

# Dentistry and other loves – Harry Shiers

In this Q&A session, implant specialist Harry Shiers discusses his life and work, and reveals why he admires his father, famed inventor of the prosthetic knee

**Q. Why did you choose a career in dentistry?**

A. I am sixth generation medicine or dentistry on my father's side of the family. I love mechanical engineering and medicine, most particularly surgery, so dentistry seemed a good option.

**Q. If you hadn't become a dentist, what would you have done?**

A. Mechanical engineering or medicine.

**Q. What do you like best about being a dentist?**

A. The surgical side of the work, and the range of people who come to the referral centre.

**Q. What do you least like about being a dentist?**

A. The misguided public perception that it is associated with pain.

**Q. Who do you admire in dentistry?**

A. P.I Brånemark. This man has observed, invented and contributed so significantly to dentistry.

**Q. Who do you admire away from the profession?**

A. My father. He was the orthopaedic surgeon who invented the first prosthetic knee in the 1950s and refused to patent it. It earned him the title 'Shiers the Knee'. People who can

invent things and then contribute to mankind without profiting are a rare breed.

**Q. What is the single biggest problem facing UK dentistry, and how should it be tackled?**

A. Possibly the increase in interest from the public about implant dentistry, and the extremely limited amount of available formal training for the interested dentist.

**Q. What would you like to achieve professionally?**

A. I would like to encourage and train as many dentists as possible on the restorative side of implant den-

tistry. I am currently doing this but I hope to be able to do much more in the near future.

**Q. And personally?**

A. A happy family and a long, happy and healthy life.

**Q. Have you any regrets professionally or personally?**

A. None. I have spent a significant amount of my professional life taking higher training and exams and it has all been worthwhile.

**Q. What makes you angry?**

A. Injustice and unfairness.

**Q. What makes you laugh?**

Most things.



**‘P.I. Brånemark has observed, invented and contributed so significantly to dentistry’**

**Q. How do you relax?**

A. I look out the window at life, I exercise and I enjoy music and reading.

**Q. What would you like to watch on TV?**

A. Channel 4 News at 7pm, any BBC nature history programme and England when they play well at rugby.

**Q. What keeps you awake at night?**

A. Not much – family concerns if there are any.

**Q. What has been your happiest moment in life?**

A. There were two: the first

time my son called me 'papa' and my father recovering from illness.

**Q. What is your idea of a great night out?**

A. A classical concert or a good film at the cinema, or dinner outdoors amongst friends (when the weather permits!).

**Q. What would you do if you won the Lottery?**

A. What I am doing currently, but with more holidays.

**Q. Where is your favourite place in the world?**

A. Wherever my heart is. ■

Harry RBP Shiers BDS, MSc (implant dentistry), MGDS, MFDS, took his initial training in implants in 1989 with the Straumann Institute. He spent a year teaching undergraduates at The London Dental Hospital and since then has spent a year at the Eastman Dental Institute studying implants prior to completing the two-year part-time Master of Science in implant dentistry at Guy's Hospital London. He currently runs the Harcourt House Implant Referral Centre in the west end of London where he places implants for referring GDPs.

Visit [www.dentalimplantuk.co.uk](http://www.dentalimplantuk.co.uk) for further information on Harry Shiers and to refer patients.

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