



FACULTY OF GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE (UK)  
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **A College of Dentistry**

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) and the Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) have announced their intention to move towards the establishment of a joint college. Formation of the college is supported by the faculties' parent body, The Royal College of Surgeons of England, under whose auspices the new organisation will be created.

The faculties have been collaborating for some time to merge their two membership examinations – the MFGDP(UK) and MFDS – into a single, more flexible examination for launch in late 2007, as well as increasing the number of joint educational programmes and activities they offer. There is a large overlap in membership as both faculties have members who are on the specialist lists and are practising in primary care environments.

*'A single recognised academic home for the whole profession is overdue' says FGDP(UK) Dean, Mike Mulcahy. 'Our combined membership of primary care practitioners, specialists and dental care professionals is in excess of 6,000, which would represent a very strong voice among the institutions of dentistry.'*

*'It's early days yet. The concept is that each Faculty will retain its own identity under an umbrella organisation, but prior to that, proposals for the joint College will be subject to consultation with the membership of each Faculty.'*

Professor Farida Fortune, Chair of the FDS Examinations Committee commented. *'Those students already studying for MFDS and MFGDP(UK)*

*should be reassured that these examinations will continue to run for approximately five years after the new examination starts. They will also have the option of taking the final part of the new exam with the existing parts of either MFDS or MFGDP(UK).'*

Professor Fortune continued, *'The aim of the new examination will be to assess competencies and it can be taken by any dentist at the end of two years of General Professional Training or at any point in their career thereafter. In this way, mobility between the primary and secondary sectors of dentistry will be enhanced.'*

The announcement will be made in the FGDP(UK)'s forthcoming April newsletter to members.

ENDS

#### **Notes to Editors**

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is the academic home for general dental practitioners in the UK. Part of The Royal College of Surgeons of England, it aims to promote excellence in the standards of patient care in general dental practice by encouraging involvement in postgraduate training and assessment, education and research. The FGDP (UK) recognises the value of the dental team in modern dentistry and actively supports the career development of dental care professionals. Visit [www.fgdp.org.uk](http://www.fgdp.org.uk) for further details.

The Faculty of Dental Surgery is the academic home for specialist dental practitioners and maxillofacial surgeons. It was founded in 1947 as a Faculty of the Royal College of Surgeons and originally encompassed all of the dental disciplines. More recently it has developed expertise in postgraduate education, hospital inspection, quality assurance and examinations, which it offers in the UK and overseas. It is also the home for the national advisory committee for postgraduate dental education, which deals with overseas dentists. Visit [www.rcseng.ac.uk/fds](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/fds) for further details.

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