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Dental Convenors and Deans of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

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Detailed author biographies can be found on page 50.

Key words

Convenors, Deans, Faculty of Dental Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Purpose

The purpose of this monograph is to record biographical details of the Dental Convenors (1954-1982) and Deans (1982-to date) of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, including information on the issues addressed and initiatives achieved by each Convenor and Dean during their respective terms of office.

The Dental Historian

The Dental Historian is an international journal which publishes peer reviewed papers of historical interest, relevant biographies and descriptions of historical artefacts. The Dental Historian is the official journal of the Lindsay Society for The History of Dentistry.



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The Lindsay Society is one of the largest societies in the world dedicated to the history of dentistry. Founded in 1962, the society takes its name from Lilian Lindsay (1871–1960), who in 1895 became the first woman to qualify as a dentist in the United Kingdom. She went on to become an internationally renowned dental historian and instigated both the Museum and the Library of the British Dental Association.

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Detailed author instructions may be found on page 116.

Cover image

The cover image shows the exterior of the Royal College of Surgeons building in Edinburgh at night.

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Preface

Dental surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) has been an important element of the history of the College since its inception in 1505. A number of eminent individuals were instrumental in advancing dental surgery over the early centuries of the College, making many notable and enduring contributions to the development of education and training, assessment and standards in dentistry.

The establishment of the Dental Council in 1954, and the formation of the Faculty of Dental Surgery in 1982 formalised the role of dental surgery within the RCSEd. The Dental Council continues to be the professional body in the College responsible for all matters pertaining to dental surgery. This development enabled the evolution from the first dental qualifications through the establishment and ongoing modernisation of postgraduate dental curricula, and the implementation of continuing professional development to setting standards and fostering an environment for innovation and excellence to flourish in dental surgery.

The Convenors and Deans, as the guiding figures of the Dental Council and Faculty, have influenced the direction of dental training, with each making a significant contribution to the broader development of the dental profession in the United Kingdom and across the world. Through their vision and leadership, each Convenor and Dean has responded to the changing landscape of dental surgery, overseeing key milestone developments of benefit to the profession and the public.

This monograph details the dental leadership within the RCSEd, celebrating the early figures who promoted dental education, the art and science of dentistry, and excellence in the practice of dental surgery within the College. This work records the contributions and lives of the Convenors and Deans who have shaped the trajectory of dental surgery from 1954 onwards, and provides a record of the transition of dental leadership within the College from Convenor to Dean and in 2025, to the current title: Vice-President (Dental) and Dean of The Faculty of Dental Surgery.

This work is testament to the enduring legacy of the Faculty and its commitment to excellence in all aspects of professional practice within the UK, and across the world. Today, the RCSEd Faculty of Dental Surgery is proud to be at the forefront of postgraduate dental education, standards and assessment, promoting and encouraging innovation in dental surgery, both nationally and internationally.

The Faculty is grateful to the authors of this monograph for their diligence and unswerving commitment to produce this comprehensive, insightful document.

Grant McIntyre

Current Vice-President (Dental) and Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

October, 2025

Introduction

The Dental Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) celebrated its platinum jubilee in 2024. For more than 70 years the Dental Council has been at the forefront of dental education and training. The Dental Council, formed in 1954, predated the formation of the College's Faculty of Dental Surgery in 1982. In the 28 years before the formation of the Faculty, the Dental Council had eight Convenors, one of whom, William (Bill) Donald MacLennan, served two terms. Since its formation in 1982, the Faculty has had 15 Deans. Each of the Convenors and Deans, elected by the Dental Council, normally for a three-year term of office, has made a significant impact on dentistry in the UK and across the world. All the Convenors and Deans have been eminent, high-profile members of the profession, coming from varied backgrounds, and typically going on to achieve many accolades in their subsequent professional lives.

The association of dentistry with the College dates much further back into history than the formation of the Dental Council. At the time of the founding of the College in 1505, King James IV (Figure 1), who became the Patron of the Craft Guild of Barber Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1506, was known to practice the art of dentistry, reputedly paying subjects 14 shillings (approximately £500 in 2025) for the privilege of extracting their teeth. Since that time, the College has viewed dental surgery as a branch of the practice of surgery, and has continued to support postgraduate education, training and career development in dentistry.

Some 260 years after the founding of the College, the first dental lectures in Scotland were delivered in Old Surgeons' Hall in 1766 by the Deacon (President) of the Incorporation of Surgeons of Edinburgh, James Rae (1716-1791) (Figure 2).

Ninety years later, the first dedicated course in dental surgery in Scotland was delivered in Surgeons' Hall in 1856. This course, entitled "Physiology and diseases of the teeth", was given by John Smith. The course fee was one guinea (approximately £145 in 2025).



Figure 1 James IV of Scotland



Figure 2 Engraving from 1786 in John Kay's Edinburgh Portraits. James Rae (left), Deacon (President) of the Incorporation of Surgeons, 1764-1766, in conversation with Dr William Laing, Edinburgh, holding his daughter's hand, and Dr James Hay, later Sir James Hay of Smithfield.

John Smith (1825-1910)

John Smith (Figure 3) is considered to be the father of dental education and training in Scotland, was born in Edinburgh in 1825, the son of a dentist. He attended school at the Edinburgh Institution (later to become Melville College and then Stewarts-Melville College). From his school days Smith's talents for drawing, playing the violin and song-writing were apparent. In 1847, Smith graduated MD from the University of Edinburgh and received the LRCSEd (Licentiate) diploma from the College. Shortly after graduation, he went to London and then on to Paris with his lifelong friend, Dr (later Sir) Henry Duncan Littlejohn (1826-1914). During his visit to Paris in 1830, Smith witnessed street fighting during the Second (July) Revolution -Trois Glorieuses (Three Glorious Days). He made drawings of gunshot and sabre wounds which Professor James Spence used in his lectures on military surgery, published in 1871.

