

Speakers Biographies

Tom Ferris, Chief Dental Officer (Interim), Scottish Government

Tom qualified from Glasgow in 1982 and has worked in general practice, hospital service and in the salaried service in Scotland and in the hospital service in Malta.

He was seconded to Scottish Government as Deputy Chief Dental Officer from his substantive posts with NHS Forth Valley and NHS Education for Scotland in 2010 and is currently Chief Dental Officer during the interregnum.

He has been closely involved in the development of the Oral Health Improvement Strategy for Priority Groups (2012) and the Oral Health Improvement Plan (2018).

Dr Maura Edwards, Consultant in Dental Public Health, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Maura Edwards is a Consultant in Dental Public Health in NHS Ayrshire & Arran. She has an interest in working with the priority groups originally identified in the 2005 Scottish Dental Action Plan, which included adults with additional care needs. Maura undertook a local oral health needs assessment in Ayrshire & Arran, the results of which showed that oral health improvement activity was required. Maura built on previous work started by dental colleagues in East Ayrshire linking with the Community Learning Disability Team, which led to the formation of the Dental Health Action Group. The Ayrshire & Arran Oral Health Improvement Team developed an oral health "Train the Trainer" programme for those who worked with adults with learning disabilities, which became the Open Wide pilot. As Maura was also chair of the National Older People's Oral Health Improvement Group, which developed the Caring for Smiles Guide for Trainers, this was used as a basis for Open Wide. When the national group was established to improve the oral health of adults with additional care needs, they agreed to adopt the Open Wide guide and develop it further for national use for all adults with additional care needs.

Maura's local work for adults with learning disabilities continued with her involvement in developing good links between dental services and the Learning Disability Liaison Nurses to improve the experience for those being admitted for dental treatment. Maura has also been a member of the group which implemented the Ayrshire & Arran general health improvement strategy for adults with learning disabilities "We want good health, the same as you". Oral health improvement is a vital element of overall health improvement, with training of trainers forming an important part of the approach.

Anne Moore, Clinical Director, Public Dental Service, NHS Lanarkshire

In addition to being a Clinical Director I am on the GDC Specialist List for Special Care dentistry and have worked clinically in this field for over 20 years and continue to do so.

Patients with Additional Care Needs have a range of physical or cognitive conditions or indeed a combination of both and, as such it is imperative that nothing further disadvantages them from a health perspective. There is no doubt that being able to

provide oral care for vulnerable patients is extremely important and I find working with this sector of the population to be both rewarding and challenging.

During my clinical work I regularly see the difficulties some patients in this group have when their oral health deteriorates in terms of both disease consequences and also barriers to treatment. These difficulties only increase as the patient's condition progresses unfortunately, which is evidence of the need for a resource targeting oral health improvement for these patients.

Optimising everyone's oral health is important but for those already compromised for one reason or another it is doubly so and therefore producing a resource like Open Wide which is tailored towards helping achieve and maintain good oral health is essential, which is why I became involved in the production of the resource.

Professor Lorna Macpherson, Professor of Dental Public Health, University of Glasgow.

The Community Oral Health Section of the Dental School in Glasgow has been working with members of the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory over the past couple of years. The Observatory aims to increase the visibility of people with learning disabilities within Scotland's routinely collected data and provide meaningful health intelligence for practitioners, policy makers and the wider community. It also aims to build an understanding of the causes of poor health and health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities and people with autism and thereby inform policy and practice to benefit these population groups.

We are currently involved in a number of oral health projects and the findings to-date suggest that there is a relatively low awareness of oral health and its determinants among non-dental health professionals working in the field. The work of the Observatory aims to increase the profile of oral health among relevant stakeholders.

The availability of the Open Wide resource to support daily oral care for adults with additional care needs is to be welcomed and will complement this awareness raising effort, to the benefit of adults with intellectual disabilities in Scotland.

Dr Helen Patterson, Consultant in Special Care Dentistry, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde BSc(Hons) BDS(Hons) FDSRCSEd MSurgDentRCSEd MSNDRCSSEd FDSRCPSG

After working in residential care for individuals with disabilities for some years, I studied dentistry in Glasgow, graduating in 1996. I have worked in general dental practice, hospital and community/public dental services in Scotland and the US. In 2010 I was appointed NHS Consultant in Special Care Dentistry in Greater Glasgow and Clyde. My clinical work focuses on the provision of oral healthcare to adults with complex needs in particular those with medically compromising conditions.

