

# MDC



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**MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL**

# BULLETIN



President's Message	2
From the Editor's Desk	4
Registrar's Report	5
Deans' Council Functions	14
Accreditation	17
Disciplinary Proceedings	22

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Practitioners,

2015 has been full of challenges and would definitely have improved our resilience to deal with the many challenges expected in 2016, especially financial challenges. In the public sector there has been budget cuts, with the Ministry of Health seeing a 1.2% reduction in budget compared to 2015.

I call upon all practitioners, especially those in the public sector to relook their expenditure and prioritize programmes, implement thrifty spending, avoid/minimise wastage and efficiently achieve the Ministry of Health's preset outcomes, in line with the 11th Malaysia Plan. The 11th Malaysia Plan is themed "**Anchoring growth on people**" and towards this outcome, in tandem with the health services transformation plan, four strategies have been identified.

## **1. Improving access to healthcare services, especially for marginalized and rural communities.**

To achieve this the healthcare services will be further strengthened by increasing primary Oral Healthcare Services to rural communities, as well as by increasing the number of Dental Mobile squads to communities in the interiors of Sabah and Sarawak.

## **2. Improving delivery systems to improve health outcomes.**

In line with this strategy various initiatives have and are being planned and implemented. ICT based medical and dental record keeping will be improved to allow for the collection and collation of data from various health practitioners to enable evidence-based decisions and policies to be made. In government dental clinics, the Oral Health Clinical Information System (OHCIS) will be further enhanced and integrated with the Teleprimary Care (TPC) system used in Health Clinics, to form the integrated (TPC - OHCIS) system, and this expansion will be carried out in stages during the 11th Malaysia Plan.

## **3. Increasing human resource capital to improve access to health-care services.**

A master plan on Human Resource Capital will be established. Number of medical and dental specialists and highly skilled health personnel will be increased and the shortage in the rural sector will be addressed.

## **4. Increasing cooperation between the Public and Private Sectors and NGOs to improve health awareness.**

Various initiatives are being implemented to involve these sectors and the general public as agents of change to improve the health of the rakyat.

In order to achieve our goals, I call upon all Dental Practitioners in the public, private and government-linked sectors (GLCs) to work together towards improving the general and oral health of our citizens, as this would definitely facilitate our endeavour towards the realisation of our vision of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

***Datuk Dr Noor Hisham bin Abdullah***

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



The MDC bulletin is now digital !!. The MDC at its 113th meeting on 23 February 2016 has decided to publish the MDC bulletin electronically (e-bulletin) starting from this issue. There are obvious advantages of the e-bulletin compared to the printed copy. For a start, there is no financial restriction in number of pages for the bulletin as the cost involved in the production is negligible. Font size will no longer be an issue to some of our members who are advanced in their years.

The Registrar's report on the statistics of dental practitioners as of 31st December 2015 is central to this issue of the bulletin. For the last two consecutive years, there has been a significant rise in the number of graduates from foreign universities registering with the MDC making up about 50% of new graduates in the last 2 years. Of the foreign graduates, 37% was from Egypt, which represent a 127% increase in the number of new graduates from this country compared to year 2014 followed by graduates from India (31%). The number of active

practitioners stands at 6,410.

A major concern of the Malaysian Dental Council is in ensuring quality of dental education in the production of human capital. To ensure graduates becomes safe practitioners, minimal standards are set by the MDC for the training of dental surgeons, and educational institution are subjected to a strict accreditation process. Educational accreditation is a quality assurance process where an external body evaluates the institution to determine if set standards are met. This is not a one-off process but continues even after the institution has obtained the accreditation status. All local dental institutions are subjected to this strict accreditation process which involve the accreditation process featured in this issue.

*Prof Dato' Dr Ishak Abdul Razak*

# MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL REGISTRAR'S REPORT FOR 2015

## Registration under Dental Act 1971

A total of 980 graduates registered with the Council in 2015 (**Table 1**). This represents a three-fold increase in dental graduates over a period of 5 years from 2010.

