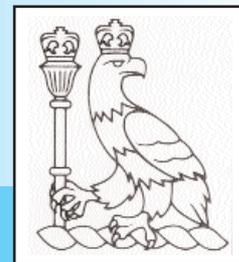


PATHWAY

N O R T H W E S T

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH WESTERN DIVISION OF THE FACULTY OF GENERAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS (UK)



FEBRUARY 2001
ISSUE NO 1

Pathway re-launched



Andrew Shelley
Editor

Welcome to Pathway North West the re-launched newsletter of the North Western Division. Our Division is thriving with record numbers of MFGDP candidates and is fast becoming the largest Division in the Faculty. Through the new newsletter we hope to keep you in better touch with issues affecting the faculty locally and to give members the opportunity to have their own say. So if you have a matter which you would like to discuss in these pages or an opinion to voice then please get in touch with me. The contact details for myself and all the members of the Divisional Board are given on the back page.

I want Pathway to be very much for members

Future issues of Pathway North West could include a number of features that would be of interest to faculty members. For example would you like to read articles with specific examination advice for MFGDP? We could perhaps produce clinical articles from recognised experts dealing with say endodontics or prosthodontics for examinations. We could also publish examples of successful MFGDP cases. I want Pathway North West to be very much for the members so please do get in touch and let me know how you would like to see your newsletter develop.

We hope to release a newsletter twice yearly depending on sponsorship and on that subject we are very grateful to our sponsors for this issue. 77th West Limited have produced

a very innovative service to dental practitioners which I am sure will be of interest to many of our members. Please take the time to look at the leaflet enclosed with this issue.

Finally I must mention our study day with Bill and Elizabeth Saunders on Wednesday 9th May 2001 at MANDEC. Anyone who heard Bill speak at MANDEC's evening meeting last year will know what a fascinating day this is going to be. The meeting will be unlike many which you may have attended on endodontics. Although the conventional subjects of root canal preparation and obturation will be addressed Bill and Elizabeth will also deal with many issues surrounding endodontics which are often overlooked. The day will include: iatrogenic damage to the pulp, the effects of cements, managing pulpal exposures, failures in endodontics and many other vital aspects of everyday dental practice. Again do please look at the details enclosed and perhaps also come along to the workshop with Bill and Elizabeth on the Friday evening.

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Did you know?

Four years from now, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh will celebrate its Quincentenary. In continuous existence as a corporate body since 1505 AD, it may justly claim to be one of the oldest surgical corporations in the world.

Exam success in the MGDS and MFGDP



Ian Wood at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

The year 2000 saw two successful candidates in the MGDS examinations of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Ian Wood and Andrew Shelley passed the part two MGDS examinations in April. Ian Wood comments, "MGDS RCSEd is a tough exam but the sense of achievement when I passed was fantastic. I hope that now we have a nucleus of successful candidates in the North West Division other practitioners will feel tempted to move on from MFGDP and have a go. I would be delighted to give whatever help I can". Andrew Shelley added, "The MGDS RCSEd is a very fair exam where candidates are treated with respect. It is very relevant

to general dental practitioners who wish to demonstrate a commitment to the highest standards. The exam is now even more accessible since holders of the MFGDP have exemption from part one of the exam."

We also congratulate John Moorhouse on his recent success in the MFGDP. You can read John's thoughts on his experience in this newsletter. We also include details of the MFGDP(UK) and MGDS RCSEd examinations and how you can get involved with the local study group.

NHS Payments for Postgraduate Qualifications?

An immediate tangible reward for success in the faculty's examinations would be an increase in NHS income. It would be just reward for the hours of study required in preparation and would add status to the examinations. There would surely be a substantial increase in real commitment to postgraduate education which must be excellent news for patients.

