



The Faculty looks forward to the year ahead

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This past year has been highly significant for dental care professionals (DCPs), as the General Dental Council (GDC) introduced statutory registration for dental nurses, dental technicians, clinical dental technicians and orthodontic therapists. The new year also promises to be exciting for DCPs in the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK), with a number of educational projects due to be delivered during the course of 2007.

Key Skills for DCPs

One of the most eagerly anticipated events of 2007 is the establishment of a Key Skills assessment for DCPs. Many will be familiar with the *Key Skills in Primary Dental Care* e-learning package, which offers team training in the seven key skills identified by the FGDP(UK): medical emergencies, infection control, record keeping, radiography, risk management and communication, legislation, and team training.

DCPs will soon be able to undertake assessments in these skills. Using a portfolio-based approach, candidates will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the key skills and how they apply to their working environment. This assessment will be open to all DCP groups. Successful completion of each key skill will lead to the award of a certificate, a valuable addition to any professional development portfolio.

First clinical dental technicians coming soon!

The clinical dental technician (CDT) is a new role introduced this year by the GDC, and the FGDP(UK) are expecting the first CDTs to join the GDC register shortly. Among other roles, CDTs will be able to see edentulous patients without the necessity of prior review by a dentist.

There are currently no approved full training programmes in clinical dental technology avail-



Teamworking on the Implant course.

able in the UK. However, in 2006 the Faculty announced that it was to work with the Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Postgraduate Deanery to provide a route to registration as a CDT, which will be available to dental technicians who hold the Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology from the George Brown College in Toronto. The programme involves supplementary training, provided by KSS Deanery, leading to an assessment for an FGDP(UK) diploma which has been approved by the GDC for registration.

Around 80 dental technicians have been undertaking the training during the course of the autumn, and the first assessments for the award of the diploma are due to take place at The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS) this month.

Orthodontic therapy training to begin

Last year also saw the FGDP(UK) and the Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) at the RCS working together to develop a training course and GDC-recognisable qualification in Orthodontic Therapy.

Registrants will undertake a period of accredited training leading to the assessment and

award of a registerable diploma from the RCS. The two dental faculties plan to establish a part-time course, which will commence in 2007, and hope to award the first RCS (Eng) Diplomas in 2008.

And that's not all...

In 2007, the FGDP(UK) hopes to begin work on developing advanced training for DCPs beyond registration. One project in the pipeline is a venture with the British Association of Dental Therapists to develop further education for dental therapists.

The Faculty is also keen to establish other forms of special-interest training for DCPs. May 2006 saw the first ever module of the FGDP(UK) Diploma in Implant Dentistry to focus on the role of the whole team in the provision of dentistry in this field, and the accompanying study event was attended both by dentists enrolled on the programme and members of their dental teams. The Faculty would now like to build on the success of this event, and is looking to develop special-interest training for DCPs within the frameworks of the diplomas currently available. Keep watching this space for the latest developments!