

DR. GERALD LEATHERMAN AWARD

Julia Brewin was the worthy recipient of the BSDHT's Dr Gerald Leatherman Award in recognition of her immense contribution and commitment to the profession of dental hygiene over many years.



Julia qualified as a dental hygienist in 1989 from the Eastman Dental Hospital. She worked in a large specialist referral private practice in Harley Street following qualification until 2007, when she set up a very successful independent dental hygiene referral practice in London W1.

Since 1991 Julia has also been an enthusiastic and inspirational Tutor, working part time at the Eastman Dental Hospital where she now teaches the Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy course.

Jane Nichols, a fellow Tutor at the Eastman Dental Hospital has known Julia in a professional capacity for thirteen years. She says: *"I have admired Julia's professionalism at close quarters, not only as a remarkable team leader but also as an inspiring teacher to the many students who have been under her care.*

As a very gifted communicator her teaching role has been hugely successful. Her very wide professional experience is a rich source of sound knowledge, which she passes on so ably for the benefit of others.

She is a naturally warm and compassionate individual who is always prepared to go that extra mile to help those around her, whether it be towards struggling students, patients or her colleagues. But at the same time maintaining the standards required in her role as a professional".

Alison Franc adds: *"As a student currently studying dental hygiene and therapy at the Eastman Dental Hospital, I have been tutored by Julia Brewin for the past two years. She is an inspiration to me both in a personal and professional capacity. Her teaching style combines an unwavering enthusiasm for the subject with a genuine sincerity of faith in her students' abilities. She goes above and beyond the standard role of tutor and shows immense support and personal interest in her students, which is indicative of her wonderfully empathetic and encouraging personality. Professionally, Julia embodies the career we all hope and strive to emulate and her humbleness in her achievements shines as an inspiration in itself".*

Lecturing extensively in the UK including at both national and regional BDHA/BSHDT conferences and meetings, Julia was one of the first Dental Hygienists invited to speak at a BDA conference and in 2009 spoke at a meeting at the Royal College of Surgeons in Glasgow. From 2000-2005 she also ran a series of courses developing from what had started as a trial (supported by Dentsply) where she spoke to a small group of delegates. This trial was so successful that 'Part Two' and 'Part Three' courses were added. This was at a time when there were no courses for dental hygienists and therapists and was even before CPD was requested by the GDC. She travelled around the country from

Belfast to Cardiff to Cornwall. In addition, Julia took part in the GDC DCP Registration Roadshows before the GDC Register was opened to include additional DCP members, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Working with the dental company Dentsply Julia helped lead a group of dental professionals in creating the Refinement range of periodontal instruments and helped design a scaler which was named after her- the Brewin scaler.

Since qualification, Julia has been a very active BDHA/BSHDT member at both regional and national level. For some years she was the Secretary of the BDHA/BSHDT London Regional Group. She has served on BDHA Council as an Elected Council Member and as a Regional Group Representative on Council. From 2000-2012 Julia was a well-respected and enthusiastic contributor to the BSDHT Publications Committee.

Julia's contribution to our dental profession also includes her involvement with the General Dental Council (GDC) over the last twenty years. Initially she was elected to the Dental Auxiliaries Committee in 1993. After this committee was disbanded, Julia was elected, then subsequently appointed, to the GDC Council. After the first reorganisation of the Council, Julia was appointed to the GDC's independent Investigating Committee where she has contributed for the last nine years.

Julia has also undertaken charitable work by being part of a Dentaaid charity trek to Southern Italy and where she climbed three volcanoes. For quite a few years she was involved with *Crisis for Christmas* and recently she walked a marathon by taking part in the Breast Cancer Moon Walk.

Since qualifying twenty-five years ago, Julia's enthusiasm for her chosen career has never waned. She gives her all to every endeavour she gets involved with and always finds time to encourage, motivate and support others to get the best out of themselves. She is a credit both to the Society and to her profession.