Just reward for the hours of study required in preparation

Our negotiators the General Dental Services Committee (GDSC) asked for this in evidence to the 2000 Doctors and Dentists Review Body. The Department of Health even agreed in principle to make additional NHS payments to dentists with extra registerable qualifications. However, as we have heard many times before, no new money would be available and the Department proposed

*The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.
The next step for holders of MFGDP*

that the scheme would be entirely funded from within existing seniority payments. The position of the GDSC is that seniority payments are sacrosanct and must not be disposed of or redeployed. They insist that a scheme to reward dentists with extra qualifications must be funded from new money.

There is however one area of agreement. If you ever held on to the hope that increased NHS fees might result from all your hard work then think again.



*Tony Kravitz,
Chairman of the General Dental Services
committee*

Increased fees would mean that different dentists would be paid different amounts for what would be regarded as the same job. According to GDSC chairman Tony Kravitz "The DoH would see it this way also as increased fees would mean increased charges for some patients. The other alternative would be to mirror the Seniority Scheme, which the Dept do not like anyway." So if such a scheme were to go ahead it is much more likely to be an extra payment scheme such as the recent commitment payments. However all of that is conjecture since no progress can be made until the Department of Health agree new money. When asked if progress was possible on this issue Tony Kravitz answered with a simple "Yes". For the benefit of the profession in the UK and the communities we treat let's hope that is a sign of well founded optimism.

If the Government are serious about raising standards I can think of no more effective method than to reward those dentists who show serious commitment.

Andrew Shelley



DS study group

MFGDP(UK)

Is an examination of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and is aimed at practitioners with a minimum of two years experience.

Part 1 - The written element

This comprises a multiple short answer paper of 20 questions, a critical reading paper and a multiple choice paper of 30 questions.

Part 2 - The clinical element

This comprises two ten minute oral examinations on the records of two patients treated in the candidates practice, a treatment planning exercise and a general oral examination.

MGDS RCSEd

Is an examination of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and indicates the achievement of a high standard of practice arrangements and clinical skills. The depth of knowledge required for this examination is more extensive than that required for MFGDP(UK). The MGDS reflects the diagnostic and treatment skills of a mature GDP of at least five years standing who carries out regular treatment at the advanced end of general dental practice.

Part 1 - The written element

This comprises of an essay paper of three hours duration and a multiple short answer paper of two hours duration.

Part 2 - The clinical element

Four case histories are assessed describing patients personally treated by the candidate. The candidates practice is visited by the examiners where two of the patients are examined. An oral examination based on the four case histories and conduct of the practice is conducted. A clinical treatment planning examination and an oral examination on any aspect of clinical dental surgery is carried out at the College.

MFGDP - The candidates perspective



John Moorhouse
Successful MFGDP candidate 2000

No, it is not possible to phone a friend or ask for 50-50. However you cannot help but feel that the examiners are on your side. The examiners were both general dental practitioners like us. Their questions were searching and covered a multitude of topics. However, they managed to impart the feeling that we were sitting chatting about dentistry around a coffee table and not being grilled on months of hard work.

We can all look back at the first year of dental school and remember wondering, "Why on earth are we learning that!". I have never since felt the urge to delve into the intricacies of the Krebs cycle or

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to share that aspect of my knowledge with my friends. To my mind the biggest advantage of the MFGDP exam is that it is entirely relevant to the everyday life of a general dental practitioner. I have recently set up my own practice and found that I developed the health and safety and employment issues much more thoroughly as I learned them for the exam. It is difficult to keep up with developments in the legal requirements for dental practice but I can confidently say my practice is up to scratch thanks to the work put in for the MFGDP.

Clinical dentistry is changing rapidly with new materials and new ways of approaching old problems. Sitting down and revising established clinical procedures and reading current journals has

*A faculty which is
setting realistic,
evidence-based standards
in general practice*

undoubtedly enhanced my clinical practice. The case histories force you to consider all treatment alternatives and discuss and define treatment plans with the patient. We now have diagnosis and treatment proformas in the practice to cover a variety of clinical procedures from periodontal assessment to management of fractured incisors.

Everyone has their own reasons for gaining the MFGDP qualification, not least wanting to be a part of a faculty that is setting realistic, evidence-based standards in general practice. The benefits are many and varied but there is no doubt that a great deal of work is

necessary to be able to sit with self-assurance at the exam table. The only real disadvantage is having to sacrifice some personal and family time.