After the death of his father, Smith decided to pursue a career in dentistry. In Scotland in the mid-19th century there was no formal training available in dentistry. Prospective dentists had to travel to London to receive training. Following his return to Edinburgh, in 1856, Smith introduced the first course in dental surgery in Scotland, entitled "Physiology and Diseases of the Teeth" (Figure 4). This course was delivered by the College. The following year Smith was appointed Dentist to the Royal Public Dispensary. He quickly appreciated the need for a dispensary devoted exclusively to the treatment of dental problems, and, along with his friends Robert Nasmyth (1791-1870) and Francis Imlach (1819-1891) opened the Edinburgh Dental Dispensary in 1860 at 1 Drummond Street, a few yards from the current site of the College. With growth in the number of patients treated, the Dispensary moved to Cockburn Street. Attendance at Edinburgh Dental Dispensary was recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng) as part of the curriculum for the Diploma in Dental Surgery. For the first time, trainee dentists in Scotland did not have to incur the expense of travelling to London to receive recognised clinical



Figure 3 John Smith, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 1883-1885

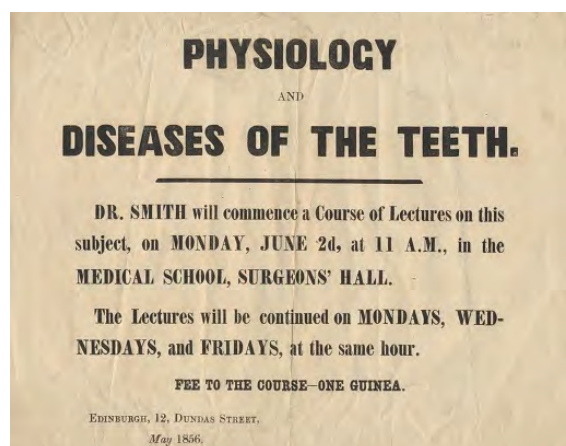


Figure 4 Advertisement of John Smith's course on the physiology and diseases of the teeth in 1856

instruction. In 1877, Smith - a member of the Dental Reform Committee established in Manchester by Sidney Wormald (1823-1898) in 1875 - convened a Scottish regional meeting, attended by two thirds of Scotland's practising dentists, to support legislation for the regulation of dental practice and the registration of qualified practitioners. The meeting appointed a Scottish Dental Education Committee, with Smith as its chairman and William Bowman MacLeod (1843-1899) as secretary. MacLeod wrote to the trustees and managers of the Edinburgh Dental Dispensary requesting a meeting where it was agreed, pending the successful passage of the proposed Dentists Act, that the Dispensary could become the nucleus of a dental school in Edinburgh. Successful passage of the Dentists Act in July 1878 enabled RCSEd to establish a Dental Examining Board and a Licence in Dental Surgery (LDS); although, as Smith was to observe, 'not without some dissentients'. Additionally, Smith was a principal moving force in the founding of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, established in 1860. It was fitting that he became the first dental surgeon to the Sick Children's Hospital, treating conditions such as cleft lip and palate (Figure 5). Smith was made Surgeon Dentist to Queen Victoria in 1871.

Smith was active in the College as a Member of Council, going on to become President in 1883 (Figure 3). He was awarded the LLD by Edinburgh University on the occasion of the Tercentenary of the University in 1884. His national standing in dentistry was recognised by his election as President of the British Dental Association in 1884 and he was one of 11 dentists that formed the committee that created the British Dental Journal.

Smith was a prodigious writer. In 1905 he wrote a brief history of the RCSEd to commemorate the quadricentenary of the College. His literary contributions outside medicine and dentistry were numerous, extending to creating pantomimes, three of which were professionally produced by his friend, Robert Wyndham, a member of the family which was to found the Howard and Wyndham group of theatres. In his later years John indulged in writing, painting and music.

Figure 5 One of John Smith's watercolours, dated 1867, illustrating a case of cleft lip and palate



Francis Brodie Imlach (1819–1891)

Francis Brodie Imlach (Figures 6 and 7) was an Edinburgh-born surgeon who became a licentiate of the College in 1841. Imlach developed a keen interest in dentistry while training in Paris. He became a very successful dental surgeon, with an exclusive practice at 48 Queen Street, Edinburgh. Imlach (Fig.6), who was admitted to Fellowship of the College (FRCSEd) in 1856, was a close friend of James Young Simpson (1811-1870), the obstetrician who developed the use of chloroform for anaesthesia, practising a few doors away from Imlach at 52 Queen Street, Edinburgh. This led Imlach to become the first dental surgeon in the UK to extract a tooth under chloroform anaesthesia in 1847, when on the afternoon of 11 November, he used chloroform to assist in the extraction of a tooth of a fellow dentist, James Darsie Morrison (c.1805-1866)*. Imlach, who contributed to the work of the Edinburgh Dental Dispensary, later became the second and latest dentist to serve as President of the College (1879-1881). The route for a dentist to become President of the College today is election to College Council, and then Election by Council as President. Following his presidency of the College, Imlach, amongst other things, went on to serve as President of the Royal Scottish Society of the Arts (1887-1889).

**James Darsie Morrison, who practised and resided at 8 Wemyss Place, Edinburgh, before moving to London, prior to retirement, to practice at 3 Westbourne Park Road, developed an interest in anaesthetic techniques in the clinical practice of dentistry, filing a number of patent applications with the Great Seal Patent Office, including, in 1857 "Improvements in effecting surgical and medical operations by the agency of artificially induced anaesthesia", and "Improvements in painless dentistry by apparatus for cooling and tempering air and applying it as an anaesthetic agent" (Patent No 3189). Morrison displayed dental innovations at the 1851 Great Exhibition in London.*



Figure 6 Francis Brodie Imlach, photographed as a successful dental practitioner



Figure 7 Francis Brodie Imlach, painted as President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (1879-1881)

Robert Nasmyth (1791-1870)

Robert Nasmyth, younger brother of Alexander Nasmyth (1789-1844) who described the Nasmyth membrane, shared the distinction of being a founder of Edinburgh Dental Dispensary, which evolved to become Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School.

