

Dear Fellows, Members & Associates,

I wrote to you earlier this year to announce that your Faculty Board is developing plans to enhance the professional voice of general dentistry, with the support of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) and the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS). Today, I would like to report on progress, and invite you to come with us on the journey, and get involved in the discussion.

FGDP(UK) was formed 25 years ago as the professional home for general dental practitioners, by the RCS, to sit alongside the FDS as the professional body for dental surgeons. We have now resolved to establish an independent College, with which those in general practice will identify, and we are examining the detail and viability of such a proposition with the RCS and FDS. By continuing as a Member, you will be designated a Foundation Member of the new College.

A Transition Board has been established under the chairmanship of Prof Nairn Wilson CBE to work with the current FGDP(UK) Board, the RCS and the FDS with the aim of testing and completing the changes, if possible within the next twelve months. The plans aim to nurture, and seek to inspire, excellence in dental practices across the country: cultivating a strong dental community that strives for continuous improvement in every aspect of patient care. Quality in that care will be further supported by promoting the most effective education and training for dental professionals, extending throughout their career development with lifelong learning.

The new organisation aims to provide a collegiate home and professional standing for general dental practitioners and all members of the general dental team. It will provide leadership and support for their development, representing the best interests of their patients and supporting integrated care within the wider health system.

During the transition period we will continue to work in close partnership with the RCS and FDS, and joint FDS/FGDP(UK) membership will not be affected

Let us know your thoughts at [fgdp@fgdp.org.uk](mailto:fgdp@fgdp.org.uk), or by post at 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE. You can also get in touch with your representative on the Faculty Board (see [fgdp.org.uk/governance](http://fgdp.org.uk/governance)) or through your local Division ([fgdp.org.uk/divisions](http://fgdp.org.uk/divisions)).

2017 has been a memorable Anniversary year for FGDP(UK), marked by a special conference on holistic dentistry, a sparkling dinner and awards evening, the publication of our landmark guidance on Dementia Friendly Dentistry, and much more. In 2018, we embark on a new journey to enhance the professional standing of all in general practice.

All best wishes for the festive season.

DR MICK HORTON  
Dean, FGDP(UK)

*The following members have been appointed to the Transition Board:*

**Prof Nairn Wilson CBE** is a Past President of the British Dental Association and Emeritus Professor of Dentistry at King's College London, where he was Professor of Restorative Dentistry, Dean and Head of the College's Dental Institute (2001-12), and Deputy Vice Principal (Health) (2009-12). His other positions have included Editor of the Journal of Dentistry (1986-2000), Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (1995-98), President of the General Dental Council (1999-2003), co-chair of the Forum of European Heads and Deans of Dental Schools (2007-12), and Editor of FGDP(UK)'s Primary Dental Journal. Prof Wilson's interests and special expertise include healthcare regulation, international trends in dental education, and future developments in the clinical practice of dentistry. He continues to author and edit many different contributions to the dental literature, while serving as patron or trustee of various dental charities. He was appointed CBE in 2004 for services to dentistry and healthcare regulation.

**Kevin Lewis** has had a long career in dentistry both in general dental practice and the medico-legal field, recently retiring from Dental Protection and his Executive Director role on the Council of MPS. He is Consultant Editor for Dentistry Magazine.

**Duncan Rudkin** is Chief Executive of the General Pharmaceutical Council, and until 2009, was Chief Executive of the General Dental Council.

**Neil Sawbridge** is an experienced banking and leasing Chief Financial Officer with a wide commercial background. Most recently, he was CFO Europe for the American group CIT.

**Dr Mick Horton**, Dean of FGDP(UK).