The votes are in!

Private Dentistry’s Elite 20 poll was inundated with votes, as readers flocked to nominate the private dentists they feel are the most influential in clinical practice today. Thank you to all who took part – presenting Private Dentistry’s Elite 20, as chosen by you...

1. James Russell
James Russell has become the first person to be named number one in Private Dentistry’s Elite 20 poll after receiving an astonishing number of votes from readers – and it is little wonder why. Having been selected as the official dental expert for Channel 4’s prime time Embarrassing Bodies series in 2009, James is now one of the most recognisable dentists in the country.

James has been awarded the highly prestigious British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD) accreditation in recognition of excellence in cosmetic dentistry, the youngest dentist to achieve this. He graduated from the University of Manchester in 2001 and gained his masters certificate in advanced aesthetic dentistry in 2005 at the Palm Beach Institute in Florida. He is now a senior associate at the multi-award winning London Smile Clinic, his main areas of interest being comprehensive restorative and cosmetic dentistry. James’ work has been widely published in the dental press and he regularly instructs dentists on the art and science of cosmetic dentistry. He has also helped develop new techniques for the ethical provision of cosmetic dentistry. James is a multiple winner of the website, The Cosmetic Dentistry Guide.

He strongly believes in continuing professional development (CPD) and lectures on all aspects of implant and cosmetic dentistry. He sits on the board of directors of the BACD as chairman of the Study Clubs Committee. He is also an editorial consultant for Dental Implant Summaries, an international implant journal and is a member of the Association of Dental Implantology (ADI) in the UK.

He has embarked upon a career pathway leading to him gaining a diploma in sedation, a diploma in hypnosis, and most recently he has become a licenciate of the Faculty of Homeopathy.

Zaki opened his own private practice, K2 Dental in London, with his wife in 2010.

2. Zaki Kanaan
Taking second spot in the poll is Zaki Kanaan. Zaki qualified from Guy’s Hospital in 1996. His main interests lie in all aspects of cosmetic dentistry with a special interest in dental implant treatment, in which he achieved a masters degree from the GKT Dental Institute in 2001.

He strongly believes in continuing professional

3. Tif Qureshi
Cosmetic dentist Tif Qureshi received many votes this year, putting him in third place. Tif is a partner at Dental Elegance in Sidcup, Kent, a practice known for using cutting-edge techniques and materials to offer patients a range of services from basic implants to advanced cosmetic dentistry and full-mouth reconstruction.

A driving force in the development of cosmetic and restorative dentistry in the UK, Tif is the president of the BACD.

Since qualifying from King’s College London in 1992, he has developed a special interest in minimally invasive cosmetic dentistry and was one of the first clinicians in Britain to offer the Inman Aligner as a tool for cosmetic dentistry, using it as a stand-alone treatment and to align teeth before veneer preparations. His use of the system to enhance cosmetics has developed the Aligner to cross the bridge between orthodontics and cosmetic dentistry. Tif now lectures nationally and internationally on the system and, due to high demand, has begun a hands-on programme to teach general and cosmetic dentists this new philosophy.

Tif is also an active member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD), and a resident expert on the website, The Cosmetic Dentistry Guide.
4. David Dunlop

Scottish dentist David Dunlop takes fourth place in this year’s poll. Qualifying from the University of Dundee in 1978, David has a particular interest in prosthodontics and has held various posts in hospital dentistry and general practice in Belfast and Glasgow.

Recognising the importance of the smile to all aspects of enjoyable living, David has a keen interest in turning back the clock on severe tooth wear and the associated problems such as jaw joint, head, neck and shoulder pain.

David works at the Berkeley Clinic, a private referral practice in Glasgow with an emphasis on CAD/CAM and cosmetic dentistry. David teaches on topics related to prosthodontics at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and is a part-time clinical assistant at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School. A regular contributor to several dental publications, David has had articles published on several topics including occlusion and complete and removable partial dentures.

David is a council member of the British Society for Medical and Dental Hypnosis (Scotland). He is a full member of the British Society of Occlusal Studies (BSOS) and a member of the British Dental Association (BDA).

5. Paul Tipton

Internationally acclaimed prosthodontist, Paul Tipton, received many of your votes and places fifth in the poll. Qualifying in dentistry in 1978 from Sheffield University, he has worked in private practice for more than 30 years.