What advice would I give to someone contemplating taking the exam? . First, join a study group such as the one run by Phil Shaw and Ian Wood at Mandec. You will meet other GDPs in the same boat and it is very helpful to share their experience, especially in preparing your presentation cases. Second, read the journals to update your clinical knowledge. Third, join the Faculty get Pathways and all the other publications at a better price. Then sit down and learn them.

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of clinical procedures*

Having just passed there is an element of relief as I go to the practice in the morning. However the feeling of greater confidence in the way I manage my patients exceeds that. I like to think my patients are my friends and trust my clinical judgement and abilities. I hope they will be as proud seeing the MFGDP after my name on the brass plate as I am for achieving it

The North West MFGDP/MGDS

The MFGDP/MGDS study group is run and funded by the Department of Postgraduate Medicine and Dentistry and staffed by North West Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (FGDP) members. The group has one purpose and that is to help fellow practitioners to be successful in these exams and to prove that North West dental practitioners are amongst the best in Britain. Meetings are held approximately fortnightly at the Manchester Dental Education Centre (MANDEC) and thanks to section 63 funding are free of charge to dental practitioners.

The group now has five years experience in helping practitioners through the MFGDP(UK) examination and recent experience in the MGDS RCSEd examination is also available. In recent months the group has developed constructive links with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Professor Trevor Burke, Chairman of the MGDS RCSEd Examiners and regional adviser Gordon Smith have offered support. Professor Fraser McCord who is also an examiner has agreed to act as consultant to the group. Access to other examiners is also available through our links with the Edinburgh College.

The group very much welcomes new members who would like to prove their achievements by taking the MFGDP or MGDS examinations. For further details please contact:

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The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK)

What the Faculty Can Offer:

The FGDP(UK) provides the means by which GDPs can:

- u Develop their knowledge of dentistry
- u Enhance their clinical skills
- u Prove to their patients, their colleagues and more importantly, themselves, that they provide the highest standards of patient care
- u Find a sense of achievement in general dental practice

Benefits of membership:

- u Involvement with enthusiastic committed GDPs
- u Reduced fees at local and national study days
- u A network of local study groups around the UK, to help with preparation for the examinations
- u Free subscription to the Faculty quarterly journal PRIMARY DENTAL CARE (worth £170.00)
- u Free Faculty newsletter, First-hand, published quarterly
- u Discounts on Faculty publications
- u Special rates for the recently refurbished College accommodation in London
- u 15% discount at Swallow Hotels

How to join The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK)

Memberships packs are available from the College, from Jean Cook at the MANDEC office or at the fortnightly Advanced Refresher courses at MANDEC on Tuesday nights.

Costs

Full membership - £165

Available to registered dentists who have been awarded a relevant postgraduate diploma by any of the four Royal Colleges.

Affiliate membership - £135

Available to registered dentists, qualified for more than three years, who do not hold an appropriate postgraduate diploma.

STUDY DAY AND HANDS ON WORKSHOP

Bill and Elizabeth Saunders

SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF ENDODONTIC TREATMENT

MANDEC

Tuesday 8th May. 2001
5.30pm &

Wednesday 9th May 2001.
9am - 4.30pm

LIMITED AVAILABILITY - BOOK NOW

For further details please see the enclosed leaflet or contact:

FGDP (NW), 216 Washway Road,
Sale, M33 4RA

Telephone: **1061 973 3594**

Associate membership - £37

Available to registered dentists within three years of their graduation.

Retired membership - £68

Available to dentists who support the aims and objectives of the FGDP(UK) but who have retired from all forms of general dental practice.

Contact details

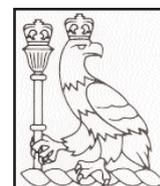
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<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/public/fgdp/fgdp.htm>

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Congratulations to faculty member **Gary Hills** who has been successful in the examinations of the Membership in Restorative Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.
(MRD RCSEd)



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