Faculty of Dental Surgery

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

DENTAL MANIFESTO 2020 - 2023

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The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh’s Faculty of Dental Surgery is an integral part of one of the UK’s oldest and largest medical organisations. Established in 1982 and with over 7,245 Affiliates, Associates, Members and Fellows, the Faculty today represents a significant part of the UK’s dental workforce. The Faculty’s primary role is to ensure patients are treated with the safest and highest standards of care, so we provide high quality education, development and support to dental professionals at all stages of their career. We also take an active interest in health policy, responding to professional consultations and liaising with decision makers and influencers to ensure the voice of our membership is heard and their opinions are taken into account. As political parties consider the policies that they will enact when in Government, the Faculty will lobby on your behalf for fairness and for safety.
A Call to Arms

• We ask the Government through all of the devolved NHS bodies to change the focus of health and social care policy delivery to prevention of dental disease.
• This can only happen by creating an understanding across the health sector as a whole that dentistry is an important component of total body health.
• A lack of investment in Dental Health promotion and prevention leads to expensive treatment options that are often irreversible interventions.
• The Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh request to be involved in any future policy decision making across the four nations of the UK.
Your Challenge

• We challenge every Affiliate, Member and Fellow to be part of our change.

• We ask you to be involved and seek out opportunities to be part of our evolution over the next three years.

• We ask you to challenge dogma and bring solutions.

• We want to remain the ‘Friendly College’ predicated on our willingness to listen, act and care for each other.

• We want to drive out bullying and harassment from our specialties forever.
The Dental Quaternity

- PREVENTION OF DISEASE
- EDUCATION
- ASSESSMENT
- PATIENT SAFETY
Focus on Prevention

- Still in the UK one quarter of 5-year-old children have dental caries and of these 3 to 4 teeth are affected – *This is a completely preventable disease.*

- The biggest reason for a child between 5 and 9 yrs old being admitted to hospital in the UK is for extraction of decayed teeth – *This is a completely preventable disease.*

- The NHS spent £50.5 million on dental extractions in 2015/16 and in 2014/15 the NHS in England provided multiple dental extractions under general anaesthesia for 45,935 children at an average cost of £890 per child - *This is a completely preventable event.*
Focus on Prevention

• 8 out of 10 people over 35 have some form of gum disease.
• Periodontal disease is the most common condition in Europe.
• Severe periodontal disease affects blood sugar levels in nondiabetic patients and disrupts diabetic control in diagnosed patients.
• Severe periodontal disease imparts significantly elevated risk for coronary disease.
• Prevention and effective treatment of periodontal disease significantly improves diabetic and cardiovascular outcomes and considerably reduces the cost of healthcare wherever we practice around the world.
Focus on Prevention

• The effect of acid dissolution of teeth from carbonated drinks has become more acute in the last few years. Sugary drinks form 30% of 4 to 10 year olds daily intake. Less well-off families are at more risk, this may be explained in that only 1 in 5 parents said they had seen advice on this problem.

• Currently there are about 30% of children with acid erosion in their deciduous teeth. One third of young adults have signs of acid dissolution in their permanent teeth and in 2% of cases this is severe.

• This is not simply a matter of pH but is the titratable acidity of the drinks so often the sugar free carbonated drinks are worse than regular sugar containing drinks in this respect. So they are not an alternative.

• From a dental and overall health delivery point of view this is expensive to repair in both time and in fiscal value.
Our Promise on Education

• Understand the needs of the learner/trainee yet understand the effect on service delivery.

• Listen to the learner/trainees’ issues and respond proactively.

• Ensure we eradicate bullying and harassment from our training environments.

• Ensure the teachers/trainers are adequately trained to the standards expected of them.

• Wherever possible simulation should be offered to learners/trainees to enhance learning.
Our Promise on Education

• Support education for all members of the dental team.

• Offer relevant and contemporaneous educational material using different platforms of delivery.

• Ensure our pedagogy encompasses modern recognized theories.

• Encourage all the Membership and Fellowship to contribute to the educational material on offer and promote it to their colleagues.

• Maintain links with institutions across the globe to enhance our reputation as an international college.
Our Promise on Assessment

• Use our accreditation of courses offered by other educational bodies to validate training centres around the world.

• Expand the facility to offer our examinations around the world by using online assessments wherever possible.

• Create a sense of trust that our assessments are testing core knowledge and the full breadth of the curriculum in a fair and equitable manner for all candidates.

• Ensure our blueprints for examinations are contemporaneous and always match national standards.
Our Promise on Assessment

- Maintain quality assurance and validity of our examinations at all times.
- Review the delivery of all our exam formats using an evidence-based methodology approach.
- Make sure examinations remain relevant to modern practice and trainees needs.
- Challenge other examination offerings if we think they are not of a suitable standard.
Our Promise on Assessment

• Ensure all candidates who choose to sit RCS Edinburgh examinations are welcomed by the College and supported by our teams through the whole journey of the assessment process.

• Ensure candidates who are unsuccessful have adequate and meaningful feedback about their performance and supportive information of how they might prepare more appropriately for their next attempt.

• Celebrate the success of candidates in a welcoming way and wherever possible in Edinburgh at the College itself.
Our Promise on Assessment

• The Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is committed to providing the best possible examinations and assessments to candidates. Any proposed alterations to any aspect of an exam whether online or face-to-face will be consistently measured against our three principles:

• That no candidate (past, present or future) will be advantaged or disadvantaged.

• That ‘the standard is the standard’ and will not be diminished for any reason at all.

• That patient safety is paramount; no candidate should pass, who would ordinarily have failed.
Focus On Patient Safety

• Patient safety is predicated on understanding why errors occur and using the learning to redesign care.

• Develop an understanding of quality improvement (QI) to enhance patient safety. A lack of demonstrable progress in terms of QI can deter staff from reporting incidents and we at the College want to create an environment of support for such activity.

• Share information on patient safety nationally. We want to help train clinicians to gather information effectively and use that information effectively.
Focus On Patient Safety

• The promotion of Dental Non-Technical Skills (DeNTS) along with our sister Faculty of Dental Trainers is a key opportunity for developing our understanding and improving the quality of patient care.

• The promotion of understanding Human Factors in preventing mistakes when delivering clinical care effectively is central to our vision for the future.

• Challenging outside influences on the delivery of safe care is paramount to the College and we will work tirelessly with primary and secondary care on behalf of our Members and Fellows to this end.
Focus On Patient Safety

• Organise interested parties into action learning groups where conversation-based improvement sessions can be facilitated internally in the College to talk through issues and help create a basis for change.

• Focus on Clinical Leadership in Dentistry and making change a reality.

• Create a safe environment for patients and all practitioners to feel able to raise issues of safety for discussion with their peers.
My Promise as Dean of the Dental Faculty

• That I will protect the integrity and reputation of the College in all the work I do.

• I will champion the Dental Faculty across the College and seek due recognition commensurate with the level of membership in the Faculty and will ensure work we do is heard at all levels.

• I will work with my Council to try to convert more of our membership to Fellows with innovative changes to our examination structures. At present we have only 17% Fellows.

• I will challenge all inequalities whatever and wherever they may be and challenge the perpetrators in the most appropriate manner.