDP or in the salaries services.
- To ensure that dentists get a fair deal and are remunerated properly for their time and skills.
- To make regulatory bodies accountable to their registrants and have a "right touch" approach in their dealings with registrants.
- To help to encourage excellent relations between the dental profession and the public.

Anything else

I am a fervent advocate for opening the discussion about the Mental Health crisis in dentistry. I started the Facebook forum Mental Dental – A Group for Dentists in Crisis over three years ago so that dentists could be more open about their mental health challenges and their anxieties so that UK dentists can see that they do not suffer alone. That others have similar issues and there are avenues for help available. The forum has close to 6000 members, this equates to 10-15% of UK dentists, illustrating the need for dentists to support each other. Especially during such uncertain times.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Giving me your vote will give a voice to many more dentists.

Davinderpal Kooner

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Qualifications

BDS U Lond. (Dec 1980)
LDS RCS Eng. (March 1981)
DGDP (UK) (Nov 1994)
MGDS RCS (Eng.) (July 1995)
Certificate in Teaching U Lond. (2001)
Postgraduate Diploma - Teacher Education, ULond. (2001)
FFGDP(UK) - March 2020

General Dental Practice
Community Dental Officer (1981 – 1982)
Associate - (1983 – 1988)
Principal - NHS and private 1984 - current
Vocational Trainer – London, Oxford Deaneries 1990 - 2014
Foundation Education Supervisor, HEE, London 2015 - Current

Professional Roles, Training and Education
Vocational Training Adviser - London Deanery, Barnet (1996 - 2014)
Regional Adviser in General Dental Practice - London Deanery (1997 – 2014)
Examiner - NEBDN (1998 – 2011)
Examiner - MFGDP, MJDF, FGDP RCS Eng. (1998 - 2016)
Chair - Ealing Hammersmith and Hounslow LDC (2017-current)
Vice Chair - Ealing Hammersmith and Hounslow LDC (2015 - 2017)

Regulation and Oversight

Professional Member - Family Health Services Appeals Authority (2001- 2010)
Professional Member - Fitness to Practice Panel, General Dental Council (2003-2011)

Directorships

Dentists' Provident (2004 - 2020)
Dental Protection Limited (2010-2020)

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

During my personal and professional development, I have been privileged to have had a breadth of clinical, educational, regulatory and training experience roles and I have cherished the knowledge and have 'lived' the many challenges we have managed.

Covid 19 and its impact has generally been poorly managed by our professional 'guidance' bodies with lack of clarity and evidence base eg fallow time!

From my experience at DPL and Dentists Provident, I appreciate the considerable obligations demanded of this role at PEC.

As a practising GDP and Elected member/ chair of EHH LDC - I am acutely aware of our valuable role and the challenges Dentists face daily.

The current contract is not fit for purpose and there is shortage of opportunity for younger dentists to realise their ambitions. Procurements undertaken in Primary care, provided little probity of the mechanisms.

I will use my experience to influence necessary change.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As a board member of Dentists Provident, In addition to the fiduciary duties, I was fulfilling key governance duties as : Vice Chairman and Senior Independent Director, Member of the Audit Committee, Member of the Governance Committee and Member of the Remuneration Committee. With this experience, I will bring good understanding of Governance and oversight within the BDA, as well as influencing strategy for ALL groups within Dentistry.

My directorship role with DPL has added valuable insight into the drivers that impact on members facing litigation as well as regulatory scrutiny - this experience will enhance the support we offer our members during difficult times - we must remain 'member' focus.

I will draw on my professional experience within various roles to independently influence policy and strategy development with a forward looking perspective to both build the organization and support our entire membership base.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

Our profession has faced many challenges before and most have impacted on primary care through different contracts and conditions (sometimes divisive) and ultimately on our patients. Currently Covid 19 has really tested the profession and practices adding additional regulatory pressures.

The current contract is not fit for purpose. There is shortage of opportunity for younger dentists to realise their ambitions. Recent procurements undertaken within primary care services had little probity of the mechanisms and validity.

Through PEC, I will endeavour to question and challenge the duplicitous and over regulation that so affects professional morale and satisfaction, generally.

