

This month at ...

COTTINGHAM
DENTAL PRACTICE



The future of dental implantology

After almost two years of virtual meetings, the International Team for Implantology Congress UK & Ireland was held in Edinburgh on 1-2 October 2021. Rob made the journey north, joining more than 400 participants.

The theme of the meeting was Future Proof, and the scientific programme provided an evidence-based review of where implant dentistry now stands, what lies ahead and what today's research tells us about the future.

"It was great to finally be able to meet face to face with friends and colleagues," Rob said. "We had a range of international speakers and I feel that I have definitely kept up with developments during the last two years of lockdowns and restrictions. It was very odd to travel in a train again!"

Out and about!

Rob, Tina, Sami and Christine attended a one-day discussion on HR for the dental team organised by Practice Plan. Managing Change and Leading People covered a range of topics that have been highlighted by covid during the past 18 months. "We now have plenty to think about when we tackle future challenges," said Rob. "We want to provide the best customer service and clinical care that we can during the coming months."



Fluoride to be added to tap water

The policy of adding fluoride to drinking water (it occurs naturally in some sources) across the UK is a step closer after the chief medical officers concluded that the mineral would cut tooth decay. Dates and funding are still to be set.

Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England, and his counterparts in the rest of the UK cited estimates by Public Health England that adding more fluoride to water supplies would reduce cavities by 17% among the richest children and 28% among the poorest.

In an evidence review published in September, the medical officers concluded: "As with all things in medicine and public health there is a balance of risk and benefit. There is unquestionably an issue with tooth decay in the UK and an entrenched inequality which needs to be addressed. Fluoridation of water can reduce this common problem.

"On balance, there is strong scientific evidence that water fluoridation is an effective public health intervention for reducing the prevalence of tooth decay and improving dental health equality across the UK."

The health bill now going before MPs will give Sajid Javid, the health secretary, the power to order fluoridation across the country. He tweeted: "Good to see UK CMOs examining how water fluoridation can improve oral health & prevent tooth decay which disproportionately affects more deprived groups. Reinforces why our health and care bill will make it simpler to expand water fluoridation schemes."

Visit www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/23/fluoride-will-be-added-to-uk-drinking-water-to-cut-tooth-decay for the full report in the Guardian.

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