NIMDTA Dental Conference 2027

Small Changes, Big Impact

Friday 12th March 2027
Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
Northern Ireland

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency
Dental Courses, Events & Simulation

Welcome!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the NIMDTA Dental Conference 2027 - Small Changes, Big Impact.

This year's programme brings together two themes that are central to the future of dentistry: delivering high-quality, evidence-based patient care and supporting the health, wellbeing and sustainability of the dental workforce.

Across our parallel sessions, delegates will have the opportunity to explore contemporary approaches to prevention, minimum intervention oral care and minimally invasive dentistry, alongside important discussions on workforce wellbeing, healthy ageing, ergonomics, safeguarding and career sustainability. Together, these topics reflect the changing landscape of dental practice and the need to support both our patients and our profession.

I encourage you to make the most of the day by engaging with our expert speakers, sharing experiences with colleagues and taking time to reflect on how the learning can be applied within your own practice.

I hope you find the conference informative, thought-provoking and enjoyable. Thank you for joining us. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

Warm regards,

Brid Hendron
Postgraduate Dental Dean
Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency

#DentalConferenceNI2027

Meet the Team

Postgraduate Dental Dean

Brid Hendron

As the Postgraduate Dental Dean, Brid has responsibility for all areas of work undertaken by the Dental Team at NIMDTA. She works to facilitate her dental team in delivering an innovative and full educational programme on an annual basis.

Lead for Courses, Events & Simulation

Amanda Jackson

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Conference Information

Friday 12th March 2027
The Island Hall & Studio Theatre
Lagan Valley Island
Lisburn

Lagan Valley Island is one of the leading conference venues in Northern Ireland - the perfect choice for the NIMDTA Dental Conference.

It is a short walk from Lisburn train or bus station and has free car parking for up to 300 cars.

Key times:

- 09:00 Conference Registration
- 09:20 Programme Start
- 11:05 Morning Break
- 13:00 Lunch
- 16:30 Conference Close

Programme 1

Time	Session Title	Speaker
09:00-09:20	**REGISTRATION**	
09:20-09:30	**Welcome**	Brid Hendron
09:30-10:15	**Primary and secondary prevention of dental caries in primary care, using Minimum Intervention Oral Care**	Prof Avijit Banerjee
10:20-11:05	**Transforming the Tired Mouth**	Dr Annie Hughes
11:05-11:30	**BREAK**	
11:30-12:15	**Minimally invasive operative management of deep caries - Take it, Leave it or Stick to it?**	Prof Avijit Banerjee
12:20-13:00	**Vital Pulp Therapies Part 1**	Dr Phil Tomson
13:00-14:00	**LUNCH**	
14:00-15:00	**Vital Pulp Therapies Part 2**	Dr Phil Tomson & Prof Ikhlas El Karim
15:05-15:40	**Diet and Dental Caries in Elite Athletes in Ireland**	Dr Annie Hughes
15:45-16:25	**Think before you drill: Minimal intervention for paediatric caries**	Dr Alaa Bani Hani
16:25-16:30	**CLOSING REMARKS**	Brid Hendron

Programme 2

Time	Session Title	Speaker
09:00-09:20	**REGISTRATION**	
09:20-09:30	**Welcome**	Brid Hendron
09:30-10:15	**Let's Talk About This: The Female Workforce in Dentistry**	Preetee Hylton
10:20-11:05	**Perimenopause/ Menopause and Oral Health**	Poppy Dunton
11:05-11:30	**BREAK**	
11:30-12:15	**Osteoporosis and the Ageing Dentition**	Prof Gerry McKenna
12:20-13:00	**Are you Sitting Comfortably? Ergonomics for the Dental Team**	Leigh Hunter
13:00-14:00	**LUNCH**	
14:00-15:00	**Weight Loss Jabs and Oral Health**	Leigh Hunter
15:05-15:40	**Domestic Abuse: Recognising and Responding Safely**	Preetee Hylton
15:45-16:20	**Sustainable Careers in Dentistry: Preventing Burnout and Protecting Professional Wellbeing**	Poppy Dunton
16:25-16:30	**CLOSING REMARKS**	Brid Hendron

Biographies

Brid Hendron

Postgraduate Dental Dean, NIMDTA

Ms Brid Hendron was appointed to the role of Postgraduate Dental Dean at the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency in 2016. Brid oversees all postgraduate dental education and the continuing education programme for dental practitioners and dental care professionals in Northern Ireland.

Brid is a Fellow of the RCSEd Faculty of Dental Educators, a Senior Founding Fellow of the FMLM and a qualified NLP trainer.

Professor Avijit Banerjee

Professor of Cariology & Operative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences, King's College London & Hon. Consultant, Restorative Dentistry, Guy's & St. Thomas' Hospitals Foundation Trust, London

An internationally recognised expert in cariology, minimum intervention oral care and minimally invasive dentistry, Avi has published extensively and authored several leading textbooks. He currently serves as Dean of the Faculty of Dentists at the College of General Dentistry, President of the British Society of Oral and Dental Research, and Editor-in-Chief of the British Dental Journal portfolio. He is the recipient of the IADR William H Bowen Distinguished Scientist Award and the BDA John Tomes Medal.

