From the Dean
A message from the Dean

Firstly, on behalf of the Faculty Board and all the staff, may I wish you all a very happy and successful 2016. Last year was an extremely successful one for the Faculty and we certainly cemented our position as the go-to body for advice, views and policies in relation to specialist dental care.

You will be aware that as reported in my last newsletter, the Faculty has been working to raise awareness of the appalling state of children’s oral health in England. Our two reports *The state of children’s oral health in England* and *Actions for the Government to improve oral health* both received excellent media coverage and subsequently led to very positive and meaningful discussions with a number of key stakeholders, including Alistair Burt MP, the minister responsible for dentistry, and other Parliamentarians, the Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England (PHE). As a consequence, we have been working with these bodies, as well as the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) and the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD), to coordinate a national strategy to progress the actions needed to improve children’s oral health. These include addressing children’s access to NHS dentistry, improving prevention advice and exploring ways to reduce sugar consumption, and greater education and training on oral health within the non-dental healthcare curricula, particularly for midwives and health visitors.

The Secretary of State for Health has made it clear that tackling children’s obesity is a key priority for the government. We have been calling for oral health to be integrated into the national obesity strategy, and are taking every opportunity to emphasise that obesity, diabetes and poor oral health are all inextricably linked. The Faculty welcomed Public Health England’s recent report *Sugar Reduction – The evidence for Action*,
which clearly recognised the need for public health interventions to limit all of these diseases.

I also represent the Faculty on the steering group led by PHE which is examining the contemporary evidence showing the links between oral health and general health. Four key disease areas are being investigated, namely diabetes, cardiovascular disease, dementia/Alzheimer’s disease and pulmonary infection. It is hoped that definitive reports will be produced in the next few months, which will inform the work of PHE.

The Faculty’s interaction and relation with the specialty associations and societies continues to thrive and it is pleasing to report that we have managed to expand our research grant portfolio. In addition to our two FDS Research Fellowships and small grants scheme, 2016 will see us able to offer a three-year fellowship in conjunction with the British Orthodontic Society and a one year fellowship in conjunction with the BSPD – the latter two being specifically to enhance research under the broad theme of improving children’s oral health.

The education team already have a full programme of popular courses arranged for the coming year, and we hope these will be more widely publicised and accessed via the College’s new website, which is due to be launched in mid-2016. Following the overwhelming success of the Faculty’s last research workshop, I am pleased to report that we will be holding a further workshop specifically aimed at dental surgeons in July 2016. Finally, I would encourage you to enjoy the lecture and social events of the Faculty, in particular the Charles Tomes Lecture, together with the Fellows’ and Members’ Dinner in March and the 69th Anniversary Dinner in June. RSVP slips for both these dinner events are included at the back of this newsletter.

Nigel Hunt
FDS Dean
Menzies Campbell Lecture 2015

This triennial lecture was instituted in 1959 in recognition of Dr John Menzies Campbell, one of the world’s greatest historians. Dr Campbell, a Scot, qualified in dentistry from Glasgow in 1911 and undertook further training in Canada, obtaining a DDS from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ontario. It was there that he became fascinated by dental history and where he wrote the often quoted phrase: “Dentists as a rule fail to realise their indebtedness to the past. How frequently something regarded as strictly modern in its conception has actually been suggested by a visionary who lived in an earlier century.” In 1958, Dr Campbell was the first dentist to be awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the RCS of England to add to that he had received from our sister Faculty in Edinburgh. In 1964 he bequeathed his personal library to our College.

The 2015 lecture was presented by Professor Stephen Porter, Professor of Oral Medicine at UCL Eastman Dental Institute. Professor Hunt, in his introduction explained why Stephen was such an obvious person to deliver the lecture. Professor Porter, also a Scot, qualified in Glasgow and is a Fellow of both the RCS England and Edinburgh. He is currently Dean/ Director of the Dental Institute and that provided the final link as the first lecturer in 1959 was Sir Robert Bradlaw who was also Dean of the Eastman Dental Institute at the time.