The majority (99.5%) were from recognized institutions but there were five graduates who registered under Section 12(9) - three (3) from Taiwan and two (2) from India, with none registering under Section 12(3).

Section	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
12(1)	320	409	608	689	891	975
12(3)	1	1	2	4	1	0
12(9)	0	5	3	4	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>980</b>

Table 1: New Registrants under the Dental Act 1971 by Section (2010 – 2015)

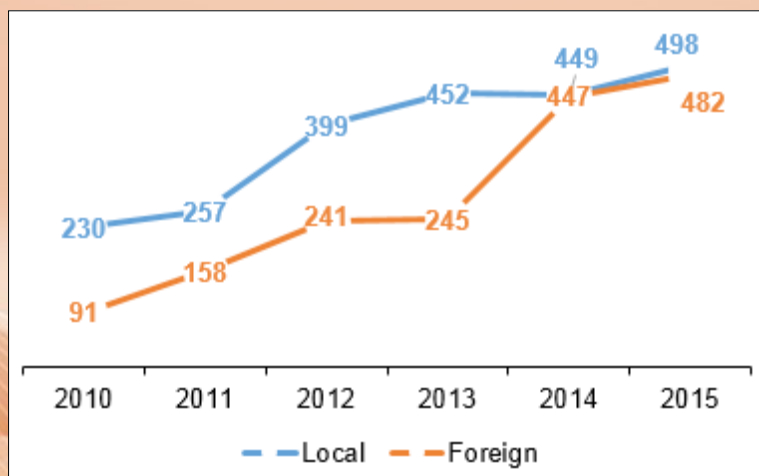


Figure 1: New Registrants from Local Institutions and from Abroad (2010 - 2015)

*continue MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL REGISTRAR'S REPORT >*

There were significant increases in both local graduates and those from abroad (**Figure 1**). The number of graduates from abroad increased more than five-fold in the past 5 years from 91 (2010) to 482 (2015) (**Figure 1**) as compared to the number of local graduates which increased only two-fold from 230 (2010) to 498 (2015).

There were four local institutions of higher education (IHE) which produced graduates in 2010, compared to eleven IHE in 2015 (Table 2). To-date, University Malaya (a public IHE) still produces the highest number of graduates followed by AIMST and PIDC which are private IHE. It is observed that the local public IHE still produce more graduates (50.8%) compared to private institutions. However, the output is declining in more established public IHE because the focus is shifting to post-graduate training. This supports the country's need for dental specialists, as post-graduate training abroad is very costly.

There was a tremendous increase in the number of graduates from the Middle East (Jordan, Egypt & the United Arab Republic), from 10 in 2014 to 261 in 2015 (**Table 2**). India and Indonesia ranked second and third in number of graduates. However, these countries also showed a declining trend compared to 2014. The Council expects to receive more than 50% of the graduates from abroad in 2016.

## continue MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL REGISTRAR'S REPORT &gt;

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Malaysia	230	257	399	452	449	498
Egypt	-	3	9	21	79	179
India	26	58	69	108	207	147
Jordan	10	21	39	22	34	82
Indonesia	37	55	72	55	96	49
United Kingdom	11	6	12	14	11	10
Australia	5	5	3	5	7	6
Republic of Ireland	1	2	4	7	4	4
Taiwan	-	1	3	3	3	3
New Zealand	1	1	3	6	2	1
Singapore	-	1	-	-	1	1
Iraq	-	-	-	1	3	-
China	-	1	-	2	-	-
Russia	-	1	-	1	-	-
Japan	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	-	1	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>980</b>

Table 2: New Registrants by Country of Qualification, 2010-2015

\*NOTE: Egypt consists of Cairo University, Ain-Shams University, Alexandria University, Asuit University, Al-Azhar University, University of Mansoura, and University of Tanta.

