



What's inside:

- 2&3 BSDR Conference 2009
- 3 Dental Teacher of the Year Nominee
- 4 Student Matters and a special invitation
- 5 Research Grants
- 6&7 Research Matters - Educational Research
- 7&8 Elective Project - Road Trip

## The Newsletter of the Glasgow Dental School

# Dental Mirror

Issue 8  
January 2010

Two remarkable stories of student success. On this page, Joanne Eccles BDS3 describes her achievements in equestrian vaulting. On the back page, two BDS5 students recount what happened to them on their elective.

### Equestrian Vaulting

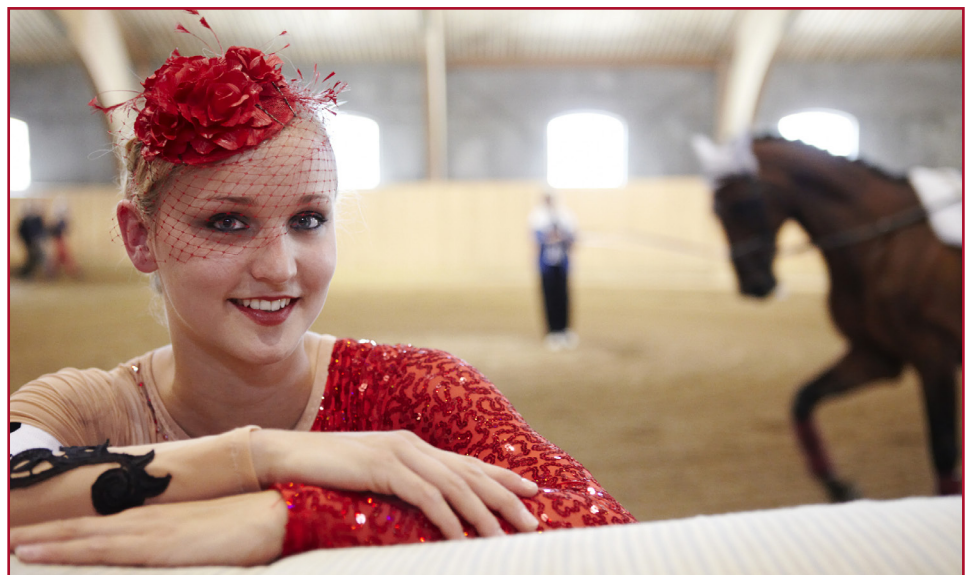
Equestrian vaulting can most easily be described as gymnastics performed on the back of a moving horse. The horse canters in a 15m circle controlled from the middle by a person known as the lunger.

When you begin, vaulting is a team sport, but later individual vaulting becomes more interesting. In the team competition there are 7 vaulters, one lunger and one horse.

In both team and individual competition the vaulters must show two parts: a compulsory test and a freestyle test. Should an individual manage to achieve the second round of a competition they also have to show a technical test.

The compulsory test consists of seven moves which have to be performed to music and are scored out of 10 for each move. In the freestyle round a team can have up to three vaulters on the horse at any one time and are free to

## Students Ride to Success! *In Equestrianism and Electives*



choreograph their own 4-minute routine. Individuals have one minute for their freestyle. The technical test consists of five compulsory moves which the individual builds into a freestyle.

At championships there is separate competition for males and females as well as juniors (under 18) and seniors. There is a great social aspect to the sport, as well as the feelings of togetherness, willpower, determination and commitment.

*continued on page 2*



# British Society for Dental Research

The biennial conference of the British Society for Dental Research (BSDR) took place in Glasgow from Tuesday 1st to Friday 4th September 2009. The conference is the focal point for research staff and students, as well as academic staff and many clinicians, in UK dental schools and allied institutions together with those from further afield. It provides a unique opportunity for this specialised group of researchers and their clinical colleagues to update themselves on current aspects of dental research as well as to exchange ideas and formulate new projects. In order to optimise the opportunities the meeting offered for researchers, allied staff and students, as well as representatives of trade organisations, the city centre location of Glasgow Caledonian University was selected as the venue for the conference. This enabled delegates to reside on campus or in local hotels for the duration of the event, with all activities (including accommodation and catering) within a few of minutes walking distance of each other.