Nasmyth (Figure 8), the son of a tailor, was educated at the Royal High School, Edinburgh. He commenced his studies of medicine at fifteen years of age, becoming a licentiate of the College in 1811. Following some time as an Assistant Dental Surgeon in London, Nasmyth returned to Edinburgh to establish his own dental practice at 21 St Andrew's Square and to become a fellow of the College (FRCSEd) in 1823. Nasmyth had a national and international reputation for the use of gold in the restoration of decayed teeth, and he developed a cap splint device to facilitate maxillary reconstruction following tumour resection. This splint was later copied by an American dentist, Thomas Brian Gunning (1813-1899), and has since been known by his name, the Gunning splint. In addition to being a founder of Edinburgh Dental Dispensary, Nasmyth was Surgeon-Dentist to King George IV, King William IV and Queen Victoria in Scotland and one of the earliest office bearers of the Odontological Society of London. Nasmyth was a founding member and first elected President of the Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland (OCSS) in 1867. OCSS, now the Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland (ROCSS), is the oldest, continuously active dental society in the UK, if not Europe, and the only dental society in the UK to have been granted a Royal Charter – unique status awarded to the Society in 1966, at the beginning of the Society's 100th anniversary year.



*Figure 8 Robert Nasmyth – a founder of
Edinburgh Dental Dispensary
and first President of the Odonto-Chirurgical
Society of Scotland*

Lilian Lindsay (1871-1960)

A year following the Dentists' Act of 1878, the College offered its first dental qualification, the Licentiate in Dental Surgery (LDS RCSEd). Lilian Lindsay (nee Murray) (Figure 9), the first woman to qualify in dentistry in the UK, obtained her LDS RCSEd in 1895 (Figure 10). Lindsay is now venerated for her work as long-serving librarian (subsequently President) of the British Dental Association and dental historian, with the UK's only society for the history of dentistry having been named in her memory, the Lilian Lindsay Society for the History of Dentistry. RCSEd awarded Lilian a HDD in 1946 and an Honorary FDS in 1959, months before her death on 31st January 1960. During her time studying dentistry, Lilian was encouraged by her fellow students, and the unpaid, part-time, founding Dean of Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School, William Bowman MacLeod (1843-1899), who, as a father of five girls, received women on the same footing as men. Lilian, however, experienced adverse comments; for example, Sir Henry Littlejohn, life-long friend of John Smith, who Lilian recalled advising her "I am afraid, madam, that you are taking the bread out of some poor man's mouth." (The autobiography of Dr Lilian Lindsay. Cohen EM and Cohen RA, Br Dent J, 1991;171:325-328).



Figure 9 Portrait of Lilian Lindsay, reproduced courtesy of the British Dental Association Museum

4	Full Names of Licentiates.	Places of Birth.	Examiner's Sign
27	Arthur Horan	Edinburgh	LSm
"	Alexander Gromar	Aberdeen.	LSm
"	Frederick Cornel Dornan	Liverpool	LSm
395	Lilian Murray	London	LSm
1905	Name changed to Lilian Lindsay on production of Certificate of Marriage to Robert Lindsay dated 26 th July 1905.		
"	Henry Alfred Gleason	Wrexham	LSm
"	John Alexander Young	Edinburgh	LSm

Figure 10 Lilian Murray's entry in the LDS RCSEd examiners ledger, dated 3rd May 1895, together with the RCSEd record of 6th September 1905 of her "name change" to Lilian Lindsay "on production of her Certificate of Marriage to Robert Lindsay dated 26th July 1905".

Examinations and regalia

The Higher Dental Diploma (HDD), the first higher examination of more advanced clinical dentistry in the UK, was established by the College in 1919, some 35 years before the first Dental Convenor. The HDD RCSEd was replaced in 1949, five years prior to the election of the first Dental Convenor, with the introduction of the College's Fellowship in Dental Surgery (FDS RCSEd). Importantly, in creating the FDS RCSEd, dental fellows of the College were accorded all the rights and privileges extended to surgical fellows of the College. Such arrangements do not exist in all the Royal Surgical Colleges. The first person to be awarded FDS RCSEd was Mr Frederick Akel, on 19 July 1950. Akel (1920-1996) had graduated BDS from the University of Otago, New Zealand in 1945. Between 1946 and 1948, he was a Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps Occupation Force. In 1965, Akel, who is listed as a noteworthy Oral Surgeon by Marquis Who's Who, was admitted to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, and in 1985 was appointed a Freeman of the City of London. He was assigned Dental Roll Number 1.

From then, FDS RCSEd diplomates were awarded unique Dental Roll Numbers in ascending order until 1993, when, on 9 July of that year, Mrs. Nirmala Ramswaroop Tasgaonkar was elected to the Dental Fellowship and allocated Dental Roll Number 1019, the last unique Dental Roll Number allocated. Subsequently, surgical and dental Fellowship Roll Numbers have been combined.

Oversight of dental surgery within the College remained the responsibility of College Council until 1952, when discussions took place as to whether there should be a Dental Council or possibly a Dental Faculty. The legal opinion at the time was that an alteration to the College Laws would be required to establish a faculty. As a consequence, the College established a Dental Council. The first meeting of the Dental Council took place on 26th February 1954, chaired by the then President of the College, Sir Walter Mercer (1890-1971), affectionately known as 'Wattie' (Figure 11). Mr Frederick George Gibbs (1892-1960), an oral surgeon, was elected by those attending the meeting as the first Convenor of Dental Council. Also present were future Convenors Messrs Aitchison and Middleton.

College records from 1954 note that the Convenor would act as the Chairman of the Dental Council, when called upon to do so by the President, or Vice-President of the College. College minutes of the time record that: "He [the Convenor] would prepare with the Secretary the agenda for meetings of the Dental Council." Convenors were not always present at meetings of Dental Council, in which event it was chaired by the most senior Fellow, FRCSEd or FDS RCSEd, of the College present at the meeting.



Figure 11 Sir Walter ('Wattie') Mercer President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh 1951-1956

In 1967, a Dental Convenor's badge was commissioned. The badge (Figure 12), which continues to be worn on ceremonial occasions by the Dean of the Faculty, was made by Hamilton and Inches of Edinburgh. The badge is described as an oval silver gilt badge with reed and tie border. The badge features a polychrome enamel reproduction of the College coat of arms, with "Royal College of Surgeons" above and "Convenor D.C." below. The arms feature supporters, Asclepius (the Greek god of medicine) and Hippocrates (the ancient Greek physician regarded as the father of medicine). Several symbols appear on the shield; a human body, emphasising the importance of anatomy in surgical practice, under the all-seeing hand (Hamsa - a powerful symbol of protection), and below a castle (a link to the coat of arms of Edinburgh). Surgical instruments are displayed in the bordure (border) of the shield. The crest is the sun with a human face, surmounting clouds, symbolising power, glory, life, energy and enlightenment. The College's motto "Hinc sanitas" - ("From here, health") completes the heraldic achievement. The badge is suspended from a double-link chain with a silk ribbon backing. When not being worn, the badge is kept in its original fitted case. Given the importance of the badge to the Faculty and the College, let alone its value, it now rarely leaves the College. When attending events away from the College, the Dean typically wears the 'travelling medal' (Figure 13).

