

FGDP(UK) was established twenty five years ago. In 2017, we are celebrating a quarter century in which we have built a secure home for general practice dentistry.

Recently, your Faculty Board has been giving careful consideration to the future. In 1992, those who created the Faculty did so with a view to its eventual independent constitution. The Board has concluded that the next steps are best taken as an autonomous organisation, whilst remaining in close partnership with our custodian of the past 25 years, the Royal College of Surgeons. We will now lay the foundations of that organisation.

We look forward to taking this important next step to support our members and to foster our community of practice.

Today, MJDF is the most popular examination taken within Primary Care Dentistry in the UK. We deliver world-leading courses in implantology, minor oral surgery and restorative care. Our membership approaches 5000, with international reach, and we have established a highly respected Primary Dental Journal. Our clinical guidelines - written by dentists, for dentists - are widely respected. Our Open Standards Initiative brings that work within reach of every dental practice.

We work hand in hand with the Faculty of Dental Surgery, and have close ties to the other Royal Colleges. We have established sound relationships with the BDA, GDC, the Chief Dental Officers, Public Health England and the Department of Health. We have a record of productive initiatives with the Defence Unions, specialist associations and COPDEND.

There is strength in our Divisions, which have a healthy mix of early years and mature practitioners in Primary Care, rooting our work in the heart of the wider profession. And now we need to reach further: building our relevance in a fast-changing environment of healthcare and associated policy, technology, ethics and economy.

In our Silver Jubilee year, FGDP(UK) will invest further in its work to foster career pathways, to establish standards in dentistry that are led by the profession, and to build a rich community of practice amongst the membership. Join us for our anniversary event together with Denplan on 3 November, our Celebratory Dinner at the magnificent Drapers Hall on 13 October, and more immediately at our AGM event on developing approaches to dementia care in dentistry on 10 March. Look out for more information in the coming weeks and book early to secure your place!

I trust you all have a wonderful 2017 and sincerely hope to meet you during this special Jubilee year for FGDP(UK).

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

A joint statement from the FGDP(UK) and the Royal College of Surgeons can be found [here](#).