

## QMUL Expeditions Fund 2018/2019

### Expedition Report: Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – Berlin, Germany

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ADEE was held at the Dental Faculty, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany. The theme for the conference was 'Equipping our students to be dentists of the future', exploring various subthemes: the changing demographics of patients and their expectations; technological innovations in dentistry and their impacts; and changing perceptions regarding the role of dentistry in medicine.



Having attended a previous ADEE meeting that very much enhanced my learning and enthusiasm for the dental profession, I was looking forward to another inspiring experience in Berlin. The meeting's programme extends over three days, consisting of keynote lectures, workshops, special interest groups, and opportunities to present and discuss dental education research. There were several programme items that I found particularly valuable.

On the first day of the conference, I attended a workshop exploring: *Interprofessional Education in Core Knowledge Based Areas of the European Dental Curriculum*. The importance of interprofessional education (IPE) has been emphasised by the World Health Organisation, as it promoted effective collaboration between healthcare professionals and can lead to improved health outcomes. The aim of this workshop was to survey the scope of IPE in dental faculties across Europe, identifying areas of good practice in IPE in terms of shared curriculum planning, delivery and assessment. All the speakers were excellent, conveying both the benefits and challenges to learning with, from and about each other. We heard about the benefits of an integrated curriculum shared between dental students and dental hygiene therapy students, as well as examples of shared medical and dental teaching. It was also inspiring to see other dental students at the workshop, who spoke about their own experiences engaging with IPE. The workshop concluded with interactive breakout group discussions, where key take-home messages included:

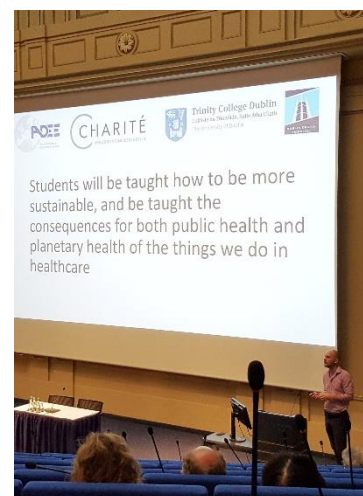
- How does IPE translate into practice (IPP) & patient outcomes?
- The potential to engage with non-healthcare professionals.
- The need to challenge attitudes and preconceptions about IPE.



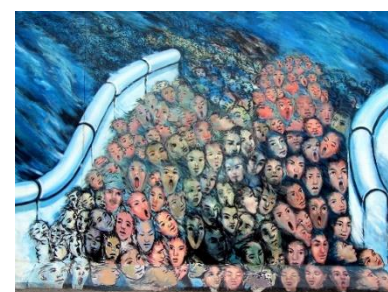
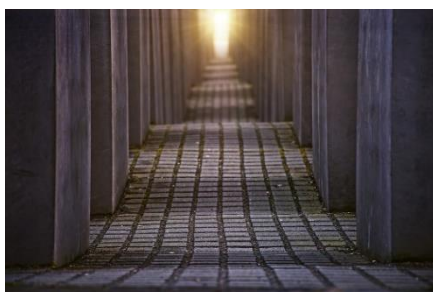
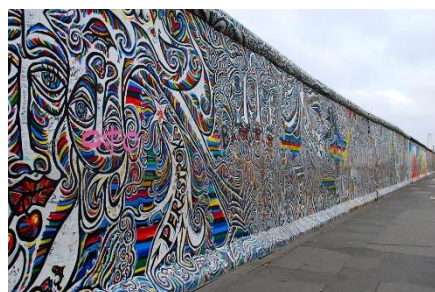
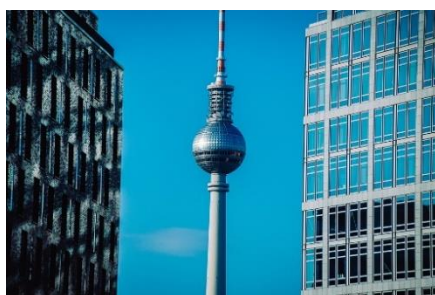
Much of my second day at ADEE was spent presenting an ePoster. I presented on a project exploring dental student delivery of preventive care in outreach. The structured teaching programme was developed by Dr Huda Yusuf, a Clinical Lecturer in Dental Public Health at QMUL and a Consultant in Dental Public Health in Public Health

England. The module focused on principles of communication and prevention. I presented an audit that we had carried out to assess delivery of prevention in student outreach clinics. It was a great experience to be able to discuss the project with audience members and receive feedback regarding future directions.

The keynote lecture on the final day of the conference was especially thought-provoking. It advocated the importance of environmental sustainability, namely that dentistry must meet changing needs and consider the influence of climate change. Prevention and sustainability go hand in hand – the speakers emphasised that we need to address health inequalities, considering how and where prevention is applied using a risk-based approach. Given that all conference attendees were interested in dental education, the speakers called for inclusion of sustainability in the undergraduate dental curriculum. Collaboration with the European Dental Students Association also highlights that dental students do want change and to be part of a sustainable profession for a sustainable future. My final session at ADEE was taking part in the Wellbeing & Resilience Special Interest Group (SIG). Having attended the first meeting of this SIG at last year's meeting, I was grateful to be able to reconnect with colleagues and continue this important conversation. While not without challenges, there was great and optimistic discussion on how to better support and maintain dental student mental health and wellbeing.



It was also my first time visiting Germany, so I spent my evenings after the conference programme exploring Berlin and seeing the sights.



I am so grateful to have received the Expeditions Fund that made this experience possible, covering my travel tickets, the conference registration and most of my accommodation for the duration of my stay. Overall, the conference was a fantastic opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, learning about developments and new techniques in dental education.