Prior to 1992, the only gown available to the dental office-bearers and members of the Dental Council of the College was the FDS RCSEd gown (Figure 14), which is identical to the FRCSEd gown, with the exception of the braid and tassels fixed on the front, light blue panels of the gown being maroon rather than white – maroon being a colour used in healthcare to convey complexity and authority. The current RCSEd Faculty of Dental Surgery gowns (Figure 15) were designed by Dorothy Geddes (1936-1998) during her term as Dean between 1992 and 1995.

Other regalia includes a Vice-Dean's Medal (Figure 16), a FDS RCSEd 50th Anniversary Medal (Figure 17), and a past Dean's medal (Figure 18) introduced in 2023. The Anniversary Medal was presented to all those who attended a RCSEd FDS 50th anniversary celebration, held together with a triennial Faculty dinner in 1998 to mark the end of Nairn Wilson's term of office as Dean. The Faculty has, over the years, introduced a number of medals to be presented to candidates who excel in RCSEd dental examinations,



Figure 12 The Dental Convenor's badge



Figure 13 The Dental Dean's Travelling Medal



Figure 14 The College FDS gown



Figure 15 The RCSEd Faculty of Dental Surgery Gowns: From left to right: the Dean's gown – gold strip, three tassels on sleeves; Vice-Dean's gown - silver strip, two tassels on sleeves; Secretary's gown - silver strip, one tassel on sleeve; Member of Council – no strip, one tassel on sleeve

together with medals to recognise a significant contribution to the Faculty and in turn, the College, or to dentistry, nationally and internationally. These medals comprise:

- *The Tyson Medal*, in memory of Kenneth Willoughby Tyson FDS RCSEd (c.1932-2017) for his work in the field of Prosthodontics, is awarded for the most meritorious performance in Membership in Prosthodontics Examinations in a given year.
- *John McDonald Medal*, in memory of Professor James McDonald's late son John (1979-2009), is awarded to the most meritorious candidate from all international diets of the Membership in Orthodontics Examination, held in an academic year.
- *William Houston Medal*, in memory of the Professor WJB Houston FDS RCSEd (1938-1991), is awarded for an outstanding performance in the Membership in Orthodontics Examination in the UK in an academic year.
- *Dean's Medal (UK)*, awarded for the most meritorious performance in the MFDS Part 2 Examinations of all UK diets held in an academic year.
- *Dean's Medal (overseas)*, awarded for the most meritorious performance in the MFDS Part 2 Examinations of all international diets held in an academic year.
- *John Smith Medal (UK)*, awarded to the most outstanding performance in the Part I MFDS examination in the UK.
- *John Smith Medal (overseas)*, awarded to the most outstanding performance in the Part I MFDS examination overseas.
- *Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy Medal*, awarded to the most meritorious candidate in the Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy examination in a given year.
- *Dental Faculty Medal*, awarded for significant contribution to the Dental Faculty/College, or to dentistry in the UK.
- *Faculty of Dental Surgery International Medal*, awarded, from time to time, for significant international contribution to the Dental Faculty/College.

All of these medals are of the same gilt design, with the obverse featuring the name and crest of the College (Figure 19). The reverse of each medal is engraved with the name of the medal, the name of the recipient, and the year of award.



Figure 16 The Vice Dean's Medal



Figure 17 FDS RCSEd 50th Anniversary Medal

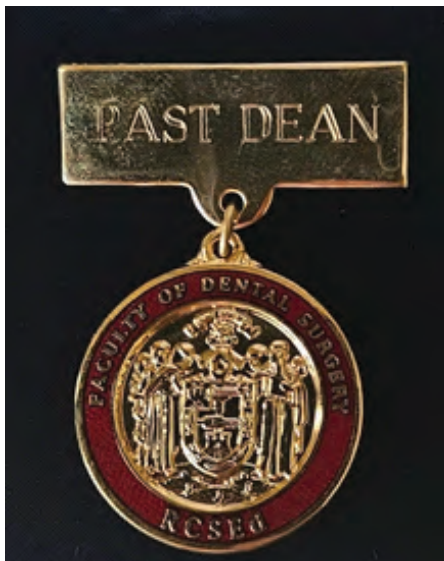


Figure 18 The Past Dean's Medal



Figure 19 The obverse of a College Faculty medal

In addition to its medals, the Faculty makes annual awards of the Jane Goodman Memorial Scholarship in Paediatric Dentistry (established 2020) and the Tom Bereznicki Dental Education Grant (established 2019).

Convenors

Frederick (Freddie) George Gibbs (1892-1960)

Convenor 1954-1959

Fredrick (Freddie) Gibbs, (Figure 20) qualified in dentistry in 1913, having studied at Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School. He was distinguished in athletics and boxing. Gibbs proceeded to study medicine and surgery, qualifying with the tri-collegiate, Triple Qualification (TQ Diploma awarded by Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow). Following qualification, Gibbs held resident jobs at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE), prior to joining the RAMC, serving in France and Italy throughout World War I. After the war Gibbs returned to Edinburgh where he developed interests and expertise in anaesthesia, while practising dentistry. He was appointed Consultant in Dental Surgery and Anaesthesia at RIE in 1927. Gibbs held this position until his retirement in 1959. Gibbs was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (FRCPEd) in 1938. When the Association of Anaesthetists of Edinburgh was formed in 1945, Gibbs was elected its first President, with a two-year term of office (1945-1947). Gibbs was elected FDS RCSEd in 1951, serving as examiner in dental surgery and anaesthetics. Gibbs served also as President of the Scottish Society of Anaesthetists (1955-56). Despite his career in anaesthetics, culminating in the position of senior anaesthetist at the RIE, Gibbs retained close links with dentistry, serving as President of the local Branch of the British Dental Association and Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland and being a long-serving member of the Board of Governors of Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School, prior to being elected the first Dental Convenor of RCSEd. Gibbs election as the first RCSEd Dental Convenor is understood to have been widely supported, given his affable personality and the very high regard in which he was held by medical and dental colleagues alike across Scotland. In establishing the RCSEd Dental Council, Gibbs played a leading role in determining the roles and responsibilities of the Council and its relationship to the College at large. Moreover, Gibbs represented RCSEd on the General Dental Council, formed in 1956, becoming a founding member of dentistry's newly established, independent regulator. Gibbs is described in his obituary in the British Dental Journal as a man of simple tastes, an authority on Robert Burns and a great raconteur. Gibbs enjoyed literature, music, golf, hill walking and fly fishing. He was an elder in the Kirk in Scotland and said to have preserved "a youthfulness of spirit".