The conference was organised by staff at the Dental School, University of Glasgow, under the leadership of Dr Marcello Riggio. The members of the Local Organising Committee and their responsibilities were as follows:

**Dr Marcello Riggio**  
(chairman, venues & accommodation)

**Dr Josie Beeley**  
(trade liaison co-ordinator)

**Dr Vivian Binnie**  
(social events, catering)

**Dr Penny Hodge**  
(social events, catering)

**Mrs Laetitia Brocklebank**  
(helpers)

**Dr Donald Cameron**  
(finance)

**Dr David Conway**  
(printing, transport)

**Mr Robert McKerlie**  
(I.T. support)

**Professor Richard Welbury**  
(posters)

**Mrs Joanna McGrory**  
(secretarial support)

The conference attracted over 340 delegates principally from across the UK and some from much further afield (Europe, USA and Australia). A total of 228 abstracts were accepted, of which 135 were presented as posters and 93 as oral presentations. Of these abstracts, 38 were presented by staff and students from Glasgow Dental School.

The scientific sessions of the conference opened on the morning of Wednesday 2nd September with an excellent Keynote Lecture from Professor Iain McInnes (Professor of Experimental Medicine, Division of Immunology, Infection and Inflammation, Faculty of Medicine, University of Glasgow) entitled "Immune complexity to novel therapy - promises for a new decade?" The Graham Embery Lecture, entitled "The ageing population, opportunity or threat?", which was kindly sponsored by the British Dental Association (BDA), was given by Professor Angus Walls (Professor of Restorative Dentistry, School of Dental Sciences, Newcastle University) on the morning

*continued from page 1*

I have been vaulting for 12 years, having started at the age of 8. I moved into the Scottish Team and was selected to represent Great Britain in team at every championship from 1999 until 2007 (excluding 2001 due to foot and mouth disease). I currently train at my Dad's farm in Clackmannanshire, where we have four vaulting horses. I usually train three times a week with my little sister who also competes. Together we are 7 times British Pairs champions. I also do a mixture of gymnastics and conditioning on a weekly basis. I coach my club Wee County Vaulters, as well as the Scottish Equestrian Vaulting Team. My Dad is my main coach, though we occasionally have international vaulters across for extra help.

My best results as part of the Great Britain team include 4th place at the 2005 European Championships in Italy and 5th place at the World Equestrian Games in Germany in 2006. In 2004 I represented Great Britain at

a championship for the first time as an individual. Lunged by my dad, I competed on our horse W.H.Bentley and was placed 19th. Thereafter I was placed 14th at the European Championships in 2005, 10th at the World Equestrian Games in 2006, 4th at the European Championships in 2007 and 5th at the World Championships in 2008.

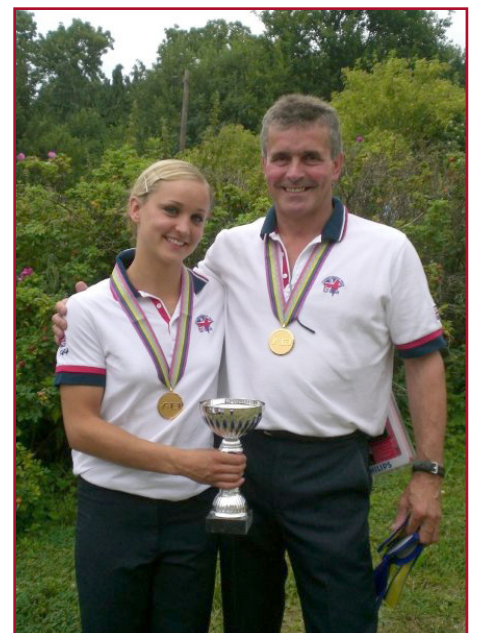
In 2008/9 I began to compete to my full potential. I won every international I attended, competing in France, Germany, Holland and the USA. At the end of the summer I won Gold at the European Championships in Sweden. It was Great Britain's first ever medal in equestrian vaulting and the fact that it was gold made it even more incredible for me. Though it can be difficult at times to keep up with my training and university schedules, so far it has worked out well for me and I manage to separate the two to be able to focus on both. My next big aim will be represent Great Britain at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky next October.