I will bring my previous Board experience of oversight and scrutiny to the BDA.

I feel the BDA should lead, to restore morale and re build a strong inclusive membership for all categories of the profession.

Anything else

Colleagues, I would value your support to represent the interest of all members and help build the credibility of the BDA.

Our profession has become divided - NHS v Private, etc etc. Frustrations exist with our regulators and it is more than just communication. I believe the BDA should also review its internal mechanisms to reach out to all categories of the profession. BDA needs to rebuild a sound core with younger, often stressed and disillusioned with the perverse pressures of clinical practice.

I also recognise the BDA has achieved a lot to support our profession and we must not loose sight of this.

In a changing environment and challenges of new contracts, manpower, compliance, threat of litigation, regulatory pressure, Dentistry should not become defensive. Fresh as well as experienced representation is necessary and I look to your vote to do my bit for you.

Toby Hancock

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Qualified in 2000 with BDA from Guys. I went on to work as an SHO at Guys and undertook MFDSRCS (eng), prior to doing a vocational training year in Woking, while doing MFGDP(uk). After which I working in a variety of part time NHS associate roles while working towards my graduate diploma in law (LLdip) from Guildford College of law.

I decided to take a full time role in a practice in Chichester and later took over a partnership from Keith Osterloh (previous GDPC chair) at Richmond House dental practice, where I undertook foundation training for 8 years and later CDT training, as well as VTE mentoring. I undertook education and mentoring modules with KSS and have recently taken up a clinical tutor role at Portsmouth dental academy, part of Kings college.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have been a member of the BDA since qualifying and have enjoyed years of servicing on the West Sussex LDC and GDPC for Surrey/Sussex. I love my time representing my colleagues and standing on the PEC furthers this opportunity.

I work with a very broad and diverse population of dentists and understand the needs of the dental student, young dentist, NHS associate, Private principles and all in between. Including dentists from both sexes and all ethnic backgrounds.

My interests are to promote a rich and diverse community of dentists for the benefit of all dentists and the community which we serve.

The organisation has given so much to me over the years and I look forward to the opportunity to give some of my time back to it.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

My experience working as an associate, partner, trainer, tutor and mentor allows me to bring experience and expertise to the BDA.

I have been through and seen the vast majority of working situations that a dentist can find themselves in, salaried, community, self employed, general practice, university and hospital roles. Each has allowed me to understand the various challenges and needs for dentists in these positions.

The benefit of experience is a gift to be able to foresee the future and how the profession is likely to develop. Understanding how dentistry will develop over the next few years will enable guidance to the BDA in managing it's membership and what it can offer.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

To grow it's membership, engage with the younger generation of increasing associates within general practice, who currently fail to see the bigger picture and realise that engaging with the profession's public face can help not only themselves but also their colleagues, as we struggle for public funding and ever tightening government funding.

To continue to represent the profession and it's interests at the highest level of government.

Be the go to organisation for all ministers and civil servants who need to understand what dentistry is and how important it is to health care at large.

Anything else

Thank you for your interest in reading this. It is a great honour to represent the BDA within the PEC and I look forward to doing all I can for the organisation.

Maggie (Margaret) Elsey

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I have worked in Primary Care Dentistry for the last 23 years.

I am an Orthodontist and have been in Specialist Practice since 1997. In the thirty years since qualifying I have worked in Hospital Dentistry including Dental Hospital, General practice and the Community Dental Service.

I have four boys at University the eldest is studying Dentistry. I have some committee experience but am by no means a professional committee member. I was on my local BDA committee 25 years ago, was on the British Orthodontic Society Specialist Group Committee for 4 years ending 7 years ago and was secretary of my local MCN term ending 2016.

In my spare time I swim open water and masters and walk long distance. I trained as a Cricket scorer to make use of all the hours I spent watching our boys matches.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am standing for election for UK wide member as I believe we are at a critical turning point in our profession.

I believe the person elected to this role must have the time, enthusiasm, experience and willingness to act in the interest of the whole profession. If elected I will work tirelessly to promote and represent our profession.