*continue MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL REGISTRAR'S REPORT >*

### 'Active' Dental Practitioners

The total number in the Dental Register stood at **8,551** at the end of 2015. However, only 75% (6,410) applied for and were issued with Annual Practising Certificates (APC) in 2015 (**Table 3**). The trend translates to a 66.6% increase in 'active' practitioners over the past 5 years.

Sector	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Public</b>	2,055 (53.4%)	2,452 (57.2%)	2,664 (58.0%)	3,256 (61.9%)	3,763 (63.6%)	4,021 (62.7%)
<b>Private (Div I)</b>	1,755 (45.6%)	1,801 (42.0%)	1,894 (41.3%)	1,979 (37.6%)	2,125 (35.9%)	2,363 (36.9%)
<b>Total Div. I</b>	<b>3,810</b>	<b>4,253</b>	<b>4,558</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>5,888</b>	<b>6,384</b>
<b>Private (Div II)</b>	37 (1.0%)	36 (0.8%)	33 (0.7%)	29 (0.6%)	28 (0.5%)	26 (0.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,847</b>	<b>4,289</b>	<b>4,591</b>	<b>5,264</b>	<b>5,916</b>	<b>6,410</b>
<b>% Increase</b>		11.4	7.0	14.7	12.4	8.4

**Table 3: Practitioners with Annual Practising Certificates by Sector (2010 - 2015)**

### Distribution of 'Active' Practitioners by Sector

In 2015 the majority of dental practitioners were in the public sector (4,021; 62.7%). The increasing trend is due to the mandatory compulsory service in the public sector imposed on newly appointed dental officers. The duration of the compulsory service was reduced from three years to two years on 5 April 2012 and further reduced to one year effective 1 July 2015. This period is essential to enable graduates from different schools to adapt

to the local working environment and the Malaysian Healthcare System. Registered dentists made up less than 0.5% of the active practitioners, and their numbers have been steadily declining as they age and retire from active practice (**Figure 2**).

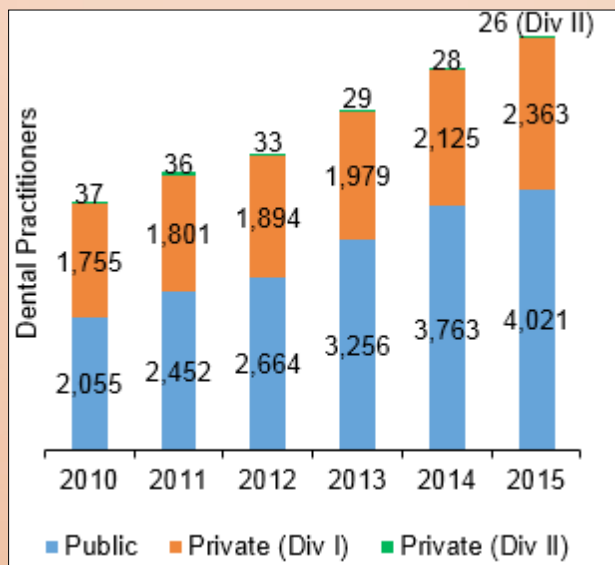


Figure 2: Distribution of Active Dental Practitioners by Sector (2010- 2015)

### Distribution by Gender

In 2015, the majority of active dental practitioners were females (4,256; 66.4%) (**Table 4**). The gender distribution, however, varies by sector, with females accounting for 76.2% in the public sector, while the gender distribution is almost equal in the private sector.

## continue MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL REGISTRAR'S REPORT &gt;

Sector	Male	Female	Total
Public	958 (23.8%)	3,063 (76.2%)	4,021
Private (Div I)	1,173 (49.6%)	1,190 (50.4%)	2,363
<b>Total Div. I</b>	<b>2,131</b> (33.4%)	<b>4,253</b> (66.6%)	<b>6,384</b>
Private (Div II)	23 (88.5%)	3 (11.5%)	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,154</b> (33.6%)	<b>4,256</b> (66.4%)	<b>6,410</b>

Table 4: Distribution of Active Practitioners by Gender &amp; Sector, 2015

This 'feminization' of the profession seems to be on the increase (Figure 3). Not only are the number of female dental practitioners more than the males, there has been a 78.6% growth in the number of females compared to only 47.0% among males since 2010.

