

Eve Fisher

Recipient of the Dr Leatherman award

Marina Harris, out going President, presented Eve Fisher with the Dr Leatherman award at the BSDHT AGAM in October. Below is a testimonial from her friends and colleagues to this worthy winner of this prestigious award.

Eve qualified in 1982 at UCH, the winner of the hospital prize, and began a career that has become her passion.

Several years later Eve was approached by a relative regarding the need for a domiciliary visit for a friend who was in dental pain. Eve was able to persuade a dental surgeon friend to visit this person and went along with him. A tooth was extracted, in an armchair, and the patient was extremely grateful. During this visit Eve noticed that the patient's total oral health needed treating.

At around this time legislation had been changed, and dental hygienists were now allowed to treat patients without a dentist on the premises. Eve could see that this was an opportunity to make a difference and improve the oral health, and care, of such patients, ultimately improving their quality of life. Eve decided to open discussions with the dentist about the provision of a domiciliary hygiene service.

Further negotiations were required and Eve persuaded the PCT and social services to give her their full support. Subsequently Eve was asked to visit local care homes to talk to the residents and offer this service.



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Seventeen years later, Eve and her colleagues currently visit 125 care homes and 1000 patients in their homes every three months. Treatment is provided on the National Health Service, sometimes without payment as Eve feels that everyone should be treated whether or not they can afford it. This has made a tremendous difference to the oral health of the elderly and disabled in our area.

To enable Eve to efficiently run the service, she studied part time, and gained a postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies. Still eager to learn, she then studied and gained a degree of Master of Business

Administration. In 2002 Eve was listed in Who's Who as Founder of the Mobile Dental Service and in 2005 was accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Eve went on to purchase a small dental practice, which has now expanded to include three surgeries, two waiting areas, an X-ray room and a large rear office area to accommodate the domiciliary equipment. She owns a majority share of the business (51%) and her business partner is a Dental Surgeon. Eve undertakes all the marketing, recruiting, training, P.A.Y.E., accounts and liaising with the health authorities. She now employs 28 staff, including 5 dental hygienists. She is totally committed to the profession and often approached by her hygienist colleagues who wish to start their own business. She gives advice willingly and freely as the profession has given her so much joy, and she loves to pass on her experience.

Eve loves her work so much that, even when enduring gruelling radiotherapy 9 years ago, she made sure that she went straight back to work after each session. She was very touched when her staff surprised her at work with a champagne breakfast the day after her last session.

Now reaching retirement age, with two children and three grandchildren we feel that Eve has been a pioneer for our profession and that this deserves to be recognised.

Californian dentists urged to stop using amalgam

Costa Mesa City Council, in Californian city is telling its dentists to stop using amalgam. It is also calling on the other 33 cities in Orange County to use a better alternative to amalgam, which contains mercury.

Sweden has banned mercury fillings, and Austria and Germany have restricted their use. The Costa Mesa

resolution calls on state and federal agencies to eliminate amalgam fillings, urges dentists in the city to use safer alternatives, and invites the other 33 cities in Orange County to oppose dental mercury.

Mercury was banned from all dental fillings in Norway in 2008. Dentists in the country had to start using safer alternatives as a matter of law from the

beginning of that year. The metal has also been banned from all products, including measuring instruments. The country had previously restricted the use of amalgam fillings, especially in children and pregnant and nursing women, but is the first in the world to enforce a complete ban.