I currently have -

- Time - all my boys are now at University.
- Wide ranging professional experience - clinically having worked for many years in both NHS and Private practice and sufficient time on local and national committees.
- Principle in a practice - understanding of the challenges of running a business and Practice.
- Give back - I am able and willing to give my time freely for the benefit of the profession.
- Need - Dentistry is in unprecedented times and needs people with enthusiasm and drive.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

My particular skills and experience will benefit the BDA in the following ways

- Law - I have a great interest in the Law and how it relates to Dentistry. I am in my second year of an MA in Dental Law and Ethics. I have sat on fitness to practice panels and am a Lay Magistrate on the Wiltshire bench. My in-depth understanding of regulatory law will assist in understanding the difficulties at present but also in what changes are required to improve matters.
- Ethics - My postgraduate study on ethics will assist in difficult decision making and planning strategy.
- Fresh blood - fresh eyes - I have enough committee experience but not too much.

- A genuine wish to represent all Dentists in the United Kingdom.
- Experience in many different services - I am a Specialist working in practice along side a GDP and have worked in Hospital and Community service.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

My ambitions for the BDA are:

To aim towards 100% of those who are eligible to become members of the BDA.

To continue the very good work being done by BDA at present during this pandemic and build on the understanding the public now has of our essential role in the health of the citizens of the United Kingdom.

For the BDA to continue to be the first point of contact for news and update for all dental professionals.

Continue and expand education keeping pace with the challenges the pandemic has brought for safe dental service provision now and in the future.

For all dental practices, fully NHS, mixed and fully private to equally feel at home at the BDA.

Anything else

It would be an honour a privilege and a responsibility that I would not take lightly. I would represent all Dentists without fear or favour affection or ill-will.

I believe I am an ideal candidate as I have the following

- Experience - 30 years working in Dentistry.
- Willingness - I am keen to support and work hard for the future of our profession.
- Enthusiasm - to represent the Dental Professionals from all around the United Kingdom.
- Vested interest - My son is soon to embark on his Dental career.
- Time - All children finished school I have the time necessary to devote to this very important role.

If you vote for me I will work hard for you.

Gillian Cottam

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I am a registered specialist in Orthodontics. I have taught Oral Surgery and Orthodontics to Undergraduate students. I am a life long learner benefitting myself in learning from the Dentists, Students, Orthodontic Therapists, Apprentices and Nurses that I train - who challenge my thinking every day. I set up a "Squat" Specialist practice whilst commuting from Canada, where I was privileged to be awarded a Clinical Fellowship in The Facial Centre of the Hospital for Sick Kids, Toronto. I have an Advanced Diploma in Hypnosis and Stress management, Postgraduate training in Teaching, Coaching and mentoring, Professional speaking Business and Management Training. As an Invisalign advisor and Academy member I have trained Orthodontists on Complex treatments. I treat about 500 NHS Fixed Orthodontic cases a year in My Midlands Specialist Practice. I have experience of Procurement.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I feel the time is right to stand up and be counted. I feel the PEC is under represented by Women, Specialists (of all groups) and diverse opinions. I have the time, professional clinical, political and business experience to be a valuable addition to the Team. I am financially independent and am able to manage my time and diary. I feel I will bring a fresh new approach, with out of the box, lateral thinking, without the restrictions of a general practice mentality. I would like to represent both NHS, independent, salaried and training groups and help develop a cohesive approach, representing all these factions - who often seem to disagree or be mis or under represented.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I have vast clinical experience. I run an independent Specialist practice and been a Joint owner and Trainer of a mixed GDS practice, whilst Teaching part time at Birmingham Dental Hospital and School.

I interact with referring GDP's every day in a non judgemental and useful way. I have sat on Local and National Orthodontic Committees, local LDC, MCN and represented the LDC at Annual Conference. I am well in tune with what is going on in the political arena and feel able to communicate well with colleagues. I have business, financial, proof and speed reading skills that are both accurate and useful. I feel I am able to be a constructive disruptor and "hold my own" in discussions, whilst be a valuable member of a team.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The BDA had shone throughout Covid and been a beacon that many have turned to first. The BDA has raised its profile and its game. This is now the time to build on this and be a true representative body of the whole profession. I would like to see the BDA unite all groups that fight for independence and a voice within Dentistry and truly represent them all, equally and fairly. I would like to see the BDA take a lead and a role in Supporting Colleagues involved in disciplinary action, with far reaching coaching, mentoring and professional support. I would like to see us "put our own house in order".

