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Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK)
The Royal College of Surgeons of England



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PRESS RELEASE

CDT graduates make history with new FGDP(UK) diploma

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) and Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Deanery are celebrating a milestone in UK dentistry, as the first diplomates of the Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology received their award at a ceremony on 13 July 2007.

The diploma programme was established to provide clinical dental technicians (CDTs), also known as clinical dental technologists or denturists, with a route to registration with the General Dental Council after the GDC introduced the role to the dental team in 2006. Having previously completed the Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology from the George Brown College in Toronto, diplomates undertook training provided by the University of Kent in association with the KSS Deanery, followed by assessment via written examination and portfolio of evidence, leading to the award of the diploma by the FGDP(UK).

Speaking at the ceremony, which was held at The Royal College of Surgeons of England and attended by more than 70 diplomates and guests, FGDP(UK) Dean, Richard Hayward, congratulated those who had successfully completed the programme, 30 of whom now appear on the GDC register. He also thanked Stephen Lambert-Humble, Postgraduate Dean for Dentistry at KSS, for his role in developing the programme.

Professor Lambert-Humble described the day as a "significant breakthrough" for the profession, though cautioned that there was "still more work to do, with CDTs required to undertake a mandatory period of professional development in their first year of

registration". Echoing comments by Richard Hayward and Mabel Slater, Chair of the FGDP(UK) DCP Advisory Board, he also stressed that CDTs were a "fundamental part of the dental team", and that the "team concept was paramount in the delivery of high quality patient care".

Lee Butler, a CDT based in Hampshire who has recently joined the GDC register, said after the ceremony, "Receiving this diploma has been the single most important point so far in my professional development".

The role of the CDT includes assessing patients for, manufacturing and fitting full dentures. Under new legislation, CDTs will be able to see totally edentulous patients without necessary prior review from a dentist, and make partial dentures for patients on receipt of a referral and signed treatment plan from a dentist.

The FGDP(UK) is beginning consultation on the development of a full UK-based route to registration as a CDT. Dental technicians who are eligible for GDC registration and who would like to register an interest in such a programme should contact Sally Hunter, FGDP(UK) DCP Officer, on 020 7869 6766 or shunter@rcseng.ac.uk, to be added to a mailing list for future information.

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The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is the academic home for general dental practitioners (GDPs) and dental care professionals (DCPs) in the UK. Based at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, it aims to promote excellence in the standards of patient care in general dental practice by encouraging involvement in postgraduate training and assessment, education and research. The FGDP(UK) supports the career development of both GDPs and DCPs and recognises the value of an integrated dental team in modern dentistry.

For more information, please contact Charlotte Worker on 020 7869 6759 or cworker@rcseng.ac.uk. Also visit www.fgdp.org.uk for further details.