



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

12 DECEMBER 2005

PRESS RELEASE

FGDP(UK) WELCOMES NEW FLEXIBILITY IN SPECIALIST TRAINING

Last week's decision by the General Dental Council (GDC) to provide greater flexibility in the training of dental specialists has been welcomed by the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) (FGDP(UK)).

The FGDP(UK) has long been concerned that any practitioner wishing to access specialist training would be required to sit the Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (MFDS) examination and take a Senior House Office post, with no acknowledgement of their existing skills. As of 2006 the MFDS qualification will no longer be a prerequisite, and entry to specialist training will be less rigid, recognising other relevant training, experience and qualifications towards a flexible specialist training programme.

The FGDP(UK) has entered into discussions with the Faculty of Dental Surgery of The Royal College of Surgeons of England to bring the MFGDP(UK) and MFDS (Eng) closer together into a single assessment. A transition process will safeguard the position of candidates currently working towards or planning to undertake the existing examinations.

FGDP(UK) Dean, Mike Mulcahy, says "This is a giant step forward for dentistry. The GDC's decision means that young graduates need no longer feel steamrollered into making career choices early on that might prejudice future opportunities.

ENDS

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is the academic home for general dental practitioners and the wider dental team. Part of The Royal College of Surgeons of England, it aims to improve standards of patient care in general dental practice by encouraging involvement in postgraduate training and assessment, education and research. For more information, please contact Jacqueline Fowler on 020 7869 6770 or jfowler@rcseng.ac.uk or Charlotte Worker on 020 7869 6759 or cworker@rcseng.ac.uk. Also visit www.fgdp.org.uk for further details.