Anything else

There is no constant but change. To succeed we must be agile. I worked throughout the lockdown and did not furlough my staff. I have visionary ideas on management, development and independent thought. I encourage Blue Sky thinking and positive actions. I think the time is right for change and would like to be a part of that change.

I hope you will feel able to vote for me.

Thank you Gillian

Stuart Geddes

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Thank you for reading this.

I came to Wales many years ago from Scotland where I worked in hospital practice. Cardiff Dental Hospital and School was an education. Much smaller than my undergraduate school, Birmingham, and nowhere near as busy. After not too long, general practice beckoned and after a short spell as an associate I took over two practices, one in Monmouthshire, but continued to teach part time in both Cardiff and Bristol where I ran the MGDS course.

In the latter part of my career I was the Director for BDA in Wales having been the secretary to BDA Welsh Council. I decided to retire six years ago but I have kept up to date with journals, colleagues in practice and watched with interest how the BDA has responded to the challenges it faces.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

Whilst the PEC is primarily concerned with the overall management of the BDA it must be made aware of what happening beyond the English border.

I think that difficult times are here but what lies ahead? Dentists are a small part of the medical profession in Wales and our members need support to help them through these times. BDA must be there to help. The PEC must ensure that the BDA's professional committees in Wales are receiving the help that they need to be able to 'take on' Welsh Government on behalf of the profession and, the people of Wales, our patients, our livelihoods.

I'm concerned that those of our colleagues who are mainly practicing outside the NHS feel neglected, so much so that they have formed a rival group which seems to have more public relations impact than the BDA, at least mainly in England. We are ONE profession.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

As the former Director of BDA in Wales I (still) know how BDA works. I have my Wales contacts and most importantly, I have the time to commit.

Its a difficult time for all practitioners be they in community, hospital, academic or general practice in Wales. I know how much stress working to provide good quality dentistry to the people of Wales can be.

I've been a BDA member since student days and, in south Wales, have been a section officer and a Branch President and Chair so i'm totally committed to being a member of a professional association. Individually its not easy to make any sort of impact but in a group its much easier to get one's way!

I would be support members views and represent Wales at the PEC. TO ENSURE that Wales gets its voice heard on matters of BDA policy in future.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

In the immediate, BDA must survive. We are going through a difficult period which will take a while to normalise, if ever.

I would like to see membership for the whole team. For so long BDA has been reticent at signing up our support staff but now is an opportunity to make approaches to form a 'dental union' in the UK.

And, we must protect the future and support and encourage those who wish to enter the profession and to see that they enter a worthwhile community that will help them because we understand.

And whilst we support members at home we should also be seen as a world leading organisation in a world leading country.

Anything else

Isobel Greenstreet

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I qualified from Newcastle University in 1991.

I have worked as a vocational trainee, associate and currently work as a Principal dentist in both the NHS and privately.

I have also passed my MFGDP, have a certificate in Appraisal of Dental Practice (FGDP) and a postgraduate certificate in Education from Leeds University.

I have been a committee member of my local LDC since 2004.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I want to stand as a PEC member because I am fiercely proud to be both a woman and BAME. Unfortunately, these two groups are vastly under-represented on committees. Whilst the intake of female undergraduates is now 63%, only three out of the last 10 BDA presidents have been women - there is much progress to be made.

I believe that it is time as a woman to move out of the shadows and help lead the dental profession.

For too long as BAME I have watched and kept quiet. In this year of BLM I cannot stay silent. The stressful and unprecedented COVID situation over the past year has highlighted this, and boosted my confidence to take control in all circumstances.

I may not be one of the biggest names in dentistry, but give me a chance and your vote for me will not be wasted.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

I am patient and a good listener and communicator.

Having been an educational supervisor for many years, I feel that I am supportive but that I am also passionate about good governance and have a strong desire for stewardship to my dental colleagues.

I undertook a postgraduate degree because I strive to always self-develop. I had to research difficult topics and assimilate the material before coming to a balanced decision. This experience helped me to be thorough and reach fair judgements.