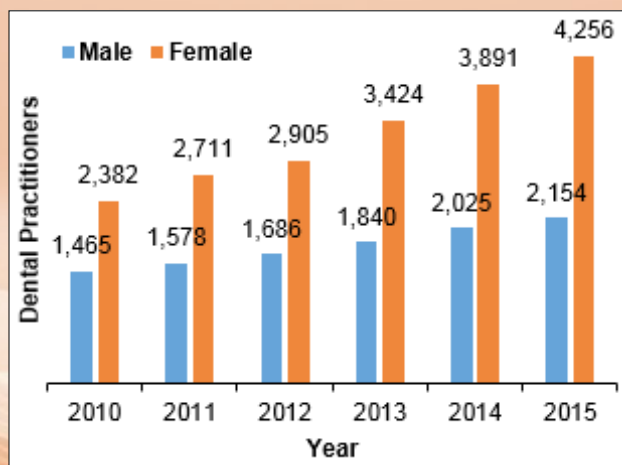


Figure 3: Distribution of Active Practitioners by Gender, 2010 – 2015

## Temporary Practising Certificates

A total of **283** Temporary Practising Certificates (TPC) were issued to non-citizens in 2015. The majority (230; 81.3%) were issued to academic staff, and out of these 93.9% were issued to private IHE. This was followed by 28 (9.9%) issued to contract officers and 16 (5.7%) to practitioners who attended short hands-on courses, with the balance issued to external examiners and experts for transfer of skills and knowledge. There was a 35.4% increase in the number of TPC issued since 2010. However, in 2014, there was a sudden decrease due to the policy of the Public Services Department not to renew the contracts of dental officers in the Ministry of Health, as well as the Council's decision not to issue TPC to post-graduate students.

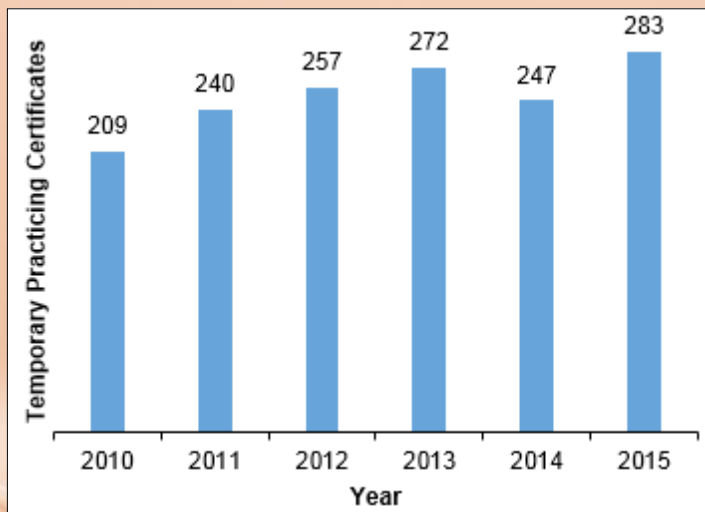


Figure 4: Number of Temporary Practising Certificates (TPC) Issued, 2010-2015

*continue MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL REGISTRAR'S REPORT >*

The following are issues the Registrar wishes to highlight:

### 1. Dental Practitioners' Information Management System (DPIMS)

The MDC secretariat did not send the manual APC application form with the APC for 2016. Practitioners are expected to apply for renewal of APC 2017 using the on-line system. We also advise **practitioners** to update their contact details at <http://dpims.moh.gov.my>, to inform the secretariat of any changes to practising address(es) through the '**Contact Us**' icon, and to indicate that the details have been checked or updated. Practitioners are strongly encouraged to use this system and to opt for the on-line payment options that have been available **since July 2013**.

