



Latest updates from the GDC - September 2020

Three new appointments to Council

We are pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to our Council, following a competitive recruitment process earlier this year. Our new Council members are [Donald Burden](#), [Laura Simons](#) and [Mike Lewis](#).

Our new Council members replace Kirstie Moons, Margaret Kellett and Geraldine Campbell, who we'd like to thank for their considerable contribution to our work since their appointments in 2013.

We have also confirmed the re-appointment of three existing Council members, [Sheila Kumar](#), [Crispin Passmore](#) and [Caroline Logan](#).

To find out more about our new Council members [please visit our website](#).



Are newly UK-qualified dentists prepared for practice?

Last month we published findings from our first education quality assurance thematic review on newly UK-qualified dentists' preparedness for practice.

Some of the challenges faced by graduates entering the workplace were identified during the review, as were areas where preparedness could be improved or enhanced, such as:

- Increasing the breadth and depth of clinical experience in undergraduate training.
- Clarifying expectations of new dentists at the point of registration.
- Ensuring that there was adequate support (both clinical and pastoral) during the first year or years of practice.

Our review also identified areas where disparities exist:

- There were differences in perceptions around how well undergraduate training had prepared new graduates for practising life between new graduates and their supervisors.
- There was not always a shared understanding of what is meant by 'safe beginner'.

While we found areas where preparedness could be enhanced, our review found no evidence to suggest that new dentists are unsafe.

The review was informed by a rapid evidence assessment conducted by the [Association of Dental Education in Europe](#), which [you can find by visiting our website](#), surveys of trainees and supervisors, and a 2019 stakeholder conference, which included students, recent graduates, supervisors and patients.

Our [Preparedness for Practice report](#) highlights a number of areas for consideration to help further prepare students and new graduates to start practising more confidently and independently. We are committed to working with the relevant key stakeholders to help make the necessary improvements.

If you have any thoughts or feedback, [please get in touch via our website](#).

COVID-19: preparing for what comes next

Over the coming weeks we are going to be asking for your support, to help us to understand the impact of COVID-19 on you, your patients and your dental practice or workplace.

We will be contacting you later this month to invite you to participate in a new survey. The aim of the research is to inform our approach to regulation, as we all adjust to the impact of the pandemic and look to support the reopening of dentistry. Of course, we continue to live with COVID-19 and the threat of a resurgence is very real, which adds further importance to this work and your involvement.

The survey will ask about the impact of COVID-19 on your work and financial circumstances, how prepared and supported you felt, your views on providing dental services going forward and, from your perspective, what worked well and what else is needed to support you as dentistry recovers from COVID-19 and prepares for an uncertain future.

We hope you are able to lend your support to this important research.



Joining the conversation on racism and discrimination

In recent weeks, the problem of racism and discrimination has been the subject of considerable public and private debate and some sober evaluation by organisations. In his new blog, [our Chair explains how we are working with partners to understand how racism and discrimination are experienced across dentistry](#), and what more we can do to combat it.

This is the first in a series of blogs we will be posting over the coming month on the topic of racism and discrimination in dentistry, with views from academics, students and dental professionals. We hope these will provoke conversations and inspire us all to do more.

Online event: How is Scope of Practice guidance used?

We'd like to invite you to our first live online event on **24 September from 1-2pm** on the recently completed independent research on the Scope of Practice guidance.

Lead researchers from IFF Research will take us through the research findings, published in July, and GDC Policy Manager, Katherine McGirr, will provide details of the internal analysis undertaken to further inform our review of the Scope of Practice guidance.

To find out more about the review or research findings, [please visit our website](#). To join this event online, please add the event and link below to your diary.

How is Scope of Practice guidance used by dental professionals?

Joint Statement on dental education and training during COVID-19

A revised joint statement on dental education and training during COVID-19 was [published on our website on 1 September](#). The statement is for students who are understandably concerned about completing their studies or training at this time, and explains the arrangements in place. The statement includes contact details for students with questions particular to their circumstances.

2019 Dental Professional Survey

The results of the [2019 Dental Professional Survey](#) have now been published. The results provide you with a pre-COVID-19 snapshot of professionals' views. For this reason, we need to avoid extrapolating too much, given the extraordinary changes experienced since the work was undertaken between June and October last year.

The findings suggest a commonly held perception that we do not involve practising dental professionals in our work. Although we continue to work with dental professionals, the findings clearly identify a need for us to understand why this perception persists, and consider how we might address this.

It is important that we continue to listen to, understand, and respond to the current issues and priorities dental professionals are facing today, and this report helps us to develop our understanding of your views.

This e-mail has been sent to , [click here to unsubscribe](#).

37 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8DQ

 Share  Tweet