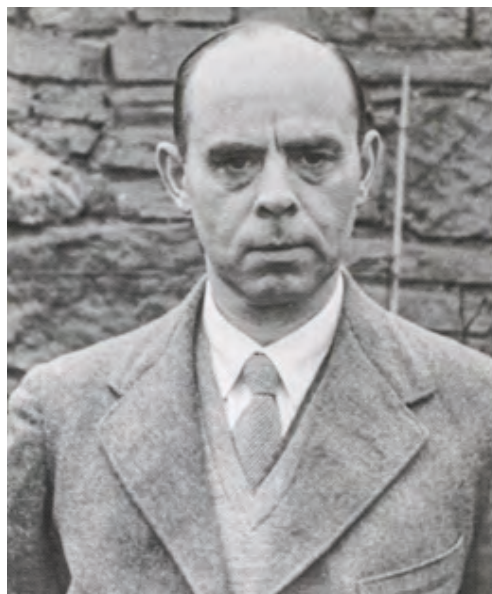


Figure 20 Frederick George Gibbs

James (Jimmy) Aitchison (1899-1968) Convenor 1959-1961

James (Jimmy) Aitchison (Figure 21) studied dentistry at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School, qualifying LDS awarded by the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RFPSG) in 1924. He was appointed a House Surgeon and subsequently, in 1925, a Lecturer in Histology at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School. In 1933, Aitchison was appointed Professor of Dental Surgery at the University of Cairo, but was unable to take up the post, given the unstable political situation in the Middle East at the time. Instead, Aitchison became Chief Dental Officer for West Ham. This role involved being superintendent of casualty services and subsequently controller of the West Ham and North Woolwich Civil Defence, responsible for East London docks during World War II.

When the University of Glasgow started to enrol BDS students in 1947, Aitchison returned to Glasgow to take up the position of Director of Dental Studies. In 1951, Jimmy was appointed Glasgow's first Professor of Dental Surgery. Despite being based in Glasgow for most of his career, and being a very "kenspeckled" (widely recognised and highly regarded) figure in dentistry in the West of Scotland, Aitchison was an 'Edinburgh College man', obtained his HDD RCSEd in 1937, followed by FDS RCSEd in 1951, and then serving on the RCSEd Dental Council for a number of years before being elected the College's second Dental Convenor. At this time, the Convenor was re-elected annually. Aitchison was re-elected on two occasions.

Before taking office, Aitchison had chaired several meetings of Dental Council when Freddie Gibbs was absent and in doing so, initiated the process for reciprocity of the primary FDS examinations of the Royal Surgical Colleges at a meeting of the Colleges in 1959. The reciprocity issue, which took four years to resolve, took centre stage during Aitchison's time as Convenor. He was keen to ensure Dental Council debated issues thoroughly and was not shy in expressing his opinion in chairing meetings, which, as a consequence, could be lengthy.

Observership of the FDS RCSEng examinations by an RCSEd examiner caused quite a stir. Dental Council was put in a very difficult position by the then President's Council, given the discourtesy shown by the President's Council in nominating an RCSEd Dental Fellow for the observership without reference to the Dental Council. The President's Council was heavily criticised by Dental Council in a strongly worded letter pertaining to the "crisis". The impasse was resolved diplomatically by the Clerk of the College. Dental Council was, however, advised that it "should attempt to take a more active part in the College", specifically the business of the President's Council.

Among more positive aspects of Aitchison's term as Convenor was an initiative to explore the need to provide education for general dental practitioners (GDPs), preparatory courses for candidates sitting FDS RCSEd examinations, and for "those (resit candidates) requiring short intensive courses". In time, this led to the Faculty running its first course for GDPs.

Throughout Aitchison's time as Convenor, there was much discussion on the syllabus for FDS RCSEd examinations, with consideration that the syllabus should be published as an appendix to the College Laws, or as a separate pamphlet. The pass rate for the Part 1 FDS RCSEd examination was noted to be 29% over the previous 10 years, with the pass rate for the Part 2 examination being 43%. The relevant minutes state: "It was felt that these figures give rise to no anxiety regarding Part 1, but that the number passing Part 2 was rather high." At that time, there were concerns that the FDS RCSEd examinations were dominated by and biased towards Oral Surgery.

Aitchison was awarded the Order of St Olav, Knight First Class, by the King of Norway for his leadership in the dental training of Norwegians following World War II, prior to Norway having any dental schools.



Figure 21 James Aitchison
Image courtesy of the British Dental
Association Museum

