

## COLUMN

# A word from the BDJ Classified Team Leader

By Charley Sheppard

The global labour market may be facing one of its most formidable challenges yet, with many sectors struggling to recruit. Some news outlets attribute this to a weak economy having an impact on labour markets and thus recruitment. Alarming, the number of individuals out of work has surged by over half a million than before the pandemic began. How does this affect the dental recruitment market?

Like many sectors, dental recruitment is facing an increasingly tough time and is struggling to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The current UK government have announced a dental recovery plan set out to improve access for patients to dental care. As reported by the Quality Care Commission, the waiting lists for elective care surpassed 7 million individuals in June 2023, underscoring the pressing need for intervention.

A significant contributing factor to this predicament is the scarcity of dentists in the labour market, creating 'dental deserts' in more rural areas, discussed in this issue. In response, the current government have announced Golden Hellos in the form of

£20,000 to encourage dentists to tackle the workload in these areas. But is this enough? And how are we all responsible for accelerating the labour market into a peak?

*BDJ Jobs* encourages recruiters to focus on the benefits of the role they are advertising, extending beyond monetary compensation. Factors such as team support, the role based in an idyllic location, and avenues for professional growth are all benefits that may compel a job seeker to apply for a role. By providing recruiters with the UK's largest dental audience, and a focus on the benefits that a job seeker may see, *BDJ Jobs* are seeing applications are increasing across the site. With an overall increase of 10% year on year.

If you are a jobseeker, you can find the latest dental vacancies on *BDJ Jobs*, as well as crucial careers advice such as creating the perfect CV and available education and training opportunities across the country.

BDA members receive up to £100 off on advertising for dentists/specialists and free listings for nurse and practice support vacancies. ♦

## Graham Stokes to chair MPS Council

Medical Protection Society (MPS) has announced the appointment of Graham Stokes as its next Chair of Council. Dental Protection is an important part of MPS and Graham will be the first dentist ever to hold this role leading the work of the wider organisation.

Graham is a general dental practitioner with a special interest in implants and prosthetics. He also lectures widely on a range of dental topics, and has led numerous teams of dental volunteers to Tanzania providing dental emergency care.

Graham has been a member of MPS Council since 2017. His tenure as Chair will start following MPS's annual general meeting in June 2024.

He takes over from Ian Eardley who is stepping down after five years as Chair. Ian steered the organisation through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that MPS met the evolving needs of members during this challenging time. He leaves the post with MPS having its largest ever membership, record member satisfaction levels as well as strong funding. Confirmation of Graham's appointment of Chair, follows the recent appointment of Karen Miller as Chief Executive of MPS, following the retirement of Simon Kayll.

Graham commented: 'Having been a member of Dental Protection all my clinical working life, I know just how important it is to have the confidence and security that there are experts ready to support me – especially when I need them the most!

'I am honoured and humbled to be the next chair of Council for the Medical Protection Society and to be able to give something back to the organisation that has cared for me for so long.

'I look forward to working alongside all my Medical Protection and Dental Protection colleagues to ensure that our members are at the heart of all that we do and that members will, as they always have been, be safe in our hands.'

