

“Real acknowledgement for years of hard work”

Dr Jimmey Palahey, winner of the Dentist of the Year award at the Dental Awards 2020, offers a snapshot into his life as a dentist – and why dentistry has always been his career of choice

This month, we caught up with Dr Jimmey Palahey from TreeLine Dental Care, who won Dentist of the Year - North & Central, as well as National Dentist of the Year, at the 2020 Dental Awards. We discuss his history, how the industry has changed and also how he celebrated his big win!

What is it about dentistry that motivates you?

I really enjoy the blend of art and science that it takes to flourish as a GDP. The interaction with my team and my patients is also very motivating and the option of reaching out further and interacting with my colleagues in a wider

network through committee work. I have always enjoyed teaching and training colleagues and still keep in touch with many of my ex-trainees. Watching them grow and develop their own careers has been hugely rewarding for me, especially those that have overcome real adversity.

What is your recollection of the first time you treated a patient?

I remember this vividly. Lower right 6 occlusal amalgam at Leeds Dental Institute. Being left-handed and trying to traverse a right-handed surgery was a challenge but the nerves settled, and we managed to get through it. I hope it is still in place!

Who (or what advice) has inspired you the most during your career to date?

My foundation trainer was an inspiration to me at the start of my career in 2004. Amin Giovanni taught me to keep one eye on the quality of my clinical work but also one eye on the business model and this is the same advice that I pass onto my own team. I am always inspired by colleagues that think outside of the box and develop interesting ideas alongside their clinical work, whether that be in the world of business, education or politics.

How has your field changed since studying to become a dentist?

I think the expectations of the patients have changed greatly and the industry has had to adapt and evolve to meet new demands. This has clearly been challenging and has involved being innovative in order to traverse a largely outdated model. I think the attitudes of our younger colleagues have also changed, and for the better as they embrace new technology and new ways of developing their careers.

What was your first reaction when it was announced that you had won Dentist of the Year at this year's Dental Awards?

We were aware that there would be no glitz and glamour this year for obvious reasons, but we still celebrated as a team. It felt like the icing on the cake for me and real acknowledgment for years of hard work.

How did you celebrate winning the award?

A socially distanced party over Zoom. All the rage nowadays.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

I spend my free time with my young family and training at my local martial arts club - Capoeira Nottingham (shameless plug!)

What's the most important piece of advice you could give to someone trying to become a dentist?

Do it for the passion, and nothing else.

Are you or is someone you know, worthy of more than a pat on the back for their first-rate skills? Entries are now open for the Dental Awards 2021!

The Dental Awards is one of the most exciting events in the industry calendar. For more information on how to enter, please visit the-probe.co.uk/awards/ ■