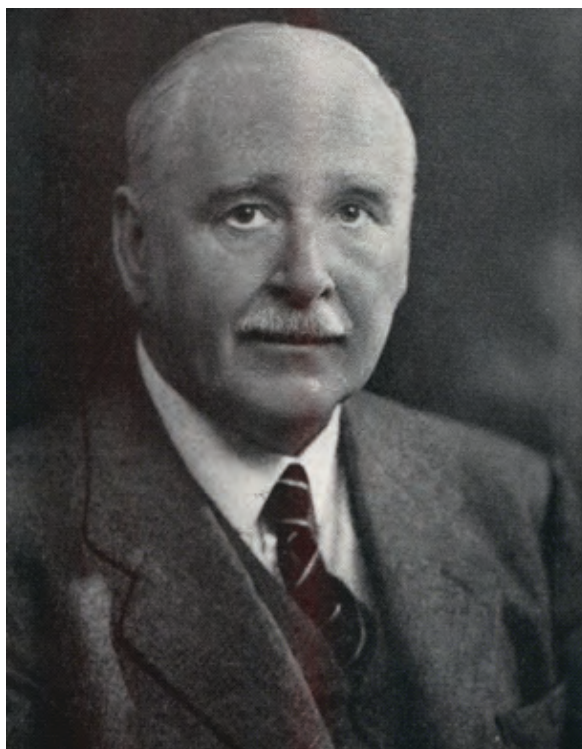


Figure 22 David Skene
Middleton

David Skene Middleton (1901-1981) Convenor 1961-1964

David Middleton (Figure 22) was educated at George Watson's College. He qualified LDS in 1923, obtained the TQ in 1924, and became FRCSEd in 1930, later adding FDS RCSEd (1951) and FFD RCSI (1964). Middleton enlisted in 1926. He was an ardent member of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and being awarded the Territorial Decoration (TD). At the outbreak of World War II, Middleton was posted to the 155 Field Ambulance unit in France. In 1941, he volunteered to be posted to Singapore, where he served as an Anaesthetist and Dental Surgeon at the No 1 Malaya General Hospital. Middleton became a Japanese prisoner of war following the fall of Singapore in 1942. When liberated at the end of the conflict in the Far East, Middleton left the RAMC, having been Mentioned in Despatches, and returned to Edinburgh in 1947 to take up the position of Consultant Dental Surgeon and Anaesthetist at the RIE, with duties in Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School. He was asked, along with Freddie Gibbs, to organise regional Oral Surgery services. Middleton gave up his anaesthetic practice to do this, opening an autonomous 12-bed Oral Surgery unit in the RIE, with outreach services in Fife and the Scottish Borders. In addition to being Dental Convenor of the RCSEd, Middleton served on the College President's Council (1951-1957 and 1959-1964), and as President of the local branch of the British Dental Association, the Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland and the Scottish Society of Anaesthetists, and was a member of the Aesculapean Club.

Middleton, who served on both President's Council and Dental Council, was remembered as a courteous and kind person with a keen interest in the future careers of his junior staff. His main clinical interests were temporomandibular disorders and the surgical treatment of oral cancers, practising radical surgery at a time when this was unfashionable. Middleton's time as RCSEd Dental Convenor was a much quieter period than for his predecessor, Jimmy Aitchison; it was focused on developing a fledgling dental education portfolio and policy matters. During Middleton's Convenorship, Dental Council started sending a representative to the Dental Consultants and Specialists Committee (Scotland) and began recognising posts in England as suitable preparation for the FDS RCSEd. Having the Clerk of the College attend meetings of Dental Council was "resuscitated" in 1962, demonstrating Middleton's desire to strengthen the link between Dental Council and the President's Council. Towards the end of his time as Convenor, Middleton put in place arrangements whereby members of Dental Council were elected for a period of five years, and the composition of the then Dental Council was formalised to comprise 10 members, with at least four members being from the Edinburgh area and at least four being located away from Edinburgh. During Middleton's time as Convenor, FDS RCSEd Without Examination was first awarded to HDD RCSEd holders (15 in total) of 20 years standing. Furthermore, in 1963, reciprocity between RCSEd and RCSEng Primary FDS was finally agreed. Despite Middleton being an astute Convenor, there was ongoing controversy over the marking scale for the FDS RCSEd Part 2 examination. This required shrewd leadership and diplomacy to resolve amicably. Increasing importance was placed on ceremonial aspects of Dental Council. A proposal for a Convenor's Badge was first considered in 1963.

Middleton, who found time to be President of the Watsonian Golf, Fishing, and Shooting Club while Convenor, retired in 1966.

Duncan MacGregor (1892- 1984) Convenor 1964-1967

Duncan MacGregor (Figure 23) registered with the Dental Board of the General Medical Council in 1908 and was apprenticed in dental mechanics to James Wood in Edinburgh. He qualified LDS in 1916 in accordance with provisions in the Dentists Act of 1878, some five years before the Dentists Act of 1921. As a newly qualified dentist MacGregor joined the Royal Navy as Dental Surgeon to the Battle Cruiser Fleet, serving on World War I 'Q ships' assigned to sink German U-boats. Following the end of the hostilities, MacGregor returned to Scotland to practice dentistry, first as an assistant in Dundee and then as a practice owner in Musselburgh. He went on to work in Edinburgh Dental Hospital, becoming the first general dental practitioner to hold Consultant status. In 1948, MacGregor, in common with many of his colleagues in the British Dental Association, specifically in England, was opposed to dentistry being part of the NHS. MacGregor never joined the NHS General Dental Services, despite accepting an NHS Consultant contract at Edinburgh Dental Hospital. MacGregor was awarded an honorary FDS RCSEd in 1951 and was very active in the Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland, which he served as President, prior to being awarded Honorary Membership of the Society in 1956. Involvement in local and national dental politics followed, including time served on the Dental Board of the General Medical Council, culminating in MacGregor serving as President of the British Dental Association in 1960, and Vice-Presidency of the Scottish Committee of the BDA in 1963. Following his presidency of the British Dental Association, MacGregor joined the RCSEd Dental Council. He was elected Convenor in 1964.

Having been Secretary of the East of Scotland Branch since 1939, MacGregor was responsible for organising the BDA Annual Meeting in Edinburgh in 1946 at which Lilian Lindsay was inaugurated as the first female President of the BDA. Afterwards she wrote to say "I am unable to find the right words to express my admiration of the work which the Scottish Committee and yourself in particular put into the preparations necessitated to bring about so perfect a result. I have attended many annual meetings but never one to equal this one...Through it all the picture that stands out in my memory will always be that of your sweet wife standing at the foot of the stairs holding the bouquet of pink carnations."

Reputedly, in debate, MacGregor was either a most welcome ally or a formidable opponent. MacGregor's obituary opines that he had the ability to form, elaborate and expound opinions without being inhibited by consideration of whether these opinions were likely to be popular or unpopular. It goes on to say he could 'wipe the floor' with opponents, but in a polite way, and he never held a grudge against them.