When Paul qualified, he was making inroads as a cricketer. He was a right-handed batsman and off-break bowler who played for Cheshire in the Minor Counties Championship between 1971 and 1983, making a first-class appearance against Kent in the NatWest Trophy in his final year at the club.

Increasing his commitment to dentistry, Paul established a mixed practice in Manchester, which turned fully private in 1986. He studied in London for three years under Michael Wise and completed the Brånemark implantology course in Sweden. After a further two years’ study at the Eastman Dental Hospital and London University, he graduated with an MSc in conservative dentistry. In 1999 Paul was awarded specialist status in prosthodontics from the General Dental Council (GDC).

He was a founding member of the British Academy of Aesthetic Dentistry (BAAD) and the BACD. Regarded as a leading authority on restorative and aesthetic dentistry and implantology, Paul lectures on these subjects across the UK, Europe, North America and Asia.

Paul’s teaching career began at Manchester University in 1989, where he taught on its MSc. To date, over 2,500 dentists have passed through the Tipton Training Academy. He has recently helped to establish an online Training Academy for Dentists, which allows remote access to study groups.

6. Anoop Maini

Anoop Maini received lots of votes from our readers, placing him sixth in the poll. Having qualified from King’s College in 1992, he has worked in private practice since 1993 and has a special interest in advanced cosmetic and implant dentistry, having studied extensively in the USA and the UK, honing his skills. He was one of the first dentists in the UK to offer the Six Month Smiles orthodontic treatment and become more proficient with the treatment.

Anoop is also a dental phobia certified dentist, meaning he is qualified to provide dedicated treatment for dental phobic patients who are nervous about their treatment. He is clinical director of Aqua Dental Spa in the heart of London, a high-end aesthetic business at the forefront of private, elective dentistry with its spa philosophy and décor.

He is on the board of directors of the BACD, where he also chairs its learning committee, and is a member of several organisations including the International Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, International Academy of Advanced Facial Aesthetics (IAAFA), and the Society for Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry.

7. Bob Khanna

Bob, a cosmetic and reconstructive dental surgeon who has been at the centre of the facial aesthetics revolution sweeping the nation over recent years, takes seventh place in the Elite 20 poll.

He runs clinics in Ascot and Reading and carries out a full spectrum of treatments from aesthetic dentistry and surgical implantology to bone regeneration procedures and full-mouth rehabilitation.

He was one of the first dentists in the world to venture into facial aesthetic procedures utilising Botulinum Toxin and dermal fillers more than 14 years ago.

Internationally renowned as a leading lecturer, trainer and expert in aesthetic medicine, Bob has trained more than 7,000 doctors, dentists and plastic surgeons in non-surgical facial rejuvenation procedures and has pioneered many of the techniques.

In 2003 Bob was awarded with a fellowship from the International Academy of Dental Facial Aesthetics in New York, while he is the founder and president of the
International Academy of Advanced Facial Aesthetics. In 2009 he was named Private Dentist of the Year at the Private Dentistry Awards.

He will be speaking at Dentistry LIVE in London over 25-26 May.

8. Darren Hills
Orthodontist Darren Hills received a high number of votes, and places at number eight in the poll.

Darren qualified in 1988 from Bristol University. After a series of hospital appointments and two spells in general practice, he embarked on a formal three-year orthodontic training program at the University of Wales, Cardiff to qualify as a specialist orthodontist. Along the way, he gained his Royal College Fellowship in Dental Surgery (FDSRCS), his Royal College Membership in Orthodontics (MOrth), his Masters Degree in Orthodontics (MScD) and two awards for his research.

Returning to Bristol in 1996, he set up the Great George Street Orthodontic Centre and later the Kingswood Orthodontic Centre, which have lead the way in children’s orthodontics in the Bristol area and continue to provide quality care today. While working in both practices, he developed an interest and passion for treating adults and the additional challenges this presents. His enjoyment of adult orthodontics motivated him to open The Smile Suite, a private orthodontic practice, in 2006.

9. Ian Needleman
Taking ninth place in the poll is Professor Ian Needleman, who joined the Perio London practice in 1987. He received his undergraduate and specialist training at Guy’s Hospital in London. Ian splits his time between academic dentistry and specialist practice. He is in specialist practice at Perio London for two days a week and is professor of restorative dentistry and evidence-based healthcare, honorary consultant in periodontology at UCL Eastman Dental Institute for the other three days per week. He teaches specialists in training and runs a busy research programme. Ian is also director of the International Centre for Evidence-Based Oral Health.

