

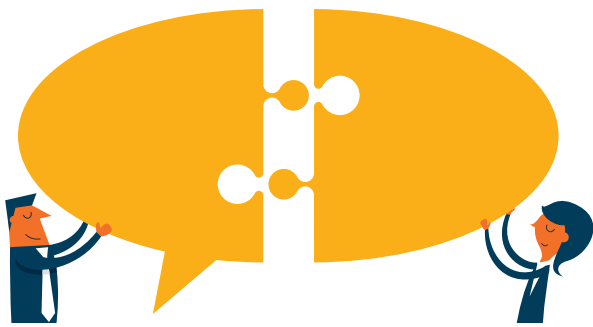
GDC calls for better collaboration in new regulatory plans

On 26 January the General Dental Council announced plans for how its approach to regulating dental professionals will be reformed to put public safety firmly at its heart.

In a document entitled *Shifting the balance: a better, fairer system of dental regulation* the GDC said that it will:

- Support and empower the profession through a range of education, learning and development activities
- Support patients to feel confident their concerns are appropriately raised and resolved by the right body at the right time
- Continue its commitment to work better with partners to improve the regulation of dentistry in the UK
- Make it clear how and when it will use its formal Fitness to Practise enforcement powers to manage serious risk to patients.

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Ian Brack, Chief Executive of the GDC, said: 'This is our most significant proposal in a generation and I encourage anyone involved with dental services to engage with our plans.'

'We have made it clear from the outset that we cannot do this alone – the proposals require fundamentally better collaboration with others than we have achieved in the past.'

'I am confident that our proposals can make the system better for patients and fairer for dental professionals and strengthen public confidence in dental services.'

To read the full document and to comment on the GDC's proposals, visit <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Newsandpublications/consultations/Pages/Reforming-dental-professional-regulation.aspx>. The discussion document closes on 26 April 2017.

BDA to canvass members

The British Dental Association (BDA) is canvassing members' views to inform its response to the GDC's long-awaited consultation on improving dental regulation.

The BDA will also scrutinise the *Shifting the balance* document to see if the GDC's plans are likely to achieve regulation that is better for patients and fairer for dental professionals.

BDA Chair Mick Armstrong said: 'We'll be asking our members what they think of key planks in the document that will have a significant impact on their working lives, for good or ill, so watch this space.'

Manchester to host third undergraduate conference



The British Undergraduate Dental Research Conference is now in its third year running and is one of the largest conferences of its kind in the UK. The conference is organised by students at Manchester University alongside the Dental School, and sees hundreds of dental students, post-graduates and even clinical tutors from every dental school in attendance.

This year's event in Manchester on 4 March begins with talks on dentistry that students aren't exposed to at university. Speakers will include Professor Jan Clarkson (Dundee), Professor Simon Rogers (Liverpool) and Dr Michael Donaldson (Northern Ireland).

Ismail Khalil, 4th year BDS student at Manchester University, said: 'We are very privileged to be hosting these speakers and the talks are set to be cutting-edge and thoroughly inspirational. After being treated to an all-inclusive lunch buffet and freebies from the sponsor fair, guests will be able to take part in the most fun part of the day – the workshops. Having always received excellent feedback about the workshops and tutors, we have not held back this year and will be running more workshops than ever before. We aim to run up to ten workshops providing skills in various disciplines and furthering the knowledge of our guests.'

Workshops will include hands-on implants, hands-on restorative, paediatric treatment planning and occlusion in practice, and will all be run by clinicians at the top of their game.

Early bird tickets are only £10 with discounts available. Visit the website for more information and to book: www.mudrsoc.com.

Honours, awards, appointments

Finnish Fellowship

Professor Crispian Scully CBE, MD, PhD, MDS, FDSRCS, FDSRCP, FRCRCSI, FRCRSE, FRCPath, FMedSci, FUCL, DSc, DChD, DMed(HC), Dhc, who has long worked with colleagues in Finland, teaching and publishing mainly in Helsinki and Turku, has now been awarded a Fellowship of the Finnish Academy of Medical Sciences.

Orthodontic directors

Specialist orthodontist Guy Deeming has joined the British Orthodontic Society (BOS) Board of Trustees as Director of Clinical Practice and Professor Philip Benson as Director of Research.