MacGregor's time as Convenor carried on seamlessly from David Middleton, with a continuing focus on education (continuing professional development) for dentists. In addition to this focus, the Dental Council promoted eponymous lectures, including the William Guy Lecture. During MacGregor's time, there was concern that the General Dental Council Statutory Examination was no longer fit for purpose, and served as a "backdoor" to the Dentists Register. Whilst some disquiet was expressed over the content of LDS examinations, there was general acceptance that these examinations, in contrast to the Statutory Examination, continued to be an appropriate test for eligibility to become a registered dentist. Dental Council wrote to the General Dental Council, expressing its concerns and recommending a review of the Statutory Examination.

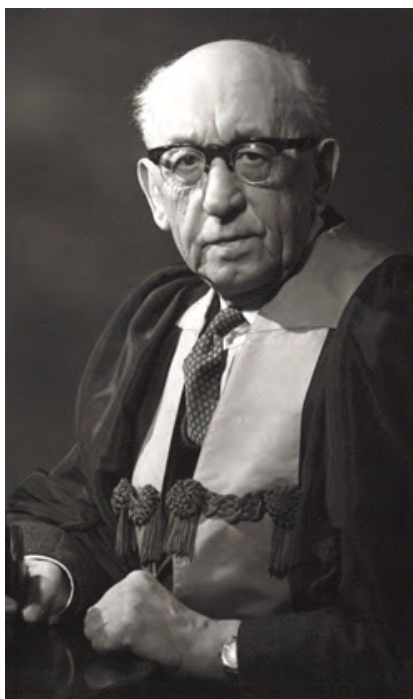
The arrangements of awarding holders of the HDD RCSEd of more than 20 years standing FDS RCSEd Without Examination continued during MacGregor's time as Convenor. After nearly three years of debate, a sketch for the Convenor's badge was approved by Dental Council and submitted to the President's Council for approval, prior to being commissioned in 1967. Near the end of MacGregor's time as Convenor, the bicentenary anniversary of James Rae's first lectures in dental surgery in 1766 was recognised by Dental Council.

Dental Fellows subscribed to the purchase of a table, which was presented to the College (Figure 24). The silver plaque affixed to the front of the table reads:

**24th January 1966
Presented by
The Fellows in Dental Surgery
on the 200th Anniversary of
the Lectures on the Diseases of the Teeth,
Delivered by James Rae in
The Surgeons' Hall**

MacGregor's time as Convenor was not without incident. For example, at the meeting of Dental Council held on 5th May 1966, a significant objection was lodged regarding the process for awarding the FDS RCSEd Without Examination. At the previous meeting of the Dental Council, the names of proposed awardees had simply been noted under any other business, causing a degree of upset. It was agreed that the names of proposed awardees be submitted in advance, their curricula vitae examined in detail, and each nominee be considered individually by the Council.

MacGregor was a long-serving member of the Board of Governors of Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School.



*Figure 23 Duncan MacGregor
Image courtesy of the British
Dental Association Museum*



*Figure 24 The table presented to the College by the
Fellows in Dental Surgery to commemorate
the bicentenary anniversary of James Rae's first lectures
on diseases of the teeth in 1766. The table is still used at
College Diploma Ceremonies for laying out diplomas to be
presented to diplomates*

William (Bill) Donald MacLennan (1921-2002) Convenor 1967-1971

William (Bill) MacLennan (Figure 25) was educated at George Watson's College. He represented Scotland and the Navy in rugby as wing three-quarter and in athletics. MacLennan won two caps for Scotland at rugby, the first against England in 1946, and the second against France in 1947. MacLennan was also an accomplished golfer; he was captain of Watsonians and Luffness Golf Clubs. He was fiercely competitive.

MacLennan studied dentistry at Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School, qualifying with an LDS diploma from RCSEd in 1944, followed by HDD RCSEd in 1949. While studying dentistry, MacLennan concurrently studied medicine, obtaining the Triple Qualification (TQ) in 1945, followed by LRCPed&I and the LRFPSG in the same year. Following postgraduate studies and training at Columbia Dental School, New York, MacLennan returned to Edinburgh to embark upon a career in Oral Surgery - a fledgling specialty at the time, in which Bill was to excel. Working with the late Alexander Burns Wallace CBE (1906-1974), Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Bangour General Hospital, West Lothian, MacLennan pioneered many techniques. He was appointed Consultant in Oral Surgery at Bangor General Hospital within the Plastic Surgery Unit, one of the first Consultant in Oral Surgery appointments in the UK. MacLennan became a member of the founding councils of both the British Association of Oral Surgery (BAOS) and the International Association of Oral Surgery (IAOS). He later became President of the BAOS. Further appointments followed in Edinburgh at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE), the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and the University. A pinnacle in MacLennan's groundbreaking career was appointment to the foundation Chair of Oral Surgery at the University of Edinburgh. His research focused on the temporomandibular joint. MacLennan lectured widely nationally and internationally. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Strasbourg Osteosynthesis Research Group, together with many luminaries including Dr Maxime Champy (born 1926, awarded Honorary Membership of the German Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (DGMKG) in 2024) the pioneer of treating mandibular fractures with miniplate fixation. Champy became one of MacLennan's great friends.

MacLennan, who, himself, pioneered many procedures in paediatric Oral and Maxillofacial surgery, was awarded an Honorary FDS RCSEd in 1962, FRCPEd in 1966, and Honorary FDS RCPS Glasg in 1967. He was President of the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons in 1966. MacLennan was a great leader, team builder and teacher. Teaching by MacLennan often comprised a sharp rap across fingers grasping an incorrectly held surgical instrument, followed by a few words of wisdom in the ear. Recipients were left in no doubt as to the nature of their transgression, together with bruised knuckles.

MacLennan held strong views and expressed them in a forthright manner. Such was his presence and strength of personality, that MacLennan's views were invariably treated with great respect. Behind the façade of the robust surgeon, there was a man of great generosity and warmth. Each year he hosted memorable departmental and undergraduate final year parties in his elegant Edinburgh residence. He had a great love of good food and fine wine. MacLennan's skills on the after-dinner speaking circuit were legendary; his brand of humour, always witty, never smutty, made for easy listening.

Soon after joining the RCSEd Dental Council, MacLennan became Secretary. As Convenor, MacLennan elevated the standing and status of the Faculty in the College. Intercollegiate and collegiate arrangements were important to MacLennan. He was part of the core group that developed the Joint Committee for Higher Training in Dentistry, ensuring that Dental Council's views were heard throughout the UK. Between 1967 and 1971, Dental Council was very occupied with discussions on the proposed development of dental specialties by the General Dental Council. The proposals included Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, Conservative Dentistry, Prosthetic Dentistry and Periodontology. Dental Council suggested Paediatric Dentistry and Oral Medicine should also be included, but these suggestions were not entertained by the General Dental Council, which decided not to pursue the creation of specialist lists at that time.