Dr Annie Hughes

BA, BDentSc, MFD (RCSI), DChDent (Prosthodontics), FFD (RCSI)

Dr Annie Hughes is a Prosthodontist who graduated with First Class Honours from Trinity College Dublin in 2019, where she received both the Dental Council Restorative Prize and the Sheldon Friel Prize. She subsequently completed a three-year clinical doctorate in Prosthodontics at Trinity College Dublin, alongside research with Sport Ireland examining diet and oral health in elite athletes.

Annie completed both her Membership and Fellowship examinations with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She currently works in private practice at Hampton Dental and holds a part-time supervisory role at the Dublin Dental University Hospital. Her clinical interests include fixed, removable, and implant prosthodontics.

Biographies

Phil Tomson

Senior Clinical Lecturer & Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry, University of Birmingham

Phil completed higher specialist training in 2011 and holds GDC specialist registration in Restorative Dentistry, Endodontics, Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics, and Periodontics. His research interests include tissue regeneration, vital pulp therapies, root canal disinfection and innovative approaches to assessing treatment outcomes.

Phil is actively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education and regularly lectures nationally and internationally on the management of pulpal and periradicular disease.

Professor Ikhlas El Karim

Clinical Professor, Consultant in Restorative Dentistry and Chair of Endodontology at Queen's University Belfast

Ikhlas completed her specialist training and PhD at Queen's and leads both consultant restorative dentistry services within Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and a research programme in endodontics.

Her clinical and research interests focus on vital pulp therapy and regenerative approaches to pulpal disease. Professor El Karim has published more than 80 peer-reviewed papers, co-edited Vital Pulp Treatment, and is an Associate Editor of the International Endodontic Journal. She is a regular speaker at national and international conferences.

Dr Alaa Bani Hani

Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry, King's College Dental Hospital, London

After qualifying in dentistry in 2006, Alaa completed a Master's degree in Paediatric Dentistry and a PhD at the University of Leeds, before becoming a specialist in paediatric dentistry and subsequently a consultant.

An active researcher and educator, Alaa has published widely in the fields of dental caries prevention, minimally invasive dentistry and dental trauma. She is a regular national and international speaker and has contributed to the development of European clinical guidelines on the management of caries in children.

Biographies

Preetee Hylton

Dental Nurse, Safeguarding Lead & Associate Examiner

Preetee is a registered dental professional with experience spanning clinical practice, dental education, safeguarding, and workforce development. She has worked across clinical and educational roles within dentistry, with a strong focus on prevention, patient safety, and supporting teams to deliver high-quality care.

Her interests lie in how systems, people, and policy come together in everyday practice, particularly around workforce sustainability, safeguarding, and improving outcomes for patients. She is passionate about evidence-based practice and creating practical, realistic improvements that support both professionals and the communities they serve.

Poppy Dunton

Dental Therapist, Lecturer in Dental Hygiene & Business Consultant

With over 18 years of experience in dentistry, Poppy's career spans clinical practice, leadership and education, including her role as a Clinical Educator at Teesside University and Chair of the Faculty Board for Dental Hygiene and Therapy at the College of General Dentistry.

Poppy is the creator of the Diploma in Advanced Dental Health & Business Strategy, delivered in partnership with Kana Dental Academy, where she supports dental professionals in building confident, sustainable and fulfilling careers.
She is known for delivering honest, thought-provoking lectures on burnout, professional identity and the future of dentistry, combining clinical insight with real-world experience to challenge how dental teams work, think and lead.

Professor Gerry McKenna

Consultant in Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics, Queen's University, Belfast

Gerry's research focuses on improving oral health and treatment outcomes for older adults through multidisciplinary and patient-centred approaches.
Professor McKenna is a past President of several national and international professional organisations, including the British Society of Gerodontology and the European College of Gerodontology.

He is the author of the textbooks Clinical Cases in Gerodontology and Nutrition and Oral Health.

Biographies

Leigh Hunter
Oral Health Coach

Leigh has over 40 years' experience in clinical practice, education and health promotion. She has contributed to Delivering Better Oral Health and the textbook Head and Neck Cancer for dental professionals, writing the chapter on Xerostomia.

Her interests include Minimal Intervention Oral Care, Periodontal care, Sports dentistry and Health Promotion. Leigh is founder of Growing Smiles and delivers training for dental and health care teams across the UK and Ireland.

NIMDTA Events Booking Platform

Discover and book your next professional development opportunity with ease through the new **NIMDTA Dental Courses, Events & Simulation Booking Platform**—your one-stop destination for accessing all courses and CPD events provided by NIMDTA for dental professionals across Northern Ireland. Whether you're looking to enhance clinical skills, stay up to date with the latest in dental education, or meet your CPD requirements, the platform will offer a streamlined and user-friendly experience. Stay informed, stay skilled, and stay connected with NIMDTA. To access the NIMDTA Events Booking platform please click on the link https://nimdta-training.hscni.net/ or scan the QR code below.

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