Ian has been a scientific consultant to both the European Federation of Periodontology and the American Academy of Periodontology.

10. Ashok Sethi
Taking 10th place is Ashok Sethi – an experienced dental surgeon and educator who proves he influences the careers of many practitioners.

Ashok has been at the forefront of the art and science of surgical and restorative implant dentistry for more than 30 years from his private Harley Street practice, which is now a referral clinic undertaking oral rehabilitation. His systematic application of sound biological principles, research data and clinical experience has resulted in great success in terms of predictability as well as aesthetic and functional outcome.

A founding member and past chairman of the Association of Dental Implantology (UK), he has been teaching postgraduates for 20 years at programmes run by the Royal College of Surgeons, the University of Lille, and in the private sector. He is the founding director and lead teacher of the diploma in implant dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He co-authored the successful textbook Practical Implant Dentistry, which has been translated into 10 languages. He will be speaking at Dentistry LIVE in London over 25-26 May.

11. Bruce Mayhew
Having received numerous votes by readers, spot number 11 goes to Bruce Mayhew. Bruce qualified from Guy’s Hospital and gained his membership of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners in 1992. Over the years, he has acquired a wealth of experience in treating all different kinds of dental problems and has passed on this knowledge to fellow dentists when lecturing throughout the UK. He is owner of Bruce Mayhew in Swindon.

12. James Goolnik
Well-known cosmetic dentist James Goolnik places at 12th position.

James is a clinical dentist and founder of the Bow Lane Dental Group in London, which was voted London practice of the year in 2006.

James is immediate past president of the BACD. He qualified from King’s College Dental School and went to study his masters degree in conservative dentistry at the Eastman Dental Institute.

He lectures on tooth whitening techniques to other dentists and is on the board of the British Dental Bleaching Society. He lectures internationally on minimally invasive dentistry and practice marketing.

He is well known in the media, writing for Maxim magazine, appearing on many television and radio
interviews and is the clinical spokesperson for Arm and Hammer toothpaste. His book *Brush* is a number one best seller on Amazon and all the profits go to charity Dentaid.

13. Andrew Lane

Andrew Lane qualified from the University of Bristol with a bachelor of dental surgery in 1978, followed by the diploma in general dental practice from the Royal College of Surgeons in 1993 and a master of philosophy in 1999 for research into dental materials at the University of Manchester.

He won the SmithKline Beecham Dental Practice Innovation award in 1995 and the Manchester Postgraduate Dental Society Award for research in 1999. Andrew is the head of Stockport Dental Seminars.

He was a founder of the BSOS in 1986 and was secretary for 10 years, organising almost 30 postgraduate training courses.

Other positions he has held include dental vocational training adviser in general dental practice, UK chairman of the American Equilibration Society, and chairman of Dental Relief for Romania Appeal.

In conjunction with Chris Barrow, Andrew has launched Private VT Ltd, a scheme that aims to provide an alternative to NHS VT for new dental graduates, but at a higher standard and as an essential first step towards an enjoyable, successful and long career in dentistry.

14. Gertrude Huss

Gertrude Huss is the highest-placed woman in this year’s poll, taking 14th place. Gertrude qualified from the University of the Witwatersand, South Africa in 1993. She was awarded the Sid Setzer Gold medal for paedodontics and then joined a private practice in Johannesburg.

On leaving South Africa she enrolled at the Eastman Dental Institute, University of London and successfully completed her DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile).

In 1999 she moved to the Channel Islands, setting up the Hill Street Clinic in 2008 where she practices both cosmetic dentistry and non-surgical cosmetic procedures. Her memberships include the BACD and IAAFA.

Internationally recognised as a prominent practitioner in the non-surgical cosmetic industry, Gertrude is frequently invited to lecture in facial aesthetics and demonstrate her work at international conferences.

Gertrude is one of only 30 doctors in the elite ‘Group Expert France’ doctors for Restylane. She is also a local country ambassador for Allergan.

She will be speaking at Dentistry LIVE in London over 25-26 May.

15. Michael Wise

Well-known for teaching thousands of dentists at postgraduate level over the last three decades, Michael is a specialist in restorative dentistry and oral surgery and is also a visiting professor at the Eastman Dental Institute.