When a motion was put forward that MacLennan should serve a fourth year as Convenor, to oversee Dental Council's 21st anniversary celebrations, it was robustly opposed by a former Convenor who remained a member of Dental Council. Eventually, the motion was passed, making MacLennan the first and only Convenor to serve a four-year term of office. During this fourth year, and as part of the Council's anniversary celebrations, a further cohort of HDD RCSEd holders of 20 or more years standing were awarded FDS Without Examination.



*Figure 25 William Donald
MacLennan*

Aylwin Drakeford Hitchin (1907-1996) Convenor 1971-1974

Aylwin Drakeford Hitchin (Figure 26) , commonly referred to as 'Hitch', was educated at Rutherford College in Newcastle upon Tyne. He was a man of deep religious belief; originally a strict Baptist, in adult life a member of the Church of Scotland, in which he served as an Elder and Presbytery and General Assembly member. Hitchin qualified LDS in 1931, having studied dentistry in Newcastle, prior to becoming the first dental (BDS) graduate of the University of Durham. He obtained a MDS in 1935. As a student and House Officer studying for his MDS, Hitchin achieved distinction on the sports field and in the Royal Army Medical Corps Unit of the University Officer Training Corps (OTC). It was at an OTC camp in 1928 that he suffered a pathological fracture of his left leg, which was amputated after osteogenic sarcoma had been diagnosed. Despite this major setback, Hitchin returned to his dental studies, with the challenge of controlling a dental foot pedal drill with an artificial leg. He established a dental practice in Church Road, Gosforth, Newcastle in 1933, where he developed a special interest in Prosthodontics. Throughout this period, Hitchin maintained contact with the Territorial Army and was extremely frustrated and disappointed that on the outbreak of World War II, he was graded 'Medically Unfit' for call-up. He refused to accept this decision. After many representations and much argument, which, according to rumour, included a 'sit-in' on the steps of the War Office, Hitchin was accepted into the army for 'Home Service'. He left the army in 1946, having served in London and as Dental Specialist to Scottish Command. He resumed practice in Gosforth but his time in the army had ignited an ambition to become involved in dental education and research. Hence, when the Boyd Chair in Dental Surgery at the University of St Andrews, based at Dundee Dental Hospital and School, became vacant, he applied and was appointed. Hitchin took up the Chair in October 1947. At the same time, he became Dean and Director of Dental Studies.

Subsequent to the introduction of the National Health Service on 1 April 1948, the United Kingdom dental schools became clinical academic centres, with growing numbers of full-time academic staff. By any standards the facilities in Dundee fell short of the requirements of a modern university-based dental school. The curriculum required revision, equipment was obsolete, there was virtually no research activity, and almost all the staff were part-time, with practice commitments taking up most of their time. With vision and determination, Hitchin set about the task of bringing the school and hospital into the post-war age. Visits to other schools in the UK, Scandinavia and the USA provided valuable insights into what was needed to make Dundee Dental Hospital and School fit for purpose. As a result of Hitchin's imaginative planning, determination and leadership, Dundee Dental Hospital and School acquired a new building. Hitchin was described as a hard task master but led by example.

Hitchin's own research was varied, ranging from in-depth studies of 'broken mouth' in sheep, and the genetically based anatomical anomalies of incisor teeth of Lakeland Terrier dogs, to epidemiological and clinical investigations. This work earned Hitchin, who was elected FDS RCSEd in 1951 and awarded FFD RCSI in 1954, a DSc degree in 1957.

In 1970, Hitchin was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), in 1977, he accepted an Honorary Doctorate in Odontology (DOdont) of the University of Lund, and in 1979 he was awarded an Honorary FDS RCSPGlas. Hitchin served as President of the Oral Surgery Club and the British Society of Dental Radiology and was Foundation Fellow of the British Association of Oral Surgeons.

As Convenor, Hitchin was keen to make meetings of the RCSEd Dental Council more business orientated; the agendas and minutes of the time reflecting his influence. Postgraduate dental education, the LDS and

FDS examinations, the Joint Committee for Higher Training in Dentistry and other intercollegiate meetings benefitted from Hitchin's leadership. Considerable discussion was held in relation to Community Dentistry, culminating in a recommendation that specialty status could not be considered for this branch of dentistry until there was clear evidence of a training programme having been established.

Hitchin was reportedly extremely proud of his achievements as Convenor.



Figure 26 Portrait of Professor Hitchin, in DODont, University of Lund academic dress, and wearing his CBE decoration, by James McIntosh Patrick, courtesy of the University of Dundee Fine Art Collection.

Augustus Edward (Eddie) Duvall (1912-2005) Convenor 1974-1977

Eddie Duvall (Figure 27) was born and brought up in Edinburgh, and qualified from Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School in 1933, having been awarded LDS RCSEd. Duvall went on to obtain HDD RCSEd in 1936 and was awarded FDS RCSEd in 1953. Duvall, following time serving in the Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) during World War II (1940-1945), rose through the training grades to become a Consultant in Oral Surgery at his alma mater, Edinburgh Dental Hospital. When elected to the RCSEd Dental Council, Duvall soon became Secretary to the Council, prior to being elected Convenor in 1974. Along his career journey, Duvall, amongst other things, served as *ex officio* RCSEd representative on the General Dental Council (GDC), and was President of the Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland in 1966-1967, during which time the Society was granted its Royal Charter.

Duvall's time as Convenor was characterised by a campaign to recognise more hospital dental posts for the purpose of obtaining FDS RCSEd and thereby expand the number of candidates sitting the FDS RCSEd examinations. Having established an exchange of examiners with RCSEng for FDS examinations, Dental Council set to work on other examination developments. Dental diplomas in different branches of dentistry were considered in detail, culminating in draft regulations for a new Diploma in Restorative Dentistry (DRD RCSEd) being considered by Dental Council in 1975.

Duvall served on a working party of the Joint Committee for Higher Training in Dentistry (JCHTD), established in 1974, to consider recognising