For more information about vaulting visit:

[www.weecountyvaulters.co.uk](http://www.weecountyvaulters.co.uk)

[www.vaulting.org.uk](http://www.vaulting.org.uk)

[www.horsehero.com](http://www.horsehero.com)



*Joanne with father*



# conference 2009 – Glasgow

of Thursday 3rd September and maintained the high standard set by Professor McInnes. Other highlights of the scientific programme included a Research Funding Symposium, the TC White Prize Lecture, oral and poster sessions and symposia held by the following BSDR scientific groups: Behavioural Sciences & Health Services Research Group, Mineralised Tissue Group, Oral Microbiology & Immunology Group, and the Dental Materials Research Group.

The conference attracted a record amount of sponsorship from a total of 30 sponsors, most of whom participated in the Trade Exhibition. The Premier Sponsors of the conference were the University of Glasgow Dental School, GlaxoSmithKline, Listerine, Instron and The Army. There was also a full and lively social programme. A welcome reception was held at Glasgow Caledonian University (kindly sponsored by the University of Glasgow Dental School and the BDA) on the evening of Tuesday 1st September, and a Civic Reception in Glasgow City Chambers (hosted by

the Lord Provost of Glasgow's office) and Wine / Whisky Appreciation & Buffet (by kind permission of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow) were held on the evening of Wednesday 2nd September. The Conference Dinner on the evening of Thursday 3rd September was held in the magnificent setting of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum and included ceilidh dancing to a live band.

Successes for Glasgow Dental School staff at the conference should also be noted. David Conway, working with Alex McMahon from the Community Oral Health Section and colleagues from across Europe, won the BSDR Senior Colgate Prize. Their work entitled: "Socioeconomic risk factors associated with upper aerodigestive tract cancer" will now compete in the International Association for Dental Research meeting in Barcelona in July 2010. Also, at the BSDR Annual Business Meeting held on Thursday 3rd September, Glasgow Dental School staff members Professor Lorna Macpherson and Dr Marcello Riggio



were elected to the BSDR Management Committee for a period of three years.

The conference concluded at lunchtime on Friday 4th September. Overall, the conference was deemed to be a huge success both scientifically and socially, with much positive feedback from delegates. Last, but by no means least, thanks are due to the army of student helpers who were extremely efficient and courteous during the course of their duties and who helped ensure that the conference ran efficiently.

**Dr Marcello Riggio**

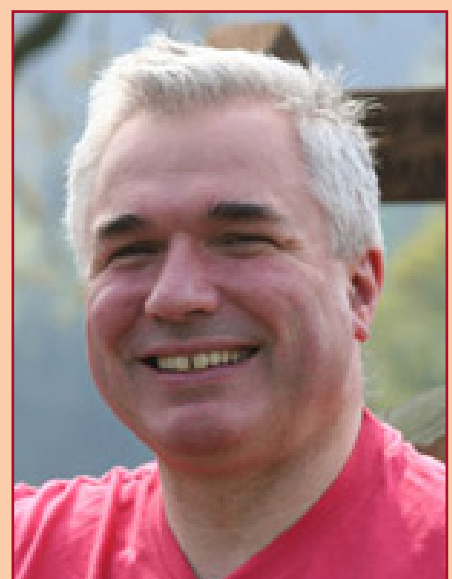
Chairman, BSDR 2009 Local Organising Committee

## 2009 Dental Defence Union Educational Awards Nomination – Dental Teacher of the Year

**Paul Sharkey, Clinical University Teacher in Restorative Dentistry, has been voted by University of Glasgow dental students as their nominee for the 2009 Dental Defence Union Dental Teacher of the Year Award.**

Dental students at each UK dental school are annually invited to nominate a teacher for this national award. From these nominations, the overall winner is selected at an event held in London following presentations by two shortlisted Finalists. This was the third consecutive year that a member of Restorative Dentistry was voted as Glasgow's nominee.

