



Benefits of Membership

The British Society for Oral and Dental Research was formed to advance research and increase knowledge for the improvement of oral health in the United Kingdom.

Our primary objectives are:

- To support and represent the oral health research community in the UK
- To encourage junior workers to become involved in oral and dental research
- To facilitate the dissemination and application of research findings relating to oral health and the interactions between oral and systemic health

The Society is a Division of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) and also a member of a federation of European research societies - Pan European Region (PER). The members of the PER are the IADR divisions from Britain, Continental Europe, Ireland, Israel, Russia and Scandinavia.

Under various names, the BSODR has been meeting since 1953, but even before that, groups of British researchers had been meeting in London since 1931. The Society therefore has a long and rich heritage.

Now, the BSODR meets on an annual basis. Meetings alternate between the UK and a joint meeting with our PER partners. Recent meetings have been held in Durham (2007), PER - London (2008), Glasgow (2009), PER - Barcelona (2010) and Sheffield (2011). In 2012 the PER meeting will be in Helsinki, and the BSODR will meet again in Bath in 2013.

Membership of BSODR offers many advantages and opportunities, these include:

International meetings

All meetings of the BSODR have an international flavour, but members of BSODR are also members of the IADR and have the opportunity to attend the annual IADR meeting at discount rates. More than 5000 dental researchers attend these meetings, providing unrivalled opportunities to meet colleagues from other disciplines and other countries. This is an ideal networking opportunity to develop international research collaborations and even to seek job opportunities abroad.

Interdisciplinary meetings

A unique aspect of BSODR meetings is that they are multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. Clinical and non-clinical scientists attend in equal numbers and all areas of research are represented. The meetings attract and welcome researchers from all backgrounds, including scientists from many disciplines, dentists, dental care professionals, technicians and nurses. This provides an opportunity, unique in the UK, to hear of research advances in other disciplines and to learn of other methodologies and approaches which may inform and improve your own research. The opportunity to meet people from other disciplines enables you to share experiences and develop collaborations.

Research groups

The BSODR also has research groups. These are also interdisciplinary, and bring together clinical and non-clinical researchers with a common interest. For example, groups include the Oral Microbiology and Immunology Group (OMIG) and the Periodontal Research Group. The groups oversee presentations in their areas of interest, and also organise expert symposia.

Links with industry

The BSODR is generously supported by industry and many companies showcase new products at the meetings. Researchers from industry also present their work at BSODR meetings and R&D directors often attend, looking for new collaborations and seeking new talent to recruit to their research teams.

Keynote lectures

A highlight of each meeting is the keynote invited lectures and the annual Graham Embery memorial lecture. These are presented by leading national and international experts and are often from outside mainstream oral and dental research. Recent lectures, for example, have covered aspects of immunology, research governance and robotics.

Expert symposia

Each meeting has two or three symposia. These are often organised by the research groups and are presented by senior researchers and experts in the field. Most symposia include international speakers. They provide excellent state-of-the-art updates on key topical issues.

A showcase for emerging talent

The majority of presentations at BSODR and IADR meetings are short abstract presentations, often presented by junior researchers, post-doctoral researchers and students. The programmes offer a great breadth of research and act as a shop window for UK oral and dental research. Many young researchers present their research for the first time at our meetings. The meetings therefore provide a great showcase for new and emerging talented researchers, who are often keenly watched by potential collaborators and employers.

Awards and prizes

The BSODR administers and awards a number of research prizes, including the Senior and Junior Colgate Prizes, the Unilever Poster Prize, the Johnson and Johnson Clinical Research Prize, the VOCO Dental Materials Prize and the GSK-MINTIG award. These prestigious prizes attract many entrants, including undergraduate students who may compete for the Junior Colgate Prize, and the winners benefit from an impressive entry on their CV.

Most awards are associated with cash prizes and often some funding for the department. Two winners each year from the Senior and Junior Colgate Prizes or the Unilever Poster Prize are funded to attend the next international meeting of the IADR to compete in the international Unilever Hatton awards. The winner of the Johnson and Johnson prize is also funded to attend the next IADR.

The most prestigious prize, the Senior Colgate Prize, has been awarded since 1959 and most of the winners have risen to become international leaders in oral and dental research.

Travel bursaries and grants

The BSODR offers a number of travel bursaries for PhD students and young researchers to travel to BSODR, PER and IADR meetings. These are especially attractive for members wishing to travel to the international meetings.

The BSODR also has a close working relationship with the Oral and Dental Research Trust, who offer many small research grants. The ODRT usually announce their grant winners at BSODR meetings.

Representation and lobbying

The BSODR is the only organisation representing the full breadth of UK oral and dental research. Through links with other organisations and government we act as an important voice of the UK research community and act as a lobbying group to represent our members.

All members have the opportunity to play a role in the functions of the Society – as participants at meetings, as members of research groups and by exercising their right to vote at the Annual Business Meeting. The Management Committee also includes six Councillors elected from the membership and all members have the opportunity to stand as an office bearer.

For further information about BSODR and to join, consult the website at:

www.bsodr.org.uk

Other useful links include:

IADR:

www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3533

IADR Regions:

www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3339

ODRT:

www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListCharityDetails.asp?CharityID=1662

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