

NIMDTA Dental Conference 2025

Friday 17th October 2025
Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey
Northern Ireland



NIMDTA

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



Welcome!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this year's NIMDTA Dental Conference, a cornerstone event in our commitment to supporting the continuing professional development of all dental professionals across Northern Ireland.

This year's programme has been thoughtfully curated to enhance your clinical knowledge while focusing on diagnosis. We have used feedback to inform the programme content and included areas such as temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and oral cancer - conditions that often require deeper investigation and a multidisciplinary approach. Alongside this, our parallel programme focuses on the vital topic of neurodiversity, equipping us to better understand and support the diverse needs of our patients.

We hope you find the sessions both stimulating and practical, and that they inspire reflection and growth in your daily practice. Today is designed to have regular breaks when we encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunity to connect with colleagues old and new. There will also be an opportunity to meet with trade representatives.

On behalf of NIMDTA, thank you for joining us. We are delighted to welcome you and look forward to a day of shared learning. In the event this is your first occasion to connect with NIMDTA Dental Courses, Events and Simulation, please do take the opportunity to familiarise yourself with our calendar which runs throughout the year. This can be accessed through the NIMDTA website, www.nimdtat.gov.uk

Warm regards,

Ms Brid Hendron

Postgraduate Dental Dean

Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency

#DentalConferenceNI2025

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 Simulation & Continuing Education

Amanda Jackson

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Dental Continuing Education Coordinator

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Dental Executive Officer

Sonia McMurray

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Main Theatre: Focus on Diagnosis

09:30 - 09:35	Welcome & Introduction Brid Hendron Postgraduate Dental Dean
09:35 - 10:30	Occlusion: Examination, context and co-diagnostic processes Riaz Yar, Professor in Prosthodontics College of Medicine and Dentistry Birmingham
10:30 - 11:00	BREAK
11:00 - 11:30	Tempo-mandibular dysfunction: Examination, Evaluation and co-diagnostic process Riaz Yar, Professor in Prosthodontics, College of Medicine and Dentistry Birmingham
11:30 - 12:00	Diagnosis of Sleep Disorders: Screening, Clinical Links and Splints Riaz Yar, Professor in Prosthodontics College of Medicine and Dentistry Birmingham
12:00 - 12:30	Cone Beam Imaging: Principles, Clinical Applications, Appropriate use and Diagnosis Orlagh McPolin, Specialty Registrar in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology
12:30 - 13:15	AI in Dentistry - A Starting Point Tina Calder, Chief Vision Officer, Excalibur Press Communications
13:15 - 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 - 15:00	Management of Compromised First Permanent Molars Greig Taylor, Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry at Newcastle University
15:00 - 16:25	Interactive Session: Oral Pathology and Oral Cancer Seamus Napier, Consultant in Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Amanda Willis, Consultant in Oral Medicine at Queen's University Belfast
16:25 - 16:30	Q&A Session / Closing Remarks Brid Hendron Postgraduate Dental Dean

Alternative Programme: Supporting our Patients

09:30 - 09:35	Welcome & Introduction Brid Hendron, Postgraduate Dental Dean
09:35 - 10:30	Oral Health Programmes NI: Overview and Update Caroline Lappin, Chief Dental Officer
10:30 - 11:00	BREAK
11:00 - 11:45	Supporting Neurodiverse Patients in General Practice Nicola Booth, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social work, Queen's University Belfast
11:45 - 12:30	Nervous Paediatric Patients: Key Tips to Support Them Greig Taylor, Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry at Newcastle University
12:30 - 13:15	Dementia Management and Consent Adele Cunningham, Consultant in Special Care Dentistry
13:15 - 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 - 16:30	Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing People Anthony Sinclair, Qualified teacher and founder of 'Sign source'



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 Riaz Yar

Visiting Professor in Prosthodontics College of Medicine and Dentistry Birmingham and Ulster University.

Professor Riaz Yar graduated from the University of Liverpool in 1999. After a period in general practice, he established his own dental clinic in 2003. In 2008, he completed an MPhil in Restorative Dentistry, followed by a four-year specialty training in Prosthodontics at the University of Manchester in 2011.

His primary areas of interest include Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD), Digital Occlusion (including DAHL Concept), and Sleep Medicine, and he regularly conducts courses on these topics for professionals worldwide.



Ms Orlagh McPolin

Specialty Registrar in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology

Orlagh is a Specialty Registrar in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology. She earned her BDS from Queen's University in 2016, followed by postgraduate qualifications including MFDS (RCSEd), PgCert in Medical Education (Newcastle University) and a Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (RCR).

Most recently, she completed a Clinical Leadership Fellowship. Orlagh is passionate about advancing diagnostic imaging and education in dentistry.



Biographies

Ms Tina Calder

Chief Vision Officer, Excalibur Press Communications

Specialising in working with internal teams of large organisations, medium enterprises and individually with small businesses Tina works with clients to create bespoke multi-platform publicity, communications, PR and content strategies and plans.

