

## Preventive Dentistry Practice of the Year

# Craigentinny Dental Health Centre

### Team values

It is currently fashionable to talk of cosmetic dentistry, although such treatments are only accessed by a minority of the population. If the same attention to detail, communication skills and professionalism were applied to the pursuit of dental health what could we as a profession achieve? Craigentinny Dental Health Centre is trying very hard to answer this question.

The Centre aims to challenge the disillusionment and prejudices that many patients have as a result of their past experiences by providing predictable, health focused care that can alter a patient's self perception as effectively as a smile makeover. Whilst not instantly glamorous, preventive dentistry is undoubtedly the most professionally and personally rewarding part of the team's work.

### Prevention philosophy

1. Dental diseases are a direct result of bacterial infection. The practice communicates this through the use of disclosing solutions, dark field microscopes and careful interpersonal communication.
2. Patients readily come to understand the importance of eliminating the causes of dental disease before the dentists repair the damage caused by it. As a result the practice is able to offer extended warranties of three and five years on their restorative treatments.
3. The practice believes in the team approach. Care nurses, hygienists and dentists work in partnership delivering different aspects of care. Skills are constantly updated with team wide meetings and extensive CPD activity. Craigentinny Dental Health

Centre was amongst the first practices in Scotland to achieve the BDA Good Practice standard. The practice has supported their nurses, care nurses and hygienists in gaining additional qualifications.

4. It has been identified that almost every patient is anxious at some level, but the practice offers a dedicated nervous patients programme for those who may have avoided care due to the severity of their fears. New patients form a primary relationship with their care nurse who then becomes their advocate within the practice. Many people who were otherwise too frightened to access dental care have benefited from a truly preventive approach and the support of our care nurses.

5. The practice realises that hi tech equipment is necessary but they have designed the practice to allow as much or as little equipment to be moved to a room as necessary. Designed and built as a Preventive Practice they have attempted to remove as many physical barriers to care as possible. Their trolley based system and 'non dental' surgery design being just two examples of this.

6. The practice believes that dental health is an integral part of whole body health. Consequently they utilise a range of diagnostic aids; recording of blood pressure, dietary analysis, saliva testing, disclosing, Diagnodent and dark field microscopy. 'The Cariogram' Software is used as an educational tool to show patients how our advice can reduce the risk of dental decay with minimal lifestyle impact. This detailed analysis leads to more specific advice and improved patient compliance often results.

7. Craigentinny Dental Health Centre organised and ran Campaign 18-Zero.

### Staff

#### Dentists

John Booth BDS MFGDP  
(Partner)  
Fraser Hendrie BDS MFGDP  
(Partner)  
David Kilroy BSc BDS (Associate)

#### Hygienists

Alison Black  
Pamela Currie

#### Care Nurses

Lesley Galway  
Maureen Turner  
Jane Lindsay

#### Nurse

Louise Ruickbie  
Evelyn O'Farrell  
Suzanne Donaldson  
Dionne Froude  
Lindsey McDonald

#### Receptionists

Lynne Higgins  
Carol Socular

To help children locally reach the age of 18 with a DMF of zero they spent time raising the awareness of the many dental dangers that lurk for the unwary. The practice have visited many local nurseries and made presentations to their staff. Additionally they have printed and distributed over 1000 copies of their 'Guide to Children's Dental Health 0-4 years' providing a copy for every child that attended the nursery. They liaised with dental supply companies to include this in a well received 'dental goody bag'.