On receiving the nomination, Paul was proud to say *"I have always enjoyed teaching and attempt to do my best to pass on clinical skills in Restorative Dentistry to a new generation of dental professionals. I have always been enthusiastic about dentistry and hope that I manage to transmit something of this to our students. As a teacher, I am privileged to work with a group of young people keen to learn and that makes my job all the easier and more enjoyable. To our Glasgow dental students, I return my thanks."*



# Student Matters - Inter-Dental Field Day 2009

This year was the turn of Glasgow to host the annual dental student day out, and with plenty of sports, games and pubs on offer, it had the potential to be a good one and that is how it turned out - for those able to remember...

The day began with the arrival of Newcastle and Dundee students around 11 a.m. at Glasgow University Union, where the hopeful athletes were selected and taken along to Kelvinhall sports arena for the choice of football, rugby and netball.

For all other students who fancied refreshments after the long bus journeys, (Glasgow students there is no excuse!) the Union was the place to go. Dodge ball and other games were on offer.

Food was served up in the Union around 3-3.30 p.m. and included a hot meal and a drink. After everyone had finished eating, they were invited to get

their walking boots on and start the pub crawl, taking them from the West End into the City Centre.

Or if a little extra time was needed to digest lunch, the president's challenge started around 4 p.m. at the Union (those with a weak stomach were advised to begin the pub crawl!!) 8 p.m. was the entry time for the students into our final venue, Jumpin' Jaks where all other "games" took place. These included inter school boat races and many more!

We would just like to thank Dental Protection for all the kind support whilst organising this event, including the donation of the goodie bags, and for all other support it is offering to Glasgow Dental Students Society in 2009.

We hope everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day that was planned and that much fun was had in Glasgow!

Oh, by the way, Glasgow won the Field Day – yet again.

**Barry Fraser & Cole McConnell, GDSS Sports Convenors.**



## Students beat staff - yes, unbelievably...

The Dental School staff football team were made to eat their words and lots of humble pie as they went down in a crushing 5 - 1 defeat to the final year students in the first of the 2009-10 series.

But it was a tale of two halves. The staff, under the new captaincy of Neil Nairn following the retirement of long serving stalwart Grant Taylor, had a promising start. A Simon Locke toe poke within 10 minutes put the staff one up, and it felt like the flood gates were about to open again (with echoes of 10-1 around). There was a four goal wind blowing in favour of the staff - but they failed to take any of them. And with Conway missing two sitters, it was beginning to look ominous.

The second half was a different story - the good four-four-two shape the staff had in the first half disintegrated as they pushed forward with four poachers instead of the usual one (Conway). This left the midfield exposed and the students ran riot scoring five goals. The pick of the bunch being a delightful impossible lob over the staff keeper – a former Uni First 11 goalie no less!!

The staff's chances were further dented as Conway went down to a shocking challenge from Tollan midway through the half. This went unnoticed by the referee Mike Broad who, if we are being honest, also had a bit of a shocker - missing a couple of staff calls for penalties. When the fifth went in minutes before the end it was more than all over.

Already, things are hotting up for a rematch as the following was overheard as the staff walked dejected from the pitch "...at this rate the chances of passing their finals OSCE are in real jeopardy..."

### *GDSS Ball Invitation*

*Staff, students and guests are all invited to the Annual Dental School Ball, which is being held at the Glasgow Hilton Hotel on Saturday, 16th January 2010.*

*The Annual Ball is always a fantastic and enjoyable event and this year is set to be no different with its Winter Wonderland theme! It's a great opportunity to look your best, socialise with staff and fellow students and dance the night away to a lively ceilidh!*

*We really would love everyone to attend and hope to see you all there!*

*Thanks,*

*Frances and the Ball Committee*

# Research Grants

## **'Dissecting the adaptive immune response to cariogenic bacteria in the oral cavity'**

S Culshaw, P Garside, G McConnell, J Girkin, J Brewer, T Evans.

Medical Research Scotland  
Postdoctoral Fellowship  
£106,114; 24 months from October 2008.

## **'Functional genomics in Aspergillus fumigatus and new strategies to fight against the first fungal pathogen in Europe'**

G Ramage (consortium member)  
European Social Fund (ESF)  
Research Networking Fund.  
Co-ordinated by JP Latge (Pasteur Institute)  
Euros 395,428; 2008 – 2011

## **'Dissecting the role of the human Th17 cell in chronic inflammation'**

S Culshaw, I McInnes  
Robert's Pump Priming Research Award - Faculty of Medicine, University of Glasgow  
£4,750; 6 months from November 2008.