Please forward your feedback related to the system through DPIMS. Enquiries should be channeled to the helpdesk at **03-8318 6440**.

### 2. APC/TPC applications

Practitioners are reminded that they can practice only **at private clinics registered under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 [Act 586]**. The Council will issue APC/TPC only to dental practitioners at dental clinic(s) that have been registered under Act 586. Practitioners in public sector are reminded to have indemnity for all their locum practising address(es).

### 3. MyCPD

Practitioners are also encouraged to register with myCPD at <http://my-cpd.moh.gov.my> to claim their annual CPD points. The Medical Development Division and Tele-health Division, MOH are in the process of upgrading the system to increase its capacity and capability for better integration with the database systems of various regulatory bodies.

The Council requests that a **“print-out CPD logbook”** from the **my-CPD system** with **copies** of evidence be kept for five years for verification by the Council. All dental practitioners with supervisors should ensure that CPD records are verified, and should keep such records with the evidence for five years.

# DENTAL DEANS' COUNCIL

The Dental Dean's Council was established about 14 years ago, with members from three public schools in University Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and University Science Malaysia (USM). In late 2016, its membership grew with the establishments of three more public schools, in Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) and International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM).

The establishment of the Council was under the purview of the Ministry of Higher Education. The early objectives were to coordinate the dental curriculum and look after service matters of the staff of schools. It also a medium for communication between the Ministry and the dental faculties. The functions of the Council later expanded to include coordinating the Annual National Student Conference.

The first Chairman of the Dental Deans' Council was Professor Dato'



**Professor Dato Dr Abdul Rani Shamsuddin**

***1st Chairman (2003-2005)***

Dr Abdul Rani Shamsuddin, from USM, who held the position from 2003-2005 and he was followed by Professor Dr Rahimah Abdul Kadir of University Malaya from 2005-2007. Later the chairmanship was passed to Professor Dato' Dr Ghazali Mat Nor of UKM from 2007 to 2009. Professor Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abu Hassan from UiTM took over the chairmanship in 2009.

In 2006 there was a growth in the number of dental school schools, from three public school to six public dental school and two private schools in AMIST University and Penang International Dental Col-

*continue DENTAL DEANS' COUNCIL >*

lege (PIDC). By 2009, three more private school were formed in the International Medical University, MAHSA University and Malacca-Manipal Medical College. With the formation of these schools, a total of 11 dental schools were established and there was a need to get all the schools together. The Dental Deans' Caucus was formed in 2009 with the Chairman of Dental Deans' Council also assuming the Chairmanship of the Caucus. By 2012, two more dental schools in SEGi University and Lincoln University College were formed making it a total of 13 schools, in six public and seven private universities.

In 2013, the Deans' Council and Deans' Caucus were merged under one entity i.e. the Dental Deans' Council. The Council plays a major role in bringing together the 13 dental schools in the country. The Dental Deans' Council has played a major role in the drafting of several documents which serve as guides for dental schools. The documents are:

- General Programme Outcomes
- Student Learning Time (SLT)

- General Competencies of Dental Graduates from Malaysian Dental Schools
- Minimal Clinical Experience
- General Criteria for Credit Transfer for Dental Programmes



**Professor Dr Rahimah Abdul Kadir**  
*2nd Chairman (2005-2007)*



**Professor Dato Dr Ghazali Mat Nor**  
*3rd Chairman (2007-2009)*

*continue DENTAL DEANS' COUNCIL >*



**Professor Dr Mohamed Ibrahim  
Abu Hassan**  
*4th Chairman (2009-present)*

These documents were approved by the Joint Technical Accreditation Committee (JTKAP), and endorsed by the Malaysian Dental Council, before being used by the JKTAP and MQA panels when auditing or evaluating the dental programmes in the local dental schools.

The Deans' Council has also written a book entitled "Future Direction of Dental Schools In Malaysia", which has been endorsed by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia.