Using over 25 years' experience and expertise Tina helps clients develop and deliver innovative, targeted, and effective publicity strategies that will enhance their profile and strengthen relationships with prospective and existing audiences, clients, and stakeholders.



Dr Greig Taylor

NIHR Clinical Lecturer/Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry at Newcastle University

Greig graduated with BDS(Hons) from the University of Glasgow in 2012. He was appointed as an academic clinical registrar at Newcastle University in 2016. He successfully passed his Membership in Paediatric Dentistry specialist clinical exams in 2019 before taking time out of clinical training in 2019 to undertake his PhD, funded by a prestigious personal NIHR Doctoral Research Fellowship. He defended his PhD, entitled the DECIDE study 'Dental ExtraCtion versus filling In aDult teeth in children: an economic evaluation,' in 2023. His main areas of research are molar-incisor hypomineralisation, reducing oral health inequalities and utilising economic methods to do so. He was an author on the most recent international best practice guideline for MIH and the RCS England guideline for managing poor prognosis first permanent molars. He is currently the Vice-President of the IADR Paediatric Oral Health Research Group and an associate editor of European Archives of Paediatric Dentistry journal.



Dr Amanda Willis

Clinical Reader and Consultant in Oral Medicine at Queen's University Belfast

Amanda Willis is a Clinical Reader and Consultant in Oral Medicine at Queen's University Belfast. On graduation with BDS in 2002 from Queen's University Belfast, Amanda spent several years in General Dental Practice and Community Dental Services before returning to work as a clinical teaching fellow in Restorative Dentistry/Oral Medicine. She completed specialty training in Oral Medicine at Bart's and the London and University College Hospital London and returned to Belfast to take up an academic position in the Centre for Dentistry at Queens University Belfast. Amanda's clinical and research interests include dental education, oral infection and mucosal disease.



Biographies

Dr Séamus Napier

Consultant in Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology

Séamus Stephen Napier qualified BDS from Queen's University Belfast in 1986 and entered pathology training in Belfast in August 1987, gaining FFD RCSIrel in 1990 and MRCPATH by examination in 1993.

He was appointed Consultant in Oral Histopathology with the Royal Group of Hospitals in September 1999, graduating PhD from Queen's University Belfast in August 2000 and joining the GDC's Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology specialist list in 2008. He served as Clinical Lead for Tissue Pathology Services in the Belfast Trust from 2011-2015.

In addition to Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, his current reporting portfolio includes ENT and Head & Neck Pathology and Haematopathology.



Ms Caroline Lappin

Chief Dental Officer, Department of Health Northern Ireland

Ms Caroline Lappin was appointed to the post of Chief Dental Officer (CDO) for the Department of Health in November 2021.

Prior to joining the Department Caroline was Clinical Director of Community Dental Services in the South Eastern HSC Trust from August 2016.



Dr Nichola Booth

Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast

Nichola is a Senior Lecturer at Queen's University. She is the Programme Director for the Master's Degree in Autism Spectrum Disorders and also supervises PhD students.

Prior to working at Queen's, Nichola was the Clinical Lead and Director of training for a local autism charity that provided in-home behaviour support to children and young people on the autism spectrum.



Biographies

Ms Adele Cunningham **Consultant in Special Care Dentistry**

Adele qualified from Queen's University Belfast, in 2011. She discovered a passion for special care dentistry (SCD) during dental core trainee roles in Northern Ireland, Dundee and Cardiff. She completed specialist training in SCD in 2019 in South Wales, working in community and hospital settings.

Adele worked as consultant in SCD in Cardiff University Dental Hospital from 2021 to 2024. She currently works as consultant in SCD in the Belfast Trust. She is passionate about health inclusion for older people and was the president for British Society of Gerodontology in 2024.



Mr Anthony Sinclair **Qualified Teacher and Founder of 'Sign Source'**

Anthony Sinclair is a dynamic and inspirational deaf keynote speaker who is passionate about promoting sign language, diversity, inclusion, and the positivity of difference. With a personal journey filled with challenges and triumphs, Anthony brings a unique perspective to his presentations, inspiring audiences to embrace diversity and create a more inclusive society.

With a powerful message of empowerment and acceptance, this Deaf Olympic gold medallist leaves a lasting impact on audiences, inspiring them to see the beauty and strength in diversity and the value of embracing all forms of communication.



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SOON**

NIMDTA EVENTS BOOKING PLATFORM

Discover and book your next professional development opportunity with ease through the new **NIMDTA Events 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.

#DentalConferenceNI2025

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BDA



Feedback Survey

We hope you enjoyed the conference.

To help us improve future events, we'd greatly appreciate your feedback.

Please ensure you complete the evaluation questionnaire which will also ensure you can access your CPD certificate.



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