## **'The role of inflammation in the development and progression of oral cancer'**

K Hunter, R Nibbs  
Tenovus-Scotland  
£9997; 12 months from Nov 2008

## **'Treatment and prevention of Candida albicans biofilms in denture stomatitis'**

A Jose, G Ramage, C Murray, F McCord  
British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry  
£1,000; 12 months from February 2008.

## **'Gram negative CF pathogens'**

G Ramage, C Williams, C Murray  
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals sponsored M.Res. Studentship  
£31,703; 12 months from 1st of January 2009

## **'Do previously undetectable bacteria play a significant role in the aetiopathogenesis of feline lymphocytic/plasmacytic gingivostomatitis?'**

MP Riggio, D Bennett, DJ Taylor, DF Lappin, DJ Mellor, EM Graham, EA Courcier  
Pet Plan Charitable Trust  
£102,710; 36 months from 1 January 2009

## **'Development of a biologically relevant gingivitis model'**

G Ramage, S Culshaw, C Murray  
GlaxoSmithKline sponsored Ph.D. studentship  
£136,836; 36 months from 1st of October 2008.

## **'Dissecting the role of the human Th17 cell in chronic inflammation'**

S Culshaw, I McInnes  
British Society for Periodontology  
£5000; 6 months from August 2008.

## **'Do previously undetectable bacteria play a significant role in the aetiopathogenesis of feline periodontal disease and lymphocytic/plasmacytic gingivostomatitis?'**

MP Riggio, D Bennett, DJ Taylor  
BSAVA Petsavers  
£8,000; 12 months from October 2008

## **'Does recombinant human bone morphogenic protein-7 (rhBMP-7) have pro-tumourigenic properties?'**

DF Lappin, M Abu Seriah, K Hunter  
Cruden Foundation Limited  
£2000; 6 months from 1 September 2008

## **'Alcohol Brief Interventions and Dentistry'**

C Goodall, R Welbury  
NHS Health Scotland  
£39055; 24 months from March 2009

## **'The antimicrobial activity of Tigecycline against periodontal pathogens and its potential for immunomodulation.'**

G Ramage.  
British Society of Periodontology  
£500; 12 months from June 2009

## **'Prevalence of HCV infection in children'**

R Welbury, J Bagg  
Health Protection Scotland  
£105,195; 36 months from October 2008

## **'The relationship between the host response and oral biofilm development'**

S Culshaw, G Ramage  
Tenovus Scotland  
£9250; 18 months from March 2009

## **'Investigating Dental Treatment as a Possible Risk Factor for CJD'**

A Smith.  
Department of health  
£13885; 24 months from April 2008

## **'The public health challenge of road safety - a study of the epidemiological patterns, healthcare consequences and prevention of traffic related injuries in Strathclyde'**

D Stone, M Mackenzie  
Scottish Executive Health Department  
£4252; 30 months from June 2009

## **'Biofouling of dental handpieces'**

A Smith, G Ramage  
W & H sponsored Ph.D. studentship  
£83,263; 36 months from April 2008.

## **'Are previously undetectable bacterial contributors to inflammatory processes within the joints of dogs with immune mediated arthritis, septic arthritis and cruciate disease?'**

M Riggio  
The Kennel Club charitable trust  
£37,325; 24 months from June 2008

## **'Summer Studentship'**

G Ramage  
Fulhold Ltd  
£2530; 2 months from June 2009



# Research Matters – Educational

Following on from articles in the Dental Mirror highlighting other research sections, this short report focuses on the activity of the newest research section, the Dental Education Research Group.

In recent years research activity within the Dental School has been centred within three research groups, Biotechnology and Craniofacial Services, Community Oral Health and Infection and Immunity. Although educational research has taken place within the Dental School it did not have a dedicated place within the School's research activity.

In November 2008 Professor Jeremy Bagg invited Dr Donald Cameron to lead a newly formed Dental Education Research Group tasked with devising a research strategy for the quality enhancement of student learning and supporting academic and support staff by sharing good practice for the delivery of teaching.

