I am honoured to be President of the BDA, particularly during such a transformative year for the Association.

In June, we launched BDA Indemnity to make sure you have access to indemnity cover that’s designed for modern dentistry. The risks faced by many dentists in the UK working under current indemnity options have concerned us for some time, and so, we are delighted to now be able to offer an occurrence-based, contractually certain and dentist-led alternative.

The response has been fantastic and we’re looking forward to welcoming even more members to BDA Indemnity in 2020.

As well as protecting dentists through indemnity, we continue to help dentists and their teams to achieve excellence through our high-quality professional development options and by providing expert advice to our members on the issues that matter.

We know that clinical negligence claims, regulator investigations, financial pressures and the demands of undergraduate study cause great stress, that’s why we launched a comprehensive counselling and emotional support service, accessible to all members for no additional cost. These services enhance your membership, providing you with support when you need it.

We also represent dentists’ interests and tirelessly campaign for the oral health of the nation. I’m proud of the campaign successes we’ve had this year; on things as varied as NHS reform in Wales, contracts in Northern Ireland, oral cancer checks in Scotland and ensuring that the crisis in NHS dentistry remains front page news across the country.

I’ve seen how the BDA brings dentists together to learn from one another, share experiences and make life-long friends. Ours can be a stressful profession, so I invite you to reach out, get involved and enjoy the benefits of membership.

Roz Mc Mullan President, British Dental Association

Exposing the crisis in NHS dentistry

The future of NHS dentistry can no longer be guaranteed. It’s a simple message, and we’ve worked hard to get it onto the front pages and the parliamentary agenda.

Cuts and failed contracts have real consequences. We’ve pointed to:

- The million new patients who have tried and failed to secure an NHS appointment
- The families across England and Wales facing up to 90-mile round trips to access care
- A system that’s left practices unable to fill vacancies and dentists with rock bottom morale.

In Wales, we’ve secured recommendations from the Assembly on scrapping the failed 2006 contract. And in England, we’ve won the first official inquiry into NHS dentistry by the House of Commons Health Committee in over a decade.

“We just don’t have the funding, don’t have the time, don’t have the space” Lauren Hannby told BBC Wales earlier this year.

Standing up to oral cancer

Dentists are on the frontline in the battle with oral cancer. We’ve set out to even the odds.

Oral cancers rank among the fastest rising types of cancer and kill twice as many people in the UK as car accidents.

We’ve highlighted the unique role dentists play in early detection. In Scotland, we’ve won assurances that 24-month dental recall intervals will not be introduced and that ‘high-risk’ patients will be seen more frequently than those in good oral health.

We’re equipping colleagues with guidance and toolkits through our partnership work with Cancer Research UK.

And we’re focused on prevention. We campaigned to secure protection for boys from the cancer-causing human papillomavirus (HPV).

We’re pulling out all the stops to push NHS dentistry up the political agenda. And we will keep shining a light on a system that’s failing patients and practitioners.

We’re pleased to confirm that all 12–13 year-old school children will receive the HPV vaccine from this autumn.”

Oral cancer kills more (10,000) people (over 400,000 in Scotland) and 15% of all cancer deaths. We’re working with colleagues in Scotland to ensure that all oral cancers are screened and treated.

Miles Briggs MSP supporting the launch of our Oral Cancer Action Plan for Scotland.

Roz Mc Mullan
President, British Dental Association
Dentistry continues to change and present new challenges, that’s why we work tirelessly to promote your interests and those of your patients.

We’ve secured a breakthrough for community dentists in Northern Ireland on the long-awaited contract. We’ve fought off moves in Scotland to shift appointments to every two years. And across England and Wales we’ve ensured politicians can’t avoid the crisis facing underfunded and overstretched NHS dental services.

You’ve given us the ammunition to negotiate, lobby and campaign on your behalf. Whether it’s on recruitment and retention, children’s oral health or the fight against oral cancer, we’ve taken evidence from our members, and ensured your voice has been heard.

Together, we’re keeping dentistry on the agenda.

Whether it’s lobbying across the UK’s parliaments and assemblies or making sure the media tell our side of the story. We are highlighting the challenges you face to deliver care to your patients. Dentistry is not an ‘optional extra’ and we won’t let it be the missing piece when it comes to health plans, policies and budgets.