*By: Professor Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abu Hassan*

# ACCREDITATION OF DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

The Ministry of Health, Malaysia (MOH) is committed to ensuring safe and high quality oral healthcare for the population. Recognising the rapid pace of development in knowledge and technology in dentistry, coupled with the rising expectations and demands from consumers for high quality oral health care, there is a growing need to regulate and accredit dental education programmes in Malaysia. As of December 2015, there are six public universities and seven private institutions of higher education offering dental degree programmes locally. These institutions have a significant role in realising the government's aspiration to produce high quality dental graduates.

## **Purpose of Accreditation**

Accreditation is an exercise to determine whether a programme has met specific standards and criteria to ensure that their graduates are competent and skilled. The standards for accreditation of a dental degree programme are set by a peer review board whose members are from various universities, professional bodies, associations, and related government agencies. Accreditation will not only protect the public and the prestige of the profession, but also serve as a guide on the quality required to be established and maintained by dental faculties.

## **Accreditation Authorities**

There are various authorities that ensure the essential and core components of basic dental education and training achieve the minimum standards, before a degree can be awarded.

## Malaysian Qualifications Agency

The main role of the MQA is to implement the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF), which is a basis for quality assurance of higher education in Malaysia and as the reference point for the criteria and standards for national qualifications. The MQA is also responsible for monitoring and overseeing the quality assurance practices and accreditation of national higher education.

The Joint Technical Accreditation Committee (JTAC) is a committee formed under the Malaysian Dental Council to fulfil section 51(1) of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency Act 2007 [Act 679]:

## Joint Technical Accreditation Committee

*“A Joint Technical Committee consisting of representatives of the relevant professional body, an officer of the Agency and such other persons as may be deemed necessary by the relevant professional body shall be established by the relevant professional body”.*

The committee is chaired by the Principal Director of Oral Health, MOH and the members are:

- A representative from the Oral Health Division, Ministry of Health
- The chairman of the Dental Deans' Council
- Three Deans from the dental faculties of local Institutions for Higher Education
- One representative from Malaysian Dental Council (MDC)
- One representative from the Malaysian Dental Association (MDA)
- One representative of the dental profession

*continue ACCREDITATION OF DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES >*

- One representative from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA)
- Three representatives from the Department of Higher Education (Jabatan Pengajian Tinggi), Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE)

The functions of JTAC are:

- To assess applications for accreditation of dental programmes
- To make arrangements to conduct an institutional audit
- To make recommendations to grant or refuse an application for accreditation of a dental programme
- To make recommendations for imposing conditions for accreditation
- To make recommendations for the revocation of accreditation of a dental programme

### **Malaysian Dental Council**

The Malaysian Dental Council (MDC), established under the Dental Act 1971, is responsible for recognising dental degrees for the purpose of registering their graduates to practice in Malaysia pursuant to section 12(2) as follows:

*‘(2) The Minister may from time to time, after consulting the Council, add to, delete from or amend the Second Schedule by order published in the Gazette.’*

## **Areas of Evaluation**

The criteria and standards for programme accreditation has been designed to ensure practices that are in line with internationally recognised good practices. The areas of evaluation are as follows:

Area 1 : Programme Development and Delivery

Area 2 : Assessment of Student Learning

Area 3 : Student Selection and Support Services

Area 4 : Academic and Support Staff

Area 5 : Educational Resources

Area 6 : Programme Management

Area 7 : Programme Monitoring, Review and Continual Quality Improvement

## **Accreditation Process**

There are two levels of programme accreditation i.e. Provisional Accreditation and Full Accreditation. Provisional Accreditation is given after an accreditation exercise to determine whether a programme has met the minimum quality requirements for purposes of offering a programme.

After a programme has been granted Provisional Accreditation, the Higher Education Provider (HEP) can proceed to seek approval from the MOHE to offer the programme, and on obtaining it, commence the programme.

The purpose of Full Accreditation is to ascertain that the teaching, learning and all other related activities of the programme provided by the HEP has met the quality standards and is in compliance with the Malaysian Qualifications Framework. The Full Accreditation exercise is conducted when the first cohort of students of the dental degree programme are in their final year.