As a practice principal I have often had to juggle many balls at once and my capacity for hard work and endurance has often paid off.

I am dedicated and want to be of service to my colleagues.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

I would like the BDA to be more representative of the profession, especially women and BAME. I am keen to represent both of these groups.

I am also passionate about the mountain of waste we produce as a profession and would like to see this massively reduced.

Anything else

I have stood for PEC elections 3 times prior. These past applications have not discouraged me from applying, but only push me to better myself and try again. This application shows my persistence and willingness to serve my fellow colleagues in the dental profession.

I would love the opportunity to be elected for the PEC and work alongside other like-minded individuals who want the best for the BDA.

Charles Turner

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

30 years General Dental Practice, various positions as associate; locum; multi-partner, multi-practice business; sole-trader practice owner; small business 2 surgery independent family general dental practice.
Vocational dental practice trainee Trainer from 1994 - 2015
2019 to date - Member of Dental Education, Training and Professional Development Board RCPS (Glasg)
2009 to date - Dental Continuing Professional Development Advisor (NES)
2013 to date - Advanced Mentor for TRaMS Scheme Scotland (NES) (now NEST Support through Learning Scheme)
2009 to date - NES National Audit Panel Reviewer
2014 to date - Member, Tayside Area Dental Advisory Committee
1994 - 2015 - NES Vocational Trainer
1999 - 2000 - Member, Scottish Oral Health Advisory Group
1997 - 2000, 2013-2016 -Tayside Local Dental Committee
1995 - 1996 - Chairman, Perth and District BDA Section
Member of the:-
Faculty of Dental Surgeons, RCPS Glasgow
Faculty of Dental Trainers, RCS Edinburgh
BDA
ADI
BDHF
BACD
AACD

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I have a wealth of experience in many roles within general dental practice, and educational roles associated with general dental practice, vocational training and post-graduate education.

I am involved in the mentoring and remediation of practitioners when conditions are sub-optimal for many varying reasons.

Overall, I have a wide and varied experience, perspective and outlook on professional and clinical dentistry, and the many resultant conditions, restrictions, and effects that governing bodies and regulators have upon the professional in general, and practicing individuals, in particular.

I wish to be able to add my experience and thus gained knowledge to the “pot of knowledge” within the BDA Board that may help, guide, assist and affect the future of our developing dental professionals.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

My greatly varied and long-term experience, empathy, training, educational and mentoring skills will add a non-bias additional voice, perspective and outlook to the overall Board's decision making, planning and future programming.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

Primarily to protect the profession.

To develop graduate training to be thoroughly vocational, making the transition to professional practice a more seamless, realistic and “experienced” experience for both graduates and employers.

Discussions and negotiations with service providers and regulators to be open, realistic and transparent; retaining integrity in the professional and the value in the care that we all provide all and very day.

Further develop post-graduate training and verification that is user-friendly, yet not “tick-box” verification.

Provide a recognised and well-developed support mechanism and network for practitioners in difficulty.

Be an open listening, considering and evaluating medium for the profession.

Anything else

I believe that I have a wealth of experience to contribute that will, hopefully, make at least one extra positive, progressive addition to our professional voice and future development.

Tim Harker

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

I still work in General Practice and have done for all my career, the bulk of it as a Practice owner in Gwent. I have had a long interest in dental politics, having been both Treasurer & Chair of Gwent LDC and a long stint as Treasurer of the LDC Conference. I was first elected to the PEC in 2013 and have served continuously as the representative from Wales since then. I am currently the Chair of the Audit Committee.

I have been involved with Foundation Training for over 15 years - out of all the roles I have, I enjoy being an Educational Supervisor the most. I undertook a Postgraduate Diploma In Dental Studies & a PG Certificate in Medical Education to help me in this role.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am at that stage of my career where I am able to devote more time to BDA business. The PEC is not a representative body but its role is to formulate the BDA's policy & strategy to, for example, develop products like the Indemnity Policy which has already changed the nature of the UK indemnity market for members & non-members alike.