“Together, we’re keeping dentistry on the agenda... highlighting the challenges you face to deliver care to your patients.”

Mick Armstrong
Chair, British Dental Association

Protecting vulnerable patients

We exposed a scandal that left hundreds of thousands of patients – many on very low incomes, the elderly, and those with learning difficulties – facing £100 fines simply for ticking the wrong box on a form.

Thanks to our campaigning, the National Audit Office undertook exhaustive research and found 30% of all the healthcare fines issued since 2014 – 1.7 million notices, adding up to £188 million – had hit innocent people, fully entitled to claim NHS care.

Off the back of our testimony, the public spending watchdog the Public Accounts Committee slammed the “breathtaking complacency” of health bosses, who have since pledged to abandon their policy of automatic fines.

We will keep pressing until we see the end of a system that wastes clinical time and hurts our most vulnerable patients.

“30% of all the healthcare fines issued since 2014... had hit innocent people, fully entitled to claim NHS care.”

Charlotte Waite tells the Public Accounts Committee that fines are “eating into precious clinical time.”

The London Assembly backed our plans for supervised brushing in schools and nurseries in the capital.”

Len O’Cuaí told the London Assembly that “decades of improvement in children’s health are heading into reverse.”

“Together, we’re keeping dentistry on the agenda...”

“Working for you”

Progress on prevention

Prevention is better than cure and we’ve been winning the argument for tried-and-tested policies that can transform children’s oral health and save our NHS millions.

Despite welcome progress in much of the country, health inequalities are not narrowing. And in some parts of the country, oral health improvements are getting worse.

We’ve worked to reveal the high price and huge pressures this puts on our NHS. Feedback from members has helped us convince the London Assembly to back our plans for supervised brushing in schools and nurseries in the capital.

We took this message directly to ministers and the government has pledged to consult on brushing in schools across the country and offered its support for fluoridation.

It’s an argument we’re determined to win!

“Together, we’re keeping dentistry on the agenda...”

“Working for you”

“Together, we’re keeping dentistry on the agenda...”

“Working for you”

“Together, we’re keeping dentistry on the agenda...”

“Working for you”
Indemnity designed with you in mind

We worked with RSA Insurance to get a better deal for you. Thousands of dentists have got a quote and it’s great to see so many signing up to cover designed for them and the challenges of contemporary practice. I’ve always been proud of the work we do for dentists, even more so now that we’re doing something that will have such a big impact on dentistry in the UK.”

We know that choosing your professional indemnity arrangement is one of the most important decisions you will make in your professional life. In fact, it could make the difference between continuing to practice as a dentist, or not.

In June we launched BDA Indemnity, offering our members indemnity cover that’s designed for dentists and dentistry. Dentists all over the country are now signing up for our cover.

With us, you get:

- Peace of mind
  The contractual right to cover under the policy means you’ll have peace of mind that when an incident occurs under the policy, you’re covered forever.

- Dentist-to-dentist support
  You deserve support from experienced dentists with legal knowledge, in times of pressure.

- Flexible cover
  Your cover needs to be just as flexible as the way you work, where you work, and what you do.

- Future-proofed indemnity
  The recent government consultation expressed concerns about discretionary indemnity and the lack of regulation of discretionary providers. BDA Indemnity is already regulated; it offers contractual certainty rather than discretion, and is occurrence based rather than claims-made. It is already fit for the future.

Only for UK dentists

A unique blend of a financially secure insurer and member-focused dentist-to-dentist advice

Price certainty - it’s all included. There’s no need for run-off, no prospect of a ‘second call’ (ask your indemnifier what this means). Clear and fair terms mean that cover is reliable and predictable.

For everything included in this policy you have certainty of cover – a legally binding promise rather than the uncertainties of discretionary assistance.

For more information on the policy cover including the benefits, limitations and exclusions, please visit bda.org/indemnity for the Policy Summary. A copy of the Policy Summary is also available upon request.

