



PEARL

Dean's Update

Mills, I

Published in:
Primary dental journal

DOI:
[10.1308/205016820828463807](https://doi.org/10.1308/205016820828463807)

Publication date:
2019

Link:
[Link to publication in PEARL](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Mills, I. (2019). Dean's Update. *Primary dental journal*, 8(4), 6-7.
<https://doi.org/10.1308/205016820828463807>

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DEAN'S UPDATE



IAN MILLS
FGDP(UK) DEAN

WELCOME TO THE WINTER ISSUE OF THE *PRIMARY DENTAL JOURNAL*. MAY I FIRSTLY TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU ALL THE BEST FOR 2020.

2019 was a challenging year for many, and the Faculty of General Dental Practice was certainly no exception. The FGDP(UK) staff did a fantastic job delivering business as usual, modernising many of our processes, updating our educational programmes and improving services for our members. This was achieved whilst operating within some extremely challenging conditions, including financial constraints and working in temporary accommodation adjacent to a building site. There has also been the backdrop of uncertainty with regards to the transfer of FGDP(UK) to the new College of General Dentistry.

The professionalism and commitment of our staff has been outstanding, and the same must be said for our many Divisional Boards, Programme Leads, Tutors, Examiners, Fellows and Members who work tirelessly in support of the Faculty. The success of our organisation relies on their hard work, dedication and ambition. This selfless commitment is sustained by the desire to be a part of a very special organisation, an organisation that is focused on supporting the dental profession in delivering the highest standard of care.

We are frequently informed that dentistry in the UK is in an impoverished state. In the last few months of 2019, this appeared to have reached a crescendo. The dental media was saturated with reports of the problems within dentistry; lack of funding within the NHS, incompetent commissioning, a demotivated workforce, litigious patients with unrealistically high expectations, a remote and seemingly unsympathetic regulator, and an increasingly disillusioned generation of dental care professionals finding themselves under increasing stress and pressure. This paints a woefully depressing picture, and one could be forgiven for thinking that our profession is in the midst of a crisis.

Despite such a pessimistic outlook, I have high hopes for 2020. My optimism is fuelled by the many positive conversations I have had with colleagues around the establishment of the new College of General Dentistry. I believe that the establishment of the new College will provide a much-needed academic home for those

working in general dental practice. This will enable FGDP(UK) to be more effective in supporting the aspirations of the wider dental team, and in turn address many of the issues facing UK dentistry.

Key to the long-term success of any organisation is engagement with its constituents and maintaining relevance within an ever-changing world. It is vital that we connect with those at the beginning of their career in dentistry and ensure that they are in a position to influence the future of their profession. As I travel around the UK meeting young graduates, I am frequently inspired by the level of knowledge, ambition and enthusiasm we have within our profession. Much of that is however untapped, and I believe that someone in my position has a responsibility to ensure that we have strong representation of such talents within our Divisions and on our National Board.

I am delighted that we have already managed to encourage many talented young dentists to engage with us, but we still have a way to go. Many of you will be aware that Roshni Karia was recently elected as Vice Dean of FGDP(UK) – the youngest Vice Dean in our history. Roshni is already highly regarded within our profession and represents the Faculty on Various National groups. She is one of several extremely talented younger dentists who sit on our National Board, such as Reena Wadia, Suzanne Sykes, Andrew Parashchak, and Sami Stagnell. We also have two early careers dentists as observers on the Board, Sophie Ainsley and Khush Shah, and will shortly be appointing a student representative.

Diversity within our Board is crucial as we aim to adequately reflect the views of our profession and deliver the current and future needs of the dental profession. It is extremely encouraging to have so many younger colleagues willing to engage with the Faculty, and I am delighted that they have such a strong representation on our National

Board. We currently have an excellent blend of youth and experience which is important in terms of corporate memory, continuity and succession planning, all of which is particularly relevant as we transfer to the new College of General Dentistry.

One of our highly respected National Board Members, Reena Wadia, has taken on the role of Guest Editor for this issue of *PDJ*. She has done a fantastic job and I am extremely grateful to Reena, Igor, Hillevi and the various authors who have contributed. The topic and content are highly relevant and timely, and I would like to record my own personal note of gratitude to the editorial team for helping me to try to understand the new perio classification. I have no doubt that this particular *PDJ* will become an important reference for myself and others.

As I sit and write this particular update, it is extremely sad and ironic that we have just lost a close friend and colleague who did so much for FGDP(UK) and for education in the management of periodontal disease. Nik Pandya was a Board Member of FGDP(UK) since 2016 and tragically succumbed to illness in December 2019. Nik was passionate about dentistry, education and delivering the highest standards of care for his patients. His enthusiasm and willingness to help others was evident during his time as a Board Member, although sadly his contribution was limited due to his illness. We have lost a respected colleague and friend, and one who made a significant difference to the lives of everyone he came in contact with. Our thoughts are with his family and friends, but I have no doubt his legacy will live on within FGDP(UK) and the College of General Dentistry of which Nik was a Founding Member.



THE 1ST UK RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY & PROSTHODONTIC CONFERENCE - BETTER PATIENT CARE THROUGH COLLABORATION

Wednesday 25th - Friday 27th March 2020, Crowne Plaza Glasgow

WEDNESDAY

Theme: Cleft lip and palate

Topics: Perspectives on team-based care by surgeons, restorative dentistry consultants and clinical psychologist.

Social Programme:

Welcome civic reception hosted by The Lord Provost at Glasgow City Chambers

THURSDAY

Theme: Head and neck cancer

Topics: Update on latest developments in head and neck cancer treatment from leading oncologists and surgeons.

Digital, team-based approach to implant rehabilitation.

Award of BSSPD Schottlander research prize.

Social Programme:

Black tie gala dinner at Òran Mór

FRIDAY

Theme: Tooth wear

Topics: Collaboration of consultants in psychiatry, gastroenterology and restorative dentistry with GPs to improve patient care. Panel discussion Collaboration of GPs, consultants and service managers to consider new models of patient care.

Award of BSRD Gary Pollock oral clinical case presentation prize.

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