

Mr Professor A.W.G. Walls

Past president: 1998-2000



I attended my first BSRD meeting whilst doing my PhD in 1985 when I was invited to lecture about glass ionomer cements to the meeting and have been a regular attendee (and member) since then. I was secretary between 1989 and 1994 (during which time I organised the 25th anniversary meeting in Birmingham under Jeremy Shaw as President in 1993, I still have the engraved port glass to this day). I became President of the Society in 1998 and my Presidential meeting was in Newcastle in 1989 with a theme of oral health care for older people and the “main” (overseas) speaker was Björn Dahl talking about selective tooth movement with the “Dahl” appliance. At that stage, it was a very new concept. My abiding memory of the meeting was it poured with rain and the main speaker talked for about 40 minutes less than scheduled so we had an impromptu “floor debate” about the merits of axial tooth movement. It was one of my more harrowing moments as a meeting chair, I usually prepare how to stop people from talking when they overrun rather than how to fill space. I seem to remember Derrick Setchell being particularly sceptical at the time.

I graduated in 1979 from Newcastle, 3-years of hospital jobs then FDS in 1982 followed by a PhD studentship leading to a PhD in 1986. I became a lecturer in Newcastle in 1985 followed by SL and Hon consultant in Restorative Dentistry in 1990 and Professor in 1994. I moved to Edinburgh as Director of the Dental Institute in 2013. A career clinical academic but have also been involved in clinical matters as a board member of RCS (Eng) (2004-2014), the UK Standing Dental Advisory Committee (2004-9). I’ve also been a career-long member of the IADR and have been President of the British Division and am current President of the International Organisation.