The policy is arranged by the British Dental Association and underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance. The British Dental Association is an appointed representative of Lloyd & Whyte Ltd. Lloyd & Whyte Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The FCA does not regulate the advice you receive with regards to Advisory, Case Management and Indemnity Support provided by the BDA. Calls are recorded for training and monitoring purposes. The policy does not extend to members working in the Isle of Man or Channel Islands.
**ADVICE**

Our expert advisors support members on the issues that matter – from data protection and inspection preparation, to contract checking and disciplinary procedures.

**Saving members from costly mistakes**

Our advisors work hard to help members save time, stress and money.

“One of this year’s pensions queries came from a dentist asking whether he had breached the current tax limits for pension savings. We offered advice on how to resolve the issue, which could prevent the member from receiving reduced pension benefits at retirement.”

Joanne McKeown, BDA Advisor

**Reducing practice pressures**

We advise members on all aspects of practice management, including on how to prepare for inspections. One member was recently in touch to thank us for our assistance, saying that they had made a difficult day easier:

“Thank you for all your help in preparation for our CQC inspection; it went brilliantly, and they have informed us that we are one of the best practices that they have inspected.”

**Trade union support when you need it**

When you need us we’re here for you. Here’s the story of a first-year foundation dentist who contacted us when she was suspended from work by her employer:

“I reviewed her case and agreed the allegations were unfair and without any merits to suspend or face any misconduct sanctions. We then provided trade union representation at the hearing, bringing the unsubstantiated allegations to a swift resolution. I’m proud to say that our support meant she was able to complete her training without any adverse impact.”

Jess McKiernan, BDA Advisor

**Learning from experts**

Our seminars and conferences continue to be in demand for their range of expert speakers and high-quality content.

“Interactive and informative... the hands on element and practical aspect was superb.”

CBCT Masterclass – May 2019

**Learning how and when it suits you**

We have expanded our range of online courses this year, so that you can learn at a time and place that suits you.

“I have learned a great deal from this training. I now feel more confident in completing the policies and procedures needed to achieve full compliance.”

DPO online course

**Counselling anytime anywhere**

Our profession is rewarding but sometimes carries huge pressures. To help you during those times, we’ve given members access to telephone helplines, available 24-7, offering practical information and emotional support.

Your membership can give you, your spouse, or a dependent access to qualified and experienced counsellors, who are ready to listen and help. This support comes from Health Assured and can include:

- Six telephone counselling sessions per issue
- Six in-person counselling sessions, including cognitive behavioural therapy.

bda.org/healthassured

**LEARNING**

This year we supported more dentists, DCPs and practice support staff than ever with their learning and development.

Through our range of in-person and online courses, our online CPD hub, journals and library, we aim to give you the opportunity to expand your skills set and make the most out of your career.

**I learnt something new from every lecture that I can take back and apply to my practise - enjoyed the exhibitors - very friendly and helpful.”**

Scottish Dental Conference 2018

**8,573**

Dentists earned CPD hours with us this year

**5,506**

DCPs received CPD hours from us

**People became data officers with our new course**

315

Used our CPD Hub to log their CPD this year

**30,250**

People became data officers with our new course
It’s been a busy year with some big new developments in our service; extending the support and increasing the value that we offer our members.

I’m delighted that we have been able to launch our own indemnity product, which has been an enormous undertaking by our staff and partners. We’ve been delighted with the interest shown so far: our expert advisors are ready to help with whatever challenges you encounter. It’s why the BDA exists, after all.

In 2020, in line with the priorities identified in our three-year strategy, we will strengthen our professional development offer. We’ll work with our branches and sections to improve the provision of events and training, and provide more support for members at a local level. And we will audit our own education offer to identify and plug gaps, to make sure they meet members’ needs.

In the year ahead, we will continue to promote your interests and push for improved pay, conditions and oral health provision. As the voice of dentists in the UK, our campaigns are driven by you. This year, we will be reviewing our governance and representation structures to ensure that they are fit for purpose. We want to hear members’ views about how we can improve your involvement in decision-making, so please take the opportunity to feedback via our survey when you receive it.

We couldn’t do any of this without your continued support and engagement. I look forward to working for and with you to deliver these priorities and more in the coming year.

Martin Woodrow
Acting Chief Executive
Our members are at the heart of everything we do.

With the advice, support and services you need to succeed, your membership has you covered.

The BDA

British Dental Association

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