The current group comprises individuals who have previously demonstrated activity in education research through scholarship or research. The membership is led by Dr Donald Cameron, who gained a Doctorate of Education from the University of Strathclyde in 2007. Donald's interest in education developed from a recognition that although he had been teaching dental technology to undergraduate and postgraduate dental students since his appointment in 1986 he'd had no formal training as a teacher.

The interest in exploring more about learning and teaching was also developed with the introduction of a new category of academic university staff in Glasgow, University Teachers

whose principal role is teaching. A number of clinical and non-clinical university teachers have been appointed or recategorised within the Dental School.

The members of the group are Dr Ziad Al-Ani, Dr Aileen Bell, Dr Viv Binnie (deputy lead), Dr Vince Bissell (Director of Dental Education), Mrs. Alison Cairns, Dr Andrew Crothers, Mr Robert McKerlie, Dr David Shaw, Dr Andrea Sherriff, Mrs Liz Scott, Dr Carlos Miguel and Dr Donald Cameron (lead).

The group's mission statement; *"To promote scholarship in all its forms, and to expand the evidence base for teaching, learning and assessment in Dentistry"* encapsulates what the group is dedicated to achieving.

Within the research currently being undertaken there are two long-term projects relating to the recently introduced initiative of national programmes funded by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). These programmes, the Confederated Learning Online Environment (CLEO) and the Work Programme for 2D and 3D Digital Visualization will deliver high quality interactive educational content.

The three-year CLEO project, which has two dedicated staff in the Dental School, Dr Ziad Al-Ani and Ms Wendy Skinner, is part of a fully collaborative venture between the Scottish dental schools of Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen and the Edinburgh Dental Institute. The resources created are to be freely available to use by all institutions so must be relevant and useful to all. This will be made accessible via the Scotland-wide (CLEO) project repository for sharing by all of those involved in delivering dental education across

Scotland.

Each team is asked to develop specific content:

**Glasgow:** Microbiology, Histology, Dental Anatomy

**Dundee:** Physiology, Embryology and Developmental Biology, Pharmacology

**Aberdeen:** Pathology, Geriatric Dentistry, virtual patient development

**Edinburgh:** Post Graduate clinical procedures, dental materials

The 2D/3D digital visualization work project is an exciting innovation being conducted in partnership with the Digital Design Studio (DDS) at the Glasgow School of Art (GSA), which is acknowledged as a leader within the field of digital visualisation. The University of Glasgow Dental School is part of a consortium with the Digital Design Studio, Raigmore Hospital and the Faculty of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow.



*Mr Robert McKerlie, Dr Carlos Miguel, Dr David Shaw, Dr Donald Cameron, Dr Ziad Al-Ani, Dr Viv Binnie (deputy lead), Dr Andrea Sherriff, Mrs. Alison Cairns and Dr Vince Bissell (Director of Dental Education).*

# Research

The work project being delivered by this consortium includes a Three Dimensional Anatomical Model, involving the dissection of a cadaver with image capture of the head and neck tissue. Digital scanning is being performed to allow accurate reconstruction of dental related anatomy at every level of dissection. The DDS and the Faculty of Biomedical Life Sciences are the main players at this stage. This is a tremendously exciting project for the Dental School and eventually a complete 'virtual patient' will enable students from different branches of medicine, anatomy, dentistry and nursing to study using e-learning resources. The educational research group's task is to compare current teaching modalities with the digital design product.

The members of the Dental Education Research Group are tasked to devise research questions and evaluation of the content being developed. This will be done in association with other academics and educational researchers within and outside the university.

These two projects are currently in development, and are both part of three-year funded projects. As they are being developed the group will be designing appropriate methodologies for evaluation.

In terms of current activity, members of the group are active in a number of projects and studies relating to themes of quality enhancement, improving on the quality of good practice in learning and teaching.

Two current studies, funded by the University of Glasgow Learning and Teaching Development Fund, relate to syndicated learning; that is, students forming small groups to construct an understanding of knowledge by peer-assessment and reflection. The second study which is a novel initiative within dentistry is a peer-assisted learning project where senior students in year five become peer-trainers for first year students. This project which will be completed by next summer will compare peer-trainers with staff in delivering two clinical tasks. How this experience is evaluated by students delivering and receiving this teaching is of great interest to the researchers and the findings are keenly anticipated.