As a Practice owner for over 30 years & a Foundation Trainer for 15, I am very aware of & involved with the issues that challenge dentistry today. It is very important that Wales is not marginalised or considered an afterthought by the PEC & I will continue to ensure that the PEC is aware of the implications of its decisions in Wales as well as the rest of the UK. This is an opportunity for you to vote for a representative who is passionate about the future of dentistry & every vote counts.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

Being the incumbent representative from Wales is a big advantage in knowing how the BDA & its structures work, and being Chair of the Audit Committee has enhanced that. Being on the PEC makes you a Director of the BDA with all the responsibilities that entails, and my many years experience as a practice owner has helped me understand how to fulfill that role. I take an active part in debates and frequently challenge the status quo.

Both in my previous & current roles, I have interacted with the Hospital & Community Dental Services in Wales. I have been able to attend many of the Welsh GDPC & Council meetings and provide feedback from those meetings directly to PEC so individual members and practitioners voices and concerns are relayed to the very top of the BDA.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

Our key strategic priority should be to ensure that the BDA remains on a firm financial footing and maintains its position as the leading professional dental organisation in the UK. We should continue to build on the membership gains delivered by our excellent Coronavirus briefings and Indemnity policies. We should actively consider the challenges in the years ahead, in particular the challenges of an economic downturn and tougher trading conditions, & proactively work with external organisations to mitigate or improve the working lives of our members. Dentistry is part way through – which part I cannot say – one of its most challenging periods with the CoVid crisis. Support for practitioners has been mixed varying from little change for some to no financial support at all for others despite our best efforts. I want to use my skills to help the BDA continue pressing Welsh Government to support all practitioners fairly.

Anything else

I am not standing for the national seat but there is a very good young & enthusiastic candidate from Wales who is.

If practitioners in Wales use their votes wisely, we could have 2 representatives from Wales on the Board of the BDA.

Keith Percival

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Graduated BDS from Birmingham University in 1971 and worked as an NHS Associate in the West Midlands and Gosport until 1974. Established a two man partnership in a Gosport NHS practice which later developed into a mixed private/NHS practice providing almost all aspects of primary dental service care including orthodontics (BUOLD University of Bristol), clinical assistant Queen Alexandra Hospital 1993 to 1995.

Achieved the MGDS in 1988 and the FFGDP in 2010.

Practice sold December 2008 with reduced clinical activity until 2018.

Special interests in postgraduate education and GDP career support that includes:

PASS, PLVE and Coach Mentoring.

Current Secretary of the Hampshire and IOW LDC (from 1998), past GDSC and current GDPC representative for Wessex (2000 onwards)

Current Chairman British Dental Guild.

Past President Wessex Branch Council and current BDA English and UK Council representative for Wessex.

Awarded fellowship of the BDA in 2019.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

The BDA is historically the respected and knowledgeable voice of the dental profession shaping the future of dentistry through its many committees that feed into the Board.

I have been involved in several BDA committees over the past 20 years, including GDSC and GDPC and I feel that now is the time to bring that experience to the table at board level.

I relish the possible opportunity to help the BDA to respond to the strategic and future policies' influences that emanate from the craft committees and through the country councils.

As one of my current representative roles is at LDC level, I feel that my appreciation of 'grass roots' concerns will also help me to more fully understand the direction of the BDA's policies and enable me to provide targeted advice and support to the Board.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

My historical and current involvement in a wide range of roles in local and national dental representative committees will help me to more rationally interpret the rapidly changing face of national and local guidance and policies which will impact on the services provided by the BDA to its members and the profession.

As a former associate and practice owner I will be able

to interpret the outcomes for the membership in an empathetic way and feed my opinions and concerns into the discussions at Board level.

My many years of involvement with other old and newly developing partnerships (lately The College of General Dentistry) will also enable me to evaluate the impact of decisions taken at the PEC and thereby I will be able to voice my opinions in a more constructive way.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The BDA is respected by NHS England and NHS Improvement as the Trades Union voice of the profession so it is important to capitalise on our strengths and to maximise on the promotion of our membership's opportunities.

The BDA's response to the recent and ongoing Covid19 Pandemic was an amazing example of the association's excellent resilience and leadership qualities and I would aspire to capitalising on the evident added value to dentists when dealing with a situation of extreme adversity.

