

Speaker Q/A session - Questions and Answer discussion session between **Professor Dominic O'Sullivan (DO)**, **University of Bristol**, and BBSPD President **Peter Briggs (PB)**.

Dominic is due to discuss:

‘Implant Use in the Periodontally - Susceptible Patient - The Grey Areas’

at the 2015 British Society of Prosthodontics on **Saturday 28th March 2015 (9am)**. The conference is taking place at the British Library Conference Centre.

Question 1

PB – Dominic bsspd is already looking forward to hearing you at our 2015 London. This is the first time that you have spoken to our Society please briefly take us through your career and let us know about your mentors along the way?

DO – I qualified in dentistry in 1991. Following a few years in house jobs, senior house jobs and 3 years in general dental practice I decided to return to an academic environment to pursue a PhD in 1997. I was lucky enough to join Bristol Dental School at a time when Prof Neil Meredith was developing Resonance Frequency Analysis (RFA) to measure implant stability. My PhD in implant geometry and primary stability was completed in 2000 whilst working at Leeds Dental Institute as a Research Fellow on a large European Funded Research project looking at the clinical application of RFA. This was a great opportunity to become involved in Implantology and to travel around some of the best centres in Europe including the Brånemark clinic and Department of Biomaterials research in Gothenburg, Sweden working under Prof Lars Sennerby and Prof Tomas Albrektsson as well as a number of centres in Southern Europe. I returned to Bristol Dental School in 2000 to undertake my clinical specialty training in Restorative Dentistry which I completed in 2005 under Paul King as the Training Programme Director and gained an honorary consultant post in Restorative Dentistry. I have continued to have a varied job divided between clinical work, research and teaching since then, developing the MSc in Dental Implantology in 2008. I gained a Chair in Restorative Dentistry in 2011.

Question 2

PB – Why did you choose an academic career in Restorative Dentistry and what does your current job involve?

DO – I have always liked variety and challenge in any job I have done and there is no doubt that you get both of those things as an academic, sometimes too much. There is certainly no chance to get bored. My current job involves clinical care, research, teaching and administration/leadership roles. I really enjoy the variety this gives although at heart the roles I most enjoy are the clinical and teaching aspects of my job.

Question 3

PB – Implants are now a big part of Prosthodontics. Do you see many implant problems and failure in your secondary care referral clinics? You are due to speak to us about the use of implants in patients with a proven susceptibility to periodontal disease. Without giving away details of your presentation do you have concerns about '*same day teeth*' etc. for patients?

DO – I and my colleagues have certainly seen a great increase in patients with implant related problems over the last 10 years. Implant treatment is becoming more common and we do not know the long term impact of this, particularly when we look at the problems of the increased burden on healthcare resources and an ageing population. Implant treatment can be hugely successful for patients but I do have great concerns over some of the treatment regimes that are being proposed by some people. Often there is little evidence of how these techniques work across a wider population and data is very often short term and limited in scope. If we get things right with implants then the benefits for patients can be huge however if we get things wrong then the consequences can be very difficult to deal with.

Question 4

PB - What are your research interests and achievements?

DO – My own research interests have tended to focus on implant success and failure. My early research looked at the enhancement of implant primary stability by altering the surgical technique and implant geometry of dental implants particularly in poor quality bone. More recently my research interests have shifted towards implant education and the challenges of long term implant failure and peri-implant inflammatory disease. I am currently involved in research collaborations looking at antimicrobial nanoscale implant coatings aimed at the management of biofilm related peri-implant disease.

Question 5

PB – We are expecting a good number of Dental Foundation trainee to the conference - what would your advice be them starting-out on their dental career?

DO – I would give the same advice that I was given by a great mentor of mine and now retired BSSPD member Martin Woodhead. He said to me to that even if you feel that you know exactly where you want to head in your career just make sure that enjoy each step of your journey and keep your mind open to the potential of different options. I certainly never had any intention of being a Professor of Restorative Dentistry when I first qualified and I knew nothing about dental implants. Sometimes opportunities present themselves when you are not expecting them.

Question 6

PB – How do you let your hair down away from dentistry?

DO – Currently every moment away from dentistry is taken up with DIY and coordinating an army of builders, plumbers and decorators restoring an old Edwardian property in Bath. I always seem to be involved in renovating property. I promise myself each time will be the last but I seem to somehow get drawn into another ‘project’. Leisure time is a rare treat and I spend every moment I can with family, travelling, relaxing and catching up.

Many thanks Dominic - bsspd looks forward to hearing you speak on Saturday 28th March 2015

Conference Booking: bsspd.org