Prevention of dental disease is important for all of us so we can smile, communicate and eat comfortably. We have become increasingly aware of the impact poor oral

health can have on our general health. Individuals dependent on others for their personal care deserve the best oral health they can achieve with the help of their carers. It can be difficult to address what may be complex needs and Open Wide will help to guide carers to the best way to support individuals' oral health. Starting at home, improved oral health should reduce the need for intervention from the dentist. I am delighted to be involved with this programme to improve the oral and general health of adults with additional needs.

Dominic Jarrett, Learning Disabilities Development Manager, North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership

I have worked in Learning Disability Services in Ayrshire for over 18 years, initially on research regarding parents with a learning disability, but subsequently in a broader capacity regarding evaluation and development across the breadth of the NHS LD service. That work included a survey of oral health needs of people known to the service in East Ayrshire, which highlighted the real need for additional work in that area. The subsequent collaboration with dental services on developing other related activity, including piloting the initial Open Wide resource, was immensely valuable.

Currently I am working as a Learning Disabilities Development Manager within the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, linked to the implementation of the North Ayrshire LD Strategic Plan. The need for collaboration across services in the delivery of that plan is significant, but my experience to date has also highlighted the need for broader perspectives around needs, less bound to particular diagnostic labels or client categories. In this respect, the development of Open Wide as a resource of relevance to the care of all adults with additional needs is immensely encouraging. Not only does oral health remain a significant issue across a variety of care groups, but the broad vision and inclusive perspective promoted by the Open Wide resource provides a valuable example which other similar resources could benefit from emulating. Its success will hopefully further evidence the value in adopting a more flexible perspective when developing professions and services.

Nicholas Beacher, Clinical Lecturer in Special Care Dentistry, University of Glasgow

Nick graduated from The University of Glasgow Dental School. He then spent time in Lothian Health Board gaining experience in General Dental Practice, Paediatric Dentistry, Oral Surgery, Restorative Dentistry and The Public Dental Service.

Nick has since returned to The University of Glasgow to undertake his clinical academic training in Special Care Dentistry which he completed in 2018. In 2019, Nick was appointed to the post of University Clinical Lecturer. In addition to his clinical duties he delivers teaching to undergraduate and postgraduate audiences throughout the United Kingdom as well as to other teams involved in health and social care. He has also gained experience in research working with older people and has undertaken a scholarship in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education having obtained a M.Ed. with distinction and is a Fellow of The Higher Education. Nick has a particular interest in technology enhanced case base learning and

problem based learning. Following the successful award of grant funding, his current focus of educational research and development is to evaluate active learning from a student perspective. Nick has also recently taken on the role of deputy co-coordinator for year three of the B.D.S. programme at The University of Glasgow.

Open Wide represents a significant moment for people with additional care needs and for oral health. It recognises that there are barriers to achieving oral health for some of the most vulnerable people in our society who are dependent upon others to support their health and wellbeing. Open Wide seeks to find a way forward to address this by empowering those people with additional care needs but it also strives to foster the necessary support which is appropriate to the needs of each individual to improve oral health and wellbeing.

The available scientific literature is clear, the oral health levels experienced by those with additional care needs is on the whole poor. This is not fair and it is not right. The prevention of oral disease is key to improving the oral health of all individuals and groups that have additional care needs. Equally, the recognition of disease is essential to ensure it can be appropriately managed by the right person in the right place at the right time. As health and social care partnerships develop in the future we all have to be able to work together at all levels in order to share skills and collaborate ensuring we are doing our very best for these people who are such a valuable part of our communities.

It is a huge honour to be able to bring what knowledge and enthusiasm I have for improving the oral health experience of people with impairment and disability to the Open Wide programme. To have the opportunity to support any carer in learning more about oral health and providing them with the confidence and competence they require to aid in this process is a massive privilege. Whilst a dentist may deliver treatment to manage oral diseases, in reality, it is the daily care of the mouth that is the most important aspect of oral healthcare which will improve the levels of oral health experienced by people with additional care needs. Open Wide provides a huge opportunity to move our society closer to improving the oral health of these people.

Morag Muir, Specialty Trainee in Dental Public Health, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Having spent the majority of my career working in the Public Dental Service, before joining Dental Public Health, I have treated multiple patients with a range of additional care needs. Through this I have seen how important daily oral care is to a patient's dental health and their more general health and wellbeing. I also understand how difficult it can be to deliver mouthcare for complex individuals where a number of challenges are faced.

I hope that Open Wide will provide the guidance and advice to help carers overcome these challenges and I am delighted to have been asked to speak at this launch event to highlight the links between Open Wide and other oral health improvement programmes for different age groups.