Professor Porter chose as his title The influence of social change upon oral health and dentistry. The lecture was a wonderful exposition of how the incidence of disease has gone full circle in many areas. Several conditions that were either on the wane or had been virtually eradicated in the world are now on the increase again. Stephen cited several examples including the prevalence of active Tuberculosis in areas of east and west London, and the causes of tissue loss of the jaw which had changed from causative agents such as yellow phosphorus (‘Phossy jaw’) associated with the match industry in the 19th and early 20th centuries to one of oral cancer associated with the human papilloma virus today.

The Menzies Campbell medal was awarded to Professor Porter by the Dean as part of the Diplomates’ Ceremony in the afternoon.
Friday 30 October 2015 saw upwards of 450 diplomates, graduates, their friends and families celebrate the 68th Diplomates’ day at the College. It was wonderful to see so many happy smiling faces from people who had travelled from all around the world for the special occasion – one of the most important days in the Faculty calendar.

The day started with the triennial Menzies Campbell lecture delivered by Professor Stephen Porter. The thought-provoking lecture was extremely well received by a large audience.

The Ceremony of Presentation of Diplomates began with the presentation of two Fellowships in Dental Surgery-by-election. The citation for Professor Gerard Kearns was given by Miss Kathryn Harley and listed the extensive contribution Professor Kearns had made to the specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and through his role as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

The second recipient was Mr Martin Kelleher, well known to the Faculty
for his hard-hitting and forthright views within the field of restorative dentistry. Like Professor Kearns, Martin was also an extremely accomplished rugby player and this was highlighted by some of the stories related by Mr Karl Bishop in his citation.

The 2015 Colyer Gold Medal was awarded to Miss Kathryn Harley. This medal was first struck in 1951 and commemorates the long and distinguished service of Sir Frank Colyer, especially as Honorary Curator of the Odontological Museum, a position he held for 51 years. According to the College Ordinances, the medal is awarded “for liberal acts or distinguished labours, researches and discoveries eminently conducive to the improvement of natural knowledge and to dental surgery”. Kathryn’s enormous contribution to dental surgery through her work as a consultant in paediatric dentistry as well as the Faculty’s first female Dean were cited by Mr Stephen Fayle and echoed by the Dean, who said she had been a hard act to follow but that this had been made easier by the many developments Kathryn had initiated.

Following the presentation of the Menzies Campbell Medal to

Left to right:
Dimplomates in the Edward Lumley Hall;
Professor Gerard Kearns;
Mr Martin Kelleher;
Miss Kathryn Harley
Professor Stephen Porter, the FDS Research Fellowship was awarded to Miss Annie Morgan. Annie, from Sheffield Dental School, was awarded the fellowship for her work into the development of an electronic patient reported outcome measure for youth dental anxiety. This was followed by the award of the annual John Kay Williams Medal which is given to the candidate securing the highest marks in the bi-Collegiate Membership in Orthodontics examination of that year. The 2015 recipient was Mr Farooq Ahmed.

The final medal was the Faculty Anniversary Medal which is awarded to an individual who is not a member of the faculty staff or board but who nevertheless has given outstanding service to the Faculty. Mr Steven Jones, retired consultant orthodontist from the Eastman Dental Institute, had worked tirelessly for the Faculty over the years, firstly as an examiner for the Specialty Membership in Orthodontics examination over an extended term and also as a key player in the design of the curriculum and assessments for the Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy examination.

The occasion also marked the awards of the first Fellowships by Assessment which had been granted to Professor Peter Anderson, Professor of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery from Adelaide, and to Professor Nicholas Grey, Professor of Dental Education and former Head of the School of Dentistry at the University of Manchester.