The group has also initiated a journal club to discuss current relevant topics of educational interest to which all interested parties within the Dental School are invited. The journal club meets bi-monthly and information is circulated to all members of staff. If there is any other member of staff interested in attending who has not been previously notified please contact Mrs Liz Scott, the clerk for the group who will add your name to our electronic mailing list.

**Dr D. A. Cameron**

*continued from page 8*

the Mediterranean on approach from the southern coast of Spain. One can understand how such a sight can antagonise the Spanish people; Gibraltar is British and has been so for the last 300 years even though it's connected to the Spanish mainland. At last we arrived about 23:00, feeling somewhat hungry and tired. Geoff was particularly emotional given that it's his home country.

Our initial project of comparing the oral environment between apes kept in captivity at Edinburgh Zoo and the free-range packs in Gibraltar was not to be; the zoo was not keen on us interacting with their apes for health and safety issues. We therefore had to adapt and look at various packs in Gibraltar itself. One of Gibraltar's main sources of trade is tourism. Over 1000 visitors per day visit the upper rock and its native inhabitants, the Barbary Macaque. However, to get that perfect photo opportunity, tourists will entice the apes with chocolate coated peanuts, crisps and any other food they may have at hand. On restricted military land, we discovered that a wild pack inhabited these lands and fed on provisioned healthy food and the land itself. Liaising with the local wildlife society, we were able to obtain saliva samples of both packs of apes and perform specific microbiological experiments that would identify the bacterial load. As suspected our results highlighted the fact that the apes on military land were healthier looking, with no evidence of obesity, and had better saliva buffering capacity coupled to lower levels of *S.mutans* and *Lactobacillus*. However, as this was a pilot study, the numbers were low making it difficult to prove this by means of inferential statistics. We both hope this research may encourage other students in the future to perform a replica of the study but in larger numbers. It was gratifying, especially when Dr Eric Shaw (in charge of the apes on the rock) informed us that this study was the first of its kind on the Barbary ape.

Our time in Gibraltar was taken up with lying on the beach (such hard work), sightseeing, caving, going to restaurants and partying! Our return journey wasn't without its own level of excitement, with Iain's bike breaking down 25km outside Salamanca. However, things happen for a reason and Salamanca turned out to be a stunning Spanish city with wonderful architecture and historical buildings. It definitely appealed to romantics – don't know what everyone made of us two! The following morning was taken up dealing with insurance companies, local Harley Davidson garages and Spanish taxis. We were so lucky the breakdown did not happen in France as Geoff's ability to speak Spanish came in very handy. On discovering that the bike could not be fixed, Iain continued his journey to Santander in the comfort of a taxi with Geoff in hot pursuit on his bike; taxis in Spain have little respect for speed limits and neither did Geoff! Under the circumstances, we decided to miss out France for the return journey and instead catch a ferry from Santander to Plymouth. 24 hours later, after a good night's sleep, aided by copious amounts of beer, we found ourselves back in a very wet U.K. Iain was now laughing as he drove all the way home in the comfort and warmth of a hired car. Unfortunately Geoff had the gruelling task of facing the worst elements thrown at him. Thankfully we both got home 12 hours later, getting caught in the morning rush hour.

On reflection, the whole journey was a fantastic experience which offered lots of excitement and some trying/difficult times. Friendship needs to be akin to a marriage when spending so much time together, insofar as you need to be tolerant, understanding and patient with each other. Tiredness and a lack of familiarity with your surroundings can destroy a good friendship. However, we are pretty laid back individuals and got on really well. Furthermore, all the hard work researching the project and seeking funding allowed us to enjoy the experience and be somewhat adaptive to changing circumstances regarding the project and the trip in general. All in all, a memorable experience which will be hard to beat any time soon.

**Geoff Stone and Iain Henderson**



# Elective project - “Road Trip”

When we look back at the experiences BDS4 offered us, we realise what an intimidating but exciting a year it was.