*continue ACCREDITATION OF DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES >*

The HEP is required to submit to the MQA a database and a self-review report containing information about the programme and the institution based on the 7 Areas. MQA will appoint members to a Panel of Assessors (POA), based on their background and experience. The POA will assess the information in the documents, and follow that with a site visit to validate the information as well as to inspect the educational resources of the HEP.

The Panel's findings are then tabled at the JTAC meeting for their recommendation. The JTAC recommendation is then forwarded to the MDC for approval, before being endorsed by the MQA. Accreditation is awarded for a maximum of five years.

Following the conferment of Full Accreditation, the qualification will be entered into the Second Schedule of the Dental Act 1971.

### **Current status of Accreditation of Dental Degree Programmes**

Currently there are 6 public dental faculties/schools with accredited dental degree programmes (UM, UKM, USM, UiTM, USIM, UIAM) and 5 private dental schools with accredited dental degree programmes (IMU, AIMST, MAHSA, PIDC, MMMC).

Two other private universities, SEGi and LUC are in the process of being accredited.

*By: Dr Savithri N.Vengadasalam  
Dr Norashikin bt Mustapha Yahya*

# DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

**Year of complaint: 2013**

## **Facts Of The Complaint**

A complaint was received from Miss N against Dr X, a private dental practitioner, regarding unsatisfactory orthodontic treatment. Miss N claimed that the orthodontic treatment provided by Dr X was not done properly. She claimed that most of the brackets were placed incorrectly and Dr X did not give her a proper explanation for the reasons the brackets were placed incorrectly. Miss N later went to two orthodontists for consultation and it was confirmed that the orthodontic brackets were incorrectly placed.

## **Findings Of The Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)**

Based on the oral evidence of the complainant and witnesses and supporting documents available, the PIC found that:

Dr X failed to provide a high standard of care that was expected when treating and managing the complainant during the period of treatment.

## **Charge Against The Respondent**

Dr X failed to provide a high standard of care that is expected when treating and managing the complainant during the period of treatment. In that respect he failed in his responsibility to meet the needs of the patient by not offering all possible treatment with, if necessary, the assistance of professional colleagues.

In relation to facts alleged, Dr X may be found guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect under section 32(2)(b) of the Dental Act 1971, which is punishable under Section 33 of the Act.

### **Dr X's Explanation**

1. Dr X explained that Miss N went to see him initially for extraction of her first premolar in preparation for orthodontic treatment with an orthodontist. Miss N later returned requesting orthodontic treatment by him.
2. Fixed appliances were inserted and after 10 days, the patient requested a change of arch wires. Two weeks later, Miss N requested a change of the molar rings because they were uncomfortable. Dr X informed her that pain was to be expected when the fixed appliances were activated.
3. Miss N was last seen for orthodontic treatment by Dr X 4 weeks later. The arch wires had been removed by the patient.
4. Dr X explained that he had more than 20 years of experience in performing orthodontic treatment, including fixed appliances. He further explained that he has experience treating cases like Miss N's, but had never received any complaints.

### **Recommendation Of PIC**

The PIC, after deliberation, is of the opinion that the competency of Dr X is doubtful and this was corroborated by the opinion and evidence provided by a specialist. The PIC unanimously agreed that he was not competent to handle this case and recommends that the Council holds an inquiry

*continue DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS >*

### **Verdict Of The Council**

The Council found the practitioner guilty of the charge and the practitioner was reprimanded under Section 33(1)(c).

***By: Dr Sofiah bt Mat Ripen***

# MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL 2016



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Dato' Prof. Emeritus Dr. Hashim bin Yaacob, Dr. Noor Aliyah binti Hj. Ismail (Registrar), Datuk Dr. Noor Hisham bin Abdullah (President), Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Wan Mohamad Nasir bin Wan Othman, Dr. Hjh Noormi binti Othman (Secretary)

## Standing from Left:

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