



Faculty of Dental Surgery

Dental Examinations Board - Report for the AGM

I would like to present my annual report on the activities of the Dental Examinations Board to the AGM. This will be my last report as Director as will demit from my term of office at the AGM. I would like to express my gratitude for all the support and hard work of The Examinations Team at The College headed by Valerie Hogg. It has been a challenging year with significant changes around staffing but the Exam Team has rose to these with their usual vigour and determination. My thanks to Ioana Raileanu our Dental Examinations Manager who, in her first year, has hit the ground running providing valuable help in delivering all our examinations to the high level that we expect. Finally, a huge vote of thanks to all the examiners who give up their valuable time to participate in all our examination activity.

The General Dental Council are undertaking a review of Dental Speciality Training and curricula. As assessment is integral to training and the GDC is engaging with all stakeholders we have been approached as a Royal College provider of specialty assessment and examination. This will take the form of a Quality Assessment review of examination provision carried out by our College. Preliminary discussions have taken place and by the time of the AGM we will have had an onsite visitation. We welcome this engagement and anticipate a productive outcome.

This past few months has seen the coming to the end of term of office number of our clinical exam leads and the appointment of their replacements.

The new Director of Examinations will be Nicola Cross who takes over following the AGM today. Nicola was our MFDS Part 1 Co Convener. I am delighted Nicola has taken up the position and I know she brings commitment and enthusiasm to the role.

We have also appointed a new position of Associate Director of Examinations given the increase in our exams activity to support the Directors role. I am delighted that Siobhan Kyle who was our Glasgow MFDS Part 2 Convener has taken this position.

MFDS Part 1

Our College takes the lead for administration of the Part 1 component of the Bi Collegiate MFDS which we run with RCS Edinburgh.

Our two leads Nicola Cross and Vicki Grieg produce two papers per year along with the relevant standards setting components and question writing. I have to commend both on the timely delivery of these exams and the well organised examiners meeting which now has large numbers in attendance from both Colleges.

Nicola moves on as mentioned to the Directors role and Vicki am pleased to report has moved to our Education Team to head up the delivery of our Exam courses. I thank them very much for all their help in my term as Director.

I can announce we have appointed two new Co Conveners – Fiona Hogg and Laura Bryce who I welcome to the Examinations Team and both I know are very committed to the continued high standards of exam delivery that we set.

Regards the exam itself our numbers sitting the Part 1 MFDS through our College have plateaued a little with regards UK numbers. We have addressed this by the opening of new centres in Aberdeen, Dundee and Birmingham this year. Next year we aim to open in Liverpool, Cambridge and Plymouth. This will bring our UK total to 14.

Our International numbers remain buoyant and have increased with our Hong Kong centre delivering high numbers of candidates over two diets per year.

I am delighted to report the opening of the first Part 1 centre in mainland China. The West China School of Stomatology, Chengdu will host the diet in April 2020. I met with representatives in Chengdu this year and they were very positive about examinations and other potential collaborations with our College.

MFDS Part 2

We have had a change of personnel within our Part 2 conveners.

Siobhan Kyle and Alan Donaldson as Convener and Deputy for our Glasgow centre have left after a number of years in post. I have to offer my thanks for all their help in delivering the exam, support with question writing and examiner training as well. Siobhan moves on to a new role as Associate Director of Examination and I hope Alan will continue to support the College out with the Examination arena.

Catriona Forsyth and Mohammed Samad take over their respective duties as Convener and Deputy and I welcome them to their new roles stepping up from examiners.

At our Manchester centre Jo Birdsall and Sarah Pollington will also leave their roles as Convenor and Deputy. Again, my gratitude to all their endeavours over the last 3 years in delivering our exam to the high standard that it is. Jo moves over to represent our College on Bi Collegiate Membership in Orthodontic Exam Board. Sarah continues to be active with our Dental Education Team where she is developing a number of new initiatives.

We have appointed William Keys and Yasir Shaamma as Convenor and Deputy who will take over in the November diet this year.

Our Part 2 UK diets run in Manchester in March, May and November while our Glasgow centre runs in the May and November. Our candidate numbers are on a par with previous year but we continue to look for opportunities to increase numbers in both centres. Challenges faced again this year were around our Examination venue in Manchester this May when the Bolton Wanderers stadium, where we were to host the diet, fell into administration 5 days prior to the exam. With uncertainty around the venue we took the decision to find an alternate venue. As expected the team delivered with a new centre located – Old Trafford Football Stadium and ensured all candidates, examiners and logistical support made it to the examination within a very short time frame.

Internationally we were down on numbers for our India centre in Chennai, so we have decided to have a fallow period to revisit India in determining future deliveries of the MFDS part 2 there. We still offer our part 1 in 4 centres in India.

I am pleased to say that our Hong Kong centre continues to deliver consistent numbers of candidates and we have now had four diets by the time of the AGM over the past 2 years. We have decided to consolidate to one diet per year from 2020 from a logistical aspect. This will ensure we continue to provide our exam in Asia and we hope that with the Part 1 centre in mainland China this will produce numbers to take up the Part 2 in Hong Kong as a national centre.

Membership in Orthodontics

I am delighted to say we have delivered the first sitting on the Bi-Collegiate Specialty Membership Examination in Orthodontics in India this year. We had 49 candidates entered for the Part 1 and 37 candidates for the Part 2. It was a significant challenge for our Examination Unit to deliver an overseas diet of this examination which was a new venture for us .The complexity of the exam posed a number of logistical challenges but with the support of RCS England we delivered these exams in Chennai where we have a strong relationship with Saveetha Dental College .The exam was well received in India and we are planning that this will be a regular commitment to offer the exam to Orthodontists in India annually .

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Director of Dental Examinations
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