

# Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.

The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by John R. Radford.

## 'SEMINAL IMPORTANCE'

### UK health performance: findings of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010

Murray CJL, Richards MA *et al.* *The Lancet*, 2013;381: 997–1020

**'...how important the NHS is to everybody in this country.'**

This paper reports that during the past two decades 1) although mortality has generally decreased across every age group in the UK, 2) such a reduction has not consistently been reflected in disability, and 3) these health improvements in the UK were significantly less than those found in other member states of the EU. A possible explanation for these observations in the UK is that it is a 'legacy of extremely high tobacco consumption after World War 2 in men'. So although the above sentiments of Danny Boyle, when reflecting on the opening ceremony of the Olympics, gave us all pride in our NHS, alas it has not always delivered optimal improvements in health. Nevertheless, this universal care system could provide 'a potential vehicle for systematic identification of patients' for disease risk factors.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.400

## PLEASING SMILES

### Do the smiles of the world's most influential individuals have common parameters?

Orce-Romero A, Iglesias-Linares A *et al.* *J Oral Rehabil* 2013; 40: 159–170

**But the investigators were not able to show if influential people had a more attractive smile than others.**

Characteristics were quantified for full-face smiling photographs of 'The 100 Most Influential People in the World', as showcased in *Time* magazine. It was reported that generally there were no major differences in the smiles of, for example, politicians, actors or 'sportsmen' although oddly, there was more inter-incisal spacing and a larger incisal cant observed in businessmen. When considering sexual dimorphism, high smiles were significantly more prevalent, and the buccal corridor was more narrow in women. However, there were no differences between men and women in the width-to-length ratio of upper central incisor teeth (ca. 0.7-0.8), there was a consistent 'lateral step' (vertical difference between the incisal edges of central and lateral incisors), and the mesio-distal dimensions of anterior teeth met the Golden Ratio.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.401

## IMPACT OF ORAL DISEASES

### Oral health-related quality of life in patients with tooth wear

Papagianni CE, van der Meulen MJ *et al.* *J Oral Rehabil* 2013; 40: 185–190

**Tooth wear had a negative impact on quality of life but significantly less effect than painful TMD.**

Oral health-related quality of life (OHIP-NL) was measured in patients with 1) tooth wear, 2) those wearing complete dentures, 3) those with painful TMD, and 4) control subjects. The investigators concede that there were significant differences in age ('the impact of oral health problems reduces with increasing age') and gender between these subject groups. In addition, those with tooth wear were seeking treatment and therefore the impact of this condition could be greater than others not requesting care. Notwithstanding these study limitations, the investigators report that painful TMD had a greater impact on quality of life than either tooth wear or being edentulous ( $p < 0.05$ ). This was not unexpected as OHIP includes domains for psychological discomfort and social disability.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.402

## ROOT CAUSE - REAGANOMICS

### From deep-fried Mars bars to neoliberal political attacks: explaining the Scottish mortality disadvantage (Editorial)

Mackenbach JP. *Eur J Public Health* 2012; 22: 751

**'Scotland (has) suffered disproportionately from the adoption of neoliberalism.'**

Can diet, smoking or alcohol consumption be the reason why Scotland has a lower life expectancy than other parts of the UK? In this Editorial that drills down the substantive paper (McCartney G, Walsh D *et al.* *Eur J Public Health* 2012; 22: 756–760), it is proposed that 'a neoliberal "political attack" by the Conservative government' in the 1980s resulted in greater inequalities in Scotland compared with the rest of the UK, with accompanying unhealthy lifestyles for the disenfranchised. Neoliberalism was measured using the 'Index of Economic Freedom'. It was also reported that those European countries with a high index also had smaller increases in life expectancy. It is argued, that this neoliberalism hypothesis 'takes us way beyond such proximal risk factors', including the deep-fried Mars bar!

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.403