He maintains a private restorative practice in Wimpole Street, London, which he started in 1974, mainly treating patients who have failure in extensively restored dentitions.

Michael qualified from the London Hospital Dental School in 1968 and was the first dentist to be awarded a Harkness fellowship for two years’ study in the USA, at Indiana University between 1970 and 1972, where he obtained his MScD in fixed and removable prosthodontics. He obtained his fellowship in dental surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1972.

Since 1977 he has run continuing education courses in his practice for groups of up to 25 dentists, which have proved immensely popular over the years.

He still runs those courses today despite a serious health scare that saw him hospitalised with an infection, which led to septicemia and total organ failure. Thankfully, following a kidney donor transplant in March 2010 and an excellent recovery, Michael has returned to normal health and his practice.

16. Tim Bradstock-Smith

Since qualifying in 1989, Tim Bradstock-Smith has created winning smiles for many clients including models and celebrities from the UK and around the world.

He established the London Smile Clinic in 1999 and remains the principal there today, while in 2008 he was named Private Dentist of the Year.

He has been credited with raising the bar of cosmetic dentistry standards in the UK, and spearheading a revolution towards achievable multidisciplinary, minimally invasive natural aesthetics. He is known for his skills in using the latest US procedures to give his clients a naturally beautiful finish; rather than the ubiquitous ‘Hollywood’ smile.

Tim has taken many postgraduate courses in cosmetic dentistry and has been an assistant instructor for Newton Fahl on his hands-on composite artistry course. He has made scores of media appearances (including TV shows *Extreme Makeover* and *The Big Breakfast*) and also mentors aspiring young cosmetic dentists.

Tim has been published in many journals on cosmetic dentistry, computer imaging and aesthetic crown lengthening and has been awarded the highly prestigious AACD Accreditation, becoming the first UK dentist to hold both BACD and AACD accreditation.
17. Tony Jacobs
Tony Jacobs BDS (Lond) LDS RCS (Eng) is the founder and owner of GDP-UK, a mailing list and online forum for UK dental professionals to share and discuss their insights and opinions, which has grown to be immensely popular in recent years.

After qualifying in 1979, Tony took over the ‘406 Dental’ practice in Manchester, which he still runs today along with fellow partner Stephen Lazarus.

Tony has been a member of the BDA since 1975 and is currently chairman of the Bury and Rochdale Oral Health Advisory Group, vice-chair of the Bury and Rochdale Local Dental Committee and has been a president of the BDA’s East Lancashire and East Cheshire Branch.

He also does some part-time work as a local adviser for the Dental Protection Ltd.

18. Bill Schaeffer
Bill Schaeffer BDS MBBS FDS RCS (Eng) MRCS (Eng) is one of the implant surgeons at The Implant Centre. Having trained in the UK, Bill is both a dentist and a medical doctor. He is also a qualified surgeon and a registered specialist oral surgeon. As if this wasn’t enough, he also has both a Fellowship and Membership from the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Since placing his first implant in 1996, he has gone on to become one of the most experienced implantologists in the UK and has pioneered techniques now used by implantologists throughout the world.

Bill recently served on the executive committee of the ADI and was the director of education for the Association between 2009 and 2011.

19. Hassan El-Nashar
Winning the Private Dentistry Award for Best Charity or Community Project in 2009 cemented Hassan El-Nashar’s place in the minds of the private profession.

Qualifying in 1977, and receiving his LDS (RCS) in 1996, Hassan is now the practice principal of El-Nashar Dental Care in Newton Abbot.

El-Nashar Dental Care supports many charities, including Shelterbox, Rowcroft and the National Blind Children’s Society.

Every year the practice holds a charity ball. The theme of 2011 ball was ‘Licence to drill’, and raised £5,100, divided between two charities – Devon Air Ambulance and Families for Children.

20. Geoffrey Pullen
Geoffrey trained at King’s College Hospital and the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. He has lived and practised in central London since 1981, leading the team at his practice, Pullenteeth.

He has lectured on the use of dental implants and treatment planning to dentists in the UK, Europe, Russia, the US and India. He has demonstrated both the restorative and surgical phase of dental implants to hundreds of dentists in his practice.

He is a member of the ADI, the American Dental Society of Europe and is a past president of the American Dental Society of London.