



FACULTY OF DENTAL SURGERY

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

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The Specialty of Oral Surgery

Although the Speciality of Oral Surgery has existed for many years, changes are afoot and the Board of the Faculty of Dental Surgery has a role in advising about how the Speciality may go forward in the future.

In the past the term Oral Surgery was used to describe the Dental Surgical Speciality concerned with surgery of the mouth, face and jaws as practised both in Dental Teaching Hospitals and District General Hospitals. Over the years and particularly since the mid-1980s, many of those Departments have transformed into Departments of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. That transformation has reached the stage where it is now a dual Degree Speciality recognised within Europe as a Medical Speciality. A single Degree (Dental Degree) Speciality of Oral Surgery/Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery was preserved for Academic Teachers and Researchers and also exists as a dental speciality in Europe and the Americas. In the UK some trainees did not gain a Medical Degree but instead undertook research leading to a PhD. They received clinical surgical training in areas which today fall within the remit of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, but excluding the surgical management of oral malignancy. In the UK that training pathway was known as the AACOMS pathway. Completion of training through this pathway is currently marked by satisfactory completion of the Intercollegiate Speciality Fellowship Examination in Oral Surgery.

Now that Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery has been designated a medical Speciality, its regulatory Authority is the General Medical Council. The Speciality of Oral Surgery is however regulated by the General Dental

Council. The General Dental Council (GDC), working in conjunction with the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (JCSTD), has agreed a three-year training programme for Oral Surgery, the completion of which will allow trainees to be registered on the GDC Specialist list in Oral Surgery. (That Specialist list was created by merging the two previous Specialist lists of Surgical Dentistry and Oral Surgery.) The curriculum for this three-year training programme in Oral Surgery is largely concerned with competencies in intra-oral and dento-alveolar surgery. This curriculum leading to Specialist Registration with the GDC does not include training in more major maxillofacial procedures, and the GDC has indicated that it will not support or quality assure training beyond the agreed three-year programme. As a consequence of this, the UK AACOMS pathway no longer exists for new trainees and will cease completely when those remaining in an existing programme finish their training.

Completion of the three-year programme, as approved by the GDC will lead to the award of a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) and Specialist Registration as an Oral Surgeon, ie as a Specialist in Oral Surgery. However, there will still be a need for a small number of NHS Consultants in Oral Surgery. Most of them will be working in a Dental Teaching Hospital environment. In addition to their clinical work, they will be involved in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Dental Education. Some Consultants in Oral Surgery will have academic appointments with Universities and will be involved in conducting research as well.

It is the view of the Board of the Faculty of Dental Surgery that additional training is required for those who aspire to NHS Consultant status (or honorary status) and who have completed a three-year Specialty Training Programme. This applies to Oral Surgery, but the Board's view also applies to any other three-year Speciality Training Programme. Completion of a three-year programme will be marked by individuals passing the relevant Membership examination from one of the UK Surgical Royal Colleges and subsequently being awarded a Certificate of Completion of Training. In the case of Oral Surgery, much work is being done at the moment to establish a

Membership examination in Oral Surgery involving common regulations with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. It is hoped that the first diet of this examination will take place in 2010. The Board believes that a further period of training, potentially delivered through post-CCT Fellowships, would be required for individuals to acquire the competences that differentiate a Consultant from a Specialist. The content and length of these additional periods of training is currently under development through JCSTD and COPENED but would likely include elements of management and leadership training and involve additional clinical experience. The Board of Faculty's view is that individuals should not be eligible for a NHS Consultant appointment until they are able to demonstrate that they have achieved these competencies. The Royal Colleges currently run Intercollegiate Speciality Fellowship examinations which test such competencies in other dental specialities. (It should be noted that existing Registered AACOMS trainees who complete their programme passing the current ISFE in Oral Surgery will be immediately eligible for consideration for appointment to Consultant status.)

The Board of Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons is represented on the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (JCSTD) and has links with the Specialist Advisory Committees (SACs) in both Oral Surgery and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery and is involved in discussions with those SACs about the way forward.

The Board of the Faculty of Dental Surgery
The Royal College of Surgeons of England
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