The BDA is an excellent provider of CPD and I would encourage sustained development in this area.

I have an interest in the support of dentists in difficulty at different levels and I would expect the BDA to further develop its engagement with the PASS and Freedom to Speak Up Guardians roles.

Ultimately, my ambition for the BDA is to raise awareness of the benefits of membership to all dentists.

Anything else

I will be most grateful to have the opportunity to give something back to the profession of dentistry and I feel that if elected I will do my utmost to diligently fulfil this role.

Dentistry is an amazing profession that promotes oral health in an holistic way but it seems that we do not receive the recognition that we deserve so we must drive forward change that raises our health benefit profile to the patients who are the centre of all that we do.

BDA can continue to grow and build on its past successes.

John Owen Edwards

Tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Qualified from Liverpool and gained a MFGDP.

Spent my entire career as a GDP around The Lancashire Coast and now working part time in Cumbria in a mixed Practice.

I have been appointed on 3 occasions as President of the North Western Branch.

Elected, early in my career, by all the GDPs in Lancashire to represent them on the GDPC and have been re elected continuously up to the present.

I was involved in Foundation Training in the early years based in the Manchester Deanery and went on to have a succession of FDs.

Elected to the PEC from the NW in 2017 and have learnt during this time how the BDA operates as an organisation and Employer.

I was appointed from the PEC on to the Indemnity development committee and was pleased to be able to advise how best this could become a gold standard product for all.

Why are you standing for election as a PEC member?

I am up for re election after my first triennium on the PEC.

Its certainly been something of an upward learning curve to gain experience and an insight into exactly how to press ahead with my own thoughts and the BDA strategy on how we can better serve our members.

In my career, I have never known such turmoil and uncertainty amongst the Profession.

There are many threats ahead especially to Private Practice and reform of the NHS contract. There will also undoubtedly be opportunities and benefits to be gained.

I now sit on the newly formed Private Practitioners Group and will push to promote their interests and feel that they have been particularly badly treated.

I've worked hard over the last 3 years, on you behalf, to gain experience in how the PEC operates and have become familiar with its working methods and would like to continue this work.

How will your particular skills and experience benefit the BDA?

Yes, I'm a Committee man used to working on Committees. I'm familiar with the BDA Committee structure and how this is most effective at getting things done. I notice on social media a lot heated talk about the BDA having far too close a relationship with the powers that be. I can assure you that this is definitely not the case. We are forceful and firm in our negotiations where necessary but most matters are settled by reasoned, calm discussion with skilled BDA representation. We must act as a cohesive

force for everyone's benefit. I will strive with all my powers to reunite the profession for the common good.

Fragmentation into different fractious, disparate groups will not help. I also sit on the Finance Committee and the Indemnity Governance Committee.

We must bring all into the fold and strive to hear and act on all opinions.

Together we are stronger.

What are your ambitions for the BDA?

The success of the Indemnity product and an up surge in membership during the Covid crisis has now given us a firm foundation to face the future.

I would like to see this growth continue across the board but especially in students and the newly qualified and I will push for incentives and discounts for these groups. The future, after all, is in their own hands.

The BDA has in recent years become much more diverse and inclusive with far more women and young dentists joining committees and bringing their influence to bear. I would very much want to see this trend accelerate.

I will push for the ongoing re development of the web site and the introduction of a BDA phone App. and much more engagement on Social Media.

We must evolve with the times and make sure that our actions benefit all elements of the membership.

Anything else

The BDA is almost unique in being a trades union with its representatives democratically elected and also a company owned by its members. It is the only organisation that will be taken seriously by the powers that be.

The PEC runs the BDA alongside the Senior Management Team for all of us and quite rightly demands some loyalty and not the pursuit of personal agendas and interests.

I'm optimistic about the long term future. We must continue to work hard together and united to secure our future. I've learnt a lot over the last 3 years and now know how to better push for the reforms that I think are necessary.

Other interests outside of Dentistry :-

Sport of all kinds.

Keen Motorcyclist and recently passed my advanced test.

Walking in the Lake District.

Golf (played poorly).

I play the drums (also poorly)

Thank you and I ask for your support