There is so much material to cover, so many examinations and expectations condensed into one year that we sometimes wonder how we ever got through it all. However, the light at the end of the tunnel is the prospect of taking a 4-6 week break and pursuing a project on a subject matter of our choosing. Well, Iain and I were fascinated by motorbikes, sun, sea and barbary apes. This offered us the opportunity to drive our bikes down through Scotland, England, France and Spain, and onto Gibraltar. However, the logistics of this were somewhat fuzzy to start with. Initially, we were not sure how we could fund the project. The upside is that there are several organisations (such as the MDDUS) which are willing to contribute sizeable amounts of cash based on a student proposal. Iain and I spent three weeks in the library researching the subject and obtaining the relevant supportive material on which to base our project. Our proposal was well received and our financial worries were sorted. To be honest, the trip itself was poorly planned by us. Being old dogs (well, Geoff particularly), and on a budget, we just thought we'd literally point south with a compass and set off, planning to camp wherever possible... as if that was a good plan!

The rest of the year went so quickly and before we knew it “D-day” had arrived. We were both excited and nervous but felt it was appropriate to let our hair down having sat the final exams two weeks previously. We set off into the sunset leaving behind our teary partners. To be honest, we set off into a typical wet Scottish morning, not that this dampened our enthusiasm. Ten hours of driving and sore backsides later we arrived in Folkstone where we planned to take the Eurotunnel the next morning over to Calais. That night was the start of a realisation that Iain and I could not sleep in the same room; snoring competition! Somewhat bleary eyed, we set off to catch our train. This being the first experience of the tunnel for both of us, we found it totally fascinating. The fact that we were on a train, in a tunnel, miles under the English Channel was surreal. Within 20 minutes or so we were on French soil. The instance we disembarked, we were blinded by the bright sunshine and scorching heat. Off came the layers of clothing and on went the posing t-shirts.

Over the next five days, we drove down through the centre of France, over the Pyrenees and down the east coast of Spain. The countryside of France was beautiful, the roads perfect but the language barrier disastrous to say the least. Spain's coast was stunning and as Geoff is fluent in Spanish, we were able to stay true to our course and not get lost, as we did through France many a time! What a sight to see Gibraltar rise out of



Geoff Stone and Iain Henderson

## PG Students 2009-2010 Course and Country of Origin

Hans Brown	MSc PDC	UK
MarieRose O'Hagan	MSc PDC	UK
Owen Msimango	MSc PDC	South Africa
Julie Dale	MSc PDC	UK
Fiona Boyd	MSc PDC	UK
Peter Walker	MS PDC	UK
Ewa Jahnz	MS PDC	Poland
Duncan McSporran	MS PDC	UK
Martin Brawley	MS PDC	UK
Justine Colbeck	MS PDC	UK
Ruth Martin	MS PDC	UK
Calum Jack	MS PDC	UK
Bushra Ghafur	MS PDC	UK
Ayesha Ghaffar	MS PDC	UK
Wafa Kashbour	MSc FRP	Libya
Hala Traina	MSc FRP	Libya
Esam Eshaweirf	MSc FRP	Libya
Mohamed Rhab	MSc OMFS	Libya
Yacqub Atorkat	DClin Dent	Kuwait
Laura Short	DClin Dent	UK
Rehab Benramadam	MSc OMFS	Libya

**MSc PDC** – Primary Dental Care, **MSc OMFS** – Oral and Maxillo Facial Surgery  
**MSc FRP** – Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics, **DClin Dent** Orthodontics

### New Students in Infection & Immunity section:

Adriana Zalewska - M.Sc. Ryan Quinn - M.Sc.  
Sam Curran - Ph.D. Ranjith Rajendran - Ph.D.

continued on page 7

Contact address:

**University of Glasgow Dental School, Glasgow Dental Hospital & School, 378 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3JZ**

Telephone (main switchboard): **+44 (0) 141 211 9600**

Email addresses for the editors: **M.Broad@denal.gla.ac.uk** and **D.Shaw@denal.gla.ac.uk**

Web addresses:

**www.gla.ac.uk/schools/dental/** (Glasgow University, Dental School)

**www.nhsgg.org.uk/content/** (Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board)