Following the presentation of the Fellows, Members, Licentiates and Diplomates, a reception was held in the Council room with catering of exceptional quality. Our thanks go to all the faculty Staff for organising a day to remember but especially to Jane Donald and Ann Khattab who once again enabled the day to run like clockwork.
We have lift off! The e-Den project is now complete and was launched by our Faculty in November. Readers will be aware that this has been a major Faculty project in partnership with the NHS and e-learning for Health Care (e-l fh), which started in 2008 and was designed to deliver e-learning to underpin the curriculum for foundation training in dentistry. Early on it became clear that e-Den could be much more than that and it now offers an educational resource for all the dental team. There are 12 modules covering all aspects of dentistry and currently over 300 sessions of e-learning are now available to all members of the dental team who work in part or whole for the National Health Service.

e-Den is a versatile educational resource and can be used to provide free verifiable CPD, which can be certificated, and it is also provided free of charge to all current undergraduate dental students in the United Kingdom. Our Faculty has always appreciated the value of e-Den and has been the champion of this project from the start stepping in when financial constraints threatened its future. e-Den is accessed by a significant number of registered users. It is also marketed abroad, by e-integrity, to provide income for continuing development and updating of the sessions. If you haven’t used it yet, please remember as a member and or fellow of the Faculty you have free access to e-Den. Give it a go, you never know you might learn something new! e-Den will no doubt grow and flourish in the future. It is yet another example of our Faculty leading the way by raising standards and advancing the future of dental education in the UK.
Early in September (1–3 September 2015) the Membership in Orthodontics had its first international diet in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The diet was held in the excellent facilities of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Malaya. Eight candidates presented for assessment, and the standard of case presentation and understanding of orthodontic theory and practice were of an exceptionally high standard. Sadly, one candidate was unsuccessful in the assessment.

Our hosts included three examiners from Kuala Lumpur; Associate Professor Siti Adibah Othman, Associate Professor Zamri Radzi and Dr Wey Mang Chek who have travelled from Kuala Lumpur to June diets of the IMOrth twice in order to complete their examiner training. Our examiner team also included Dr Stephen Chadwick, Senior Vice Dean and Dr Charlotte Eckhardt the Chair of the IMOrth examiners. Dr Noraina Norman from UiTM (MARA University of Technology) observed the diet.

The organization of the examination was fantastic. Darren Weaver from the Royal College of Surgeons of England worked exceptionally hard transporting orthodontic models, photographs, paper work for both candidates and examiners, together with the myriad of “bits and pieces” for the OSCE. Darren managed to run this diet of the examination, thousands of miles from the College, as if we were in Lincoln’s Inn Fields.

Some of the material of the assessment was sent ahead to ensure the smooth running of the diet. We were a little concerned when customs held onto this material for close scrutiny. However, we were delighted when all of our material arrived in time for the assessment and all in one piece.

Charlotte Eckhardt, Chair of Examiners, is deserving of an enormous thank you on behalf of the College for her meticulous attention to detail, professionalism and enthusiasm. I hope Kuala Lumpur will prove to be the beginning for the MOOrth (International) RCS Eng.
Course dates

30 January 2016
BASICS OF DENTO-ALVEOLAR CBCT INTERPRETATION

1-2 February 2016
ISFE REVISION COURSE

25-26 February 2016
ORTHODONTIC WIREBENDING AND ARCHWIRE FABRICATION MASTERCLASS

27 February 2016
BASICS OF DENTO-ALVEOLAR CBCT INTERPRETATION

Dates for your diary

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS DINNER – THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016
Board members, fellows, honorary fellows and members are welcome to apply for this dinner and are encouraged to bring guests. Email: jdonald@rcseng.ac.uk / akhattab@rcseng.ac.uk or return the enclosed reply slip by Monday 7 March 2016.

REGIONAL AND SPECIALTY ADVISORS’ DAY – FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2016
Attendance at the event is by invitation only, invitations to be sent out in the New Year. For further information please contact Stephen Brown: sbrown@rcseng.ac.uk

CHARLES TOMES LECTURE – FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2016
This will be delivered by Professor Philip Preshaw, Professor of Periodontology, School of Dental Sciences and Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University. For more information please contact: Jane Donald/Ann Khattab, email: Jdonald@rcseng.ac.uk / akhattab@rcseng.ac.uk

69TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER – FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2016
Board members, fellows, honorary fellows and members are welcome to apply for this dinner and are encouraged to bring guests. Email: jdonald@rcseng.ac.uk / akhattab@rcseng.ac.uk or return the enclosed reply slip by Monday 6 June 2016.