



WIN Newsletter December 2020

DID YOU KNOW?

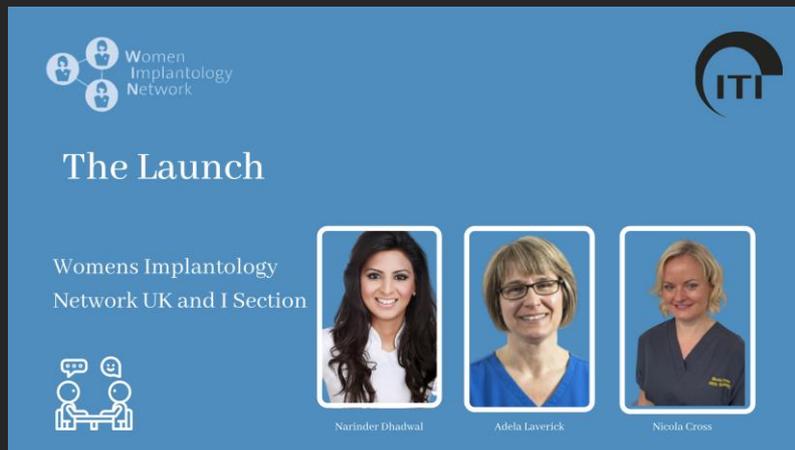
Launch of WIN ITI UK and Ireland

by Adela Laverick

We are very excited to announce that in October, a new WIN group was born—the WIN ITI UK and Ireland Section was launched at the UK and Ireland virtual Annual Section Meeting

Who are we?

We are a committee of three women who were elected into post by our fellow ITI members. The group is chaired by Nicola Cross, Specialist Oral Surgeon, and is supported by Narinder Dhadwal, Specialist Periodontist and myself, Adela Laverick, Specialist Prosthodontist. Between us there is a perfect balance of differing expertise, backgrounds, hospital and practice experience and variety of ages! We are united by a passion for implant dentistry and a commitment to want to share that passion with other women and to encourage them to join us.



What is our mission statement?

'To engage, inspire and support female dental professionals to enable them to fulfil their true professional potential within implant dentistry; to the mutual benefit of both the professionals and their patients.' This is of course, completely in alignment with the WIN global aims 'to engage and inspire women to be part of the change.' We plan to be part of 'the change'!

And on a personal level, for me –

Personally I have found dentistry to be an incredibly flexible and rewarding career choice. Specifically, it has allowed me to move around the country, take a maternity break, and then choose to work part-time at a high level of patient care. I feel privileged to be part of a profession that allows such flexibility within a career pathway and importantly, that allows women (and men) to return to work at the same high level after a career break. I qualified 30 years ago and at that time, many of my contemporaries in other professions had to choose between full-time work or being a full-time mother. I didn't have to make that choice. This flexibility, alongside the rewarding nature of clinical implant treatment, drives my passion to encourage other women into the field. It is hard work to gain the relevant training and qualifications, but it is worth it on so many levels—personally and professionally.

What have we learnt so far?



We have spent time researching the issue within the UK by a variety of means including a closed Facebook page, personal interviews, and research papers.

Unfortunately, there is very little published research on this topic within the dental field, but there are several business-based diversity documents that we can draw parallels from. We have found that there are key recurring themes. In particular, many females lack the confidence to

embark on a new career direction, and there is a lack of female role models to inspire them.

In addition, women are more risk adverse, and many find it difficult to juggle the conflict of being a home maker with professional demands.

What did women ask of us?

We each carried out individual interviews with a cross section of female dentists across the country. This infographic shows how they felt we could support them, and this feedback helped to mould our plans for the future.



So, what are our plans for 2021?

Our work next year will focus on:

Raising awareness: We will continue to work with the ITI, WIN and Straumann to reach as many potential members and interested parties as we can. We also plan to have a promotional stand and a supporting presence at relevant UK conferences.

Support: We will encourage more female speakers and promote our existing female role models.

Education: We are planning an online progressive education course tailored to women's needs and also feel there is a need for 'career break' and 'refresher' type courses to encourage women back to implant dentistry after a break from work.

We are very excited to have an excellent presence at the forthcoming UK and Ireland ITI section conference, planned for Edinburgh October 1st and 2nd 2021. We are planning a breakfast meeting on the Friday morning, to allow women to meet and talk with other women before the conference starts. We hope that this will encourage new contacts and friendships and allow women to feel more comfortable and supported in the larger conference setting.

We ourselves are inspired by the WIN Global Community

It is clear that WIN already has so much to offer us and our future members. WIN is gathering strength and momentum as its global membership increases, and this forum is bringing together some incredible female role models from around the world. Being part of something bigger helps us to feel supported, and it is also exciting to know that we can learn from women who have launched before us. It is already clear that the barriers faced by women are very similar wherever they are in the world, and we can all gain strength by

uniting in our quest for change. We are delighted to be part of WIN Global and look forward to working with the global WIN network in the future.

Contacts, contacts, contacts...

We recognise that in order to support the UK female dentists we need to have an excellent and far-reaching contact base throughout the country. We are already working on this but would love to hear from you if you feel you can help to support WIN ITI, or if you are interested to join in our future social and educational programs.

All enquiries to Adela Laverick: adelalaverick@btinternet.com