

FGDP(UK) LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE

Dental standards and guidance documents from the Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP) (UK) are now available for all dental professionals through the Open Standards Initiative.

The Initiative offers all dental professionals access to the highly regarded standards and guidance documents produced by FGDP(UK), whether they are members of the Faculty or not.

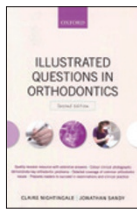
As part of a programme designed to ensure the documents reach the widest possible audience, the Open Standards Initiative means every dental professional will be able to view the full text of all FGDP(UK) standards and guidance documents online. The first phase of the initiative started with the removal of the paywall that exists around the Faculty's standards. Documents including *Selection criteria for dental radiography* guidelines and *Clinical examination and record keeping* amongst others are now available for everyone.

'The FGDP(UK) exists to raise standards of oral health through standard setting, publications, postgraduate training and assessment, education and research. We want our standards and guidance documents to reach the widest possible audience for the benefit of the profession and the patients we treat in order to fulfil this mission,' said Dr Trevor Ferguson, Dean of the FGDP(UK).

'We are releasing e-book versions of our standards and guidance, as well as continuing to sell the existing book versions. This is phase 1 of the Open Standards Initiative,' continued Trevor. 'We shall be releasing details of phase 2 of the Open Standards Initiative later this year!'

To access the documents Faculty members will need to log onto the website www.fgdp.org.uk as usual. Non-members will be required to register but at present will be able to log on using 'open-standards' as both the user name and password. There will be no charge to view the text online.

BOOK REVIEW



ILLUSTRATED QUESTIONS IN ORTHODONTICS, 2ND EDITION

C. Nightingale, J. Sandy
Oxford University Press
price £24.99; pp 176
ISBN 9780198714828

This book is the second edition to the previously entitled *Orthodontics: picture text atlas* published in 2001, and presents a detailed overview of the main principles of this specialty in a problem-based format. There are over 100 self-assessment questions with a separate comprehensive answer section that reflects the vast clinical experience of its two well-known authors.

The layout is designed to complement the learning points; there are numerous accompanying high quality colour clinical photographs and radiographs, as well as cephalometric illustrations and appliance diagrams, throughout. The questions are clearly numbered for quick reference and there is logical progression of the chapters, making it easy to follow. In addition, there is a helpful list of common orthodontic abbreviations, which are referred to throughout the book.

There is a wealth of information in this compact and highly readable text, which is split into 10 chapters and covers a variety of key clinical topics. These include examination and diagnosis, treatment planning, appliances and pathology, as well as shorter sections on occlusion, anchorage and retention. The section devoted to *Problems* is particularly engaging, as it provides the reader with an opportunity to practice the identification of common difficulties encountered during, and following, orthodontic treatment. It also prompts consideration of the risks of treatment: examples of relapse, gingival recession, root resorption and decalcification are included. Up-to-date material

reflecting clinical development with respect to treatment planning has been added to this edition, whilst outdated approaches to treatment have been removed. The explanations provided in the second half of the text are extensive, with reference to the overall clinical picture and development of the patient, avoiding narrow focus on the dentition.

As an invaluable revision aid prior to examinations, it will be particularly suited to dental students, orthodontic therapists and those sitting the MFDS exam; in addition, it will be a useful resource for the clinician wishing to refresh their knowledge of this specialty. It may also prove beneficial to those working within the general practice setting, where clear aligner systems such as Invisalign are becoming increasingly popular as orthodontic treatment provided by GDPs.

In conclusion, this book serves as an excellent guide for those interested in the practice and complexities of orthodontics, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. It achieves its primary aim in placing emphasis on the principles of this discipline, without favouring specific techniques.

A. WRIGHT

PENIS WORM DRAGGED ITSELF ROUND BY ITS TEETH!

The carnivorous penis worm, or *Ottoia*, known from 500-million-year-old fossils, was a fearsome beast: it could turn its mouth inside out to reveal a tooth-lined throat that looked like a cheese grater. Scientists have discovered that the unfortunately-named penis worm could actually drag itself around by its teeth.

All species of the tubular animals, which can reach lengths of 39 cm, have an extensible mouth called a

proboscis that is lined with sharp hooks, teeth and spines.

Investigators discovered that the teeth had a scaly base and were fringed with tiny prickles and hairs. By reconstructing what the penis worm's teeth looked like, the researchers discovered fossil teeth from a number of previously unrecognised penis worm species all over the world. Because its teeth are less than a millimetre in size, researchers used high-powered microscopes to find out more about their structure.

The research has allowed scientists to compile a 'dentist's handbook', which will help paleontologists recognise a range of early teeth preserved in the fossil record, according to lead author of the palaeontology study Dr Martin Smith.

