



## BASCD Summer Scientific Meeting 2026

**Oral health in a digital age**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026,  
Crowne Plaza Chester

## Introduction

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Chester for the 2026 BASCD Summer Scientific Meeting. Once the Roman fortress of Deva Victrix, Chester has the largest Roman amphitheatre in the UK, as well as other sites of interest demonstrating the city's changes over the subsequent centuries. These include the iconic Chester Rows-two tiered, timber framed galleries dating from the 13th century which continue to define the character of the city's main streets.

The saying 'times change and we change with them' (tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis) seems particularly apt for this year's conference focussed on 'oral health in the digital age'. We are fortunate to have an excellent programme of speakers who bring a wealth of knowledge from across dentistry and beyond. From chairside care to the development of national and local policy, their expertise will help us consider not only the potential of emerging technologies but also their wider implications, ensuring that progress genuinely serves to improve oral health and supports our continued efforts to reduce oral health inequalities.

The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the centre of Chester, offering views towards the Welsh hills and on-site accommodation for those who need it making it easy to enjoy a relaxed breakfast before walking straight into the day's sessions. We are also delighted to host the conference dinner in the stunning Chester Cathedral, only a five-minute walk from the venue. A place of worship has stood there since the eighth century, and it remains one of the city's most remarkable landmarks.

Although this year's focus is on new technologies, nothing can replace the value of meeting face-to-face! We are delighted you are able to join us in Chester for what we hope to be an engaging and memorable conference.



**Fiona Watson**  
BASCD President-Elect

## Aims:

To update delegates on developments affecting oral health inequalities and the dental workforce with a focus on digital and AI technologies.

## Objectives:

- Understand the current integration of digital and AI technologies in dentistry and population oral health
- Increase awareness of advancements across data and intelligence systems and epidemiology
- Update delegates of advancements across healthcare and dental education
- Discuss the impact of upcoming digital and AI technologies on patients, the public and the dental workforce
- Identify the benefits and challenges of integrating new technologies to your own professional practice

## Development outcomes:

This ECPD event meets the criteria for the General Dental Council's development outcomes **A, B, C and D**.

## CPD hours:

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - **4 hours**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - **4.5 hours**

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026

- 09.00     **Registration, tea & coffee**
- 10.00     **Presidential handover**
- 10.05     **Welcome**  
Louise Gittens  
Local Government Association Chair,  
Cheshire West and Chester Council
- 10.15     **Valedictory address**  
Professor Ivor Chestnutt  
Professor and Hon Consultant in Dental Public Health
- 10.35     **Oral health - what's next?**  
Jason Wong  
Chief Dental Officer, England
- 11.05     **UK Faculty of Public Health Session**  
Zafar Iqbal  
Vice President, UK Faculty of Public Health
- 11.45     **Digital inclusion and health - understanding the intersection of digital inclusion and health access**  
Professor Simeon Yates  
Director Digital Media and Society Institute,  
University of Liverpool
- 12.40     **Lunch & poster viewing**

- 14.00     **Presidential address**  
Fiona Watson  
Deputy Director and Consultant in Public Health,  
Halton Borough Council
- 14.20     **Beyond the UDA: How Digital Innovation Can Embed Value-Based Healthcare in Dentistry**  
Heather Raison  
Consultant in Dental Public Health,  
Public Health Directorate NHS England North West and  
Senior Lecturer Dental Public Health,  
University of Liverpool  
Dr Gunjit Bandesha  
Director of Healthcare public health, Public Health Directorate,  
NHS England North West
- 15.20     **Beyond the Hype: The Real Value of Digital Dentistry**  
Callum Cowan  
Consultant in Restorative Dentistry,  
Liverpool Dental Hospital
- 16.20     **Tea & coffee**
- 16.30     **BASCD Annual General Meeting**
- 19.00     **Drinks reception & dinner  
Chester Cathedral**

## Programme – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026

- 08.45 **Tea & coffee**
- 09.00 **AI in dental training - beyond the obvious**  
Professor James Field  
Professor of Dental Education,  
ADEE DigEdDent Chair
- 09.50 **BASCD Epidemiology Programme**  
Emma O’Keefe  
Consultant in Dental Public Health and  
Realistic Medicine Clinical Co-Lead, NHS Fife  
**Paul Broklehurst**  
Consultant in Dental Public Health,  
Honorary Professor, Cardiff University & UCL  
**Dr Grant Creaney**  
Clinical Lecturer in Dental Public Health,  
University of Glasgow
- 10.40 **BASCD Survey Results**  
**Professor Charlotte Jeavons**  
Head of the School of Human Sciences,  
University of Greenwich  
**Samantha Watt**  
Academic Clinical Fellow in Dental Public Health,  
University of Sheffield
- 11.20 **Tea & coffee**
- 11.40 **Data into action**  
**Andrea Astbury**  
Programme Director, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

- 12.30 **Presentation of honorary memberships,  
essay and competition prizes**
- 12.55 **Lunch**
- 13.45 **Digital Disruption Meets Dental Duty**  
**Sam Shah**  
Director of Health Data Management, NEOM
- 14.55 **Seeing the Difference: Embracing Digital  
Technology to Improve Oral Cancer Outcomes**  
**Zahra Yahsen**  
Specialty Trainee Dental Public Health,  
NHS England North West
- 15.25 **Looking forward to 2027**
- 15.30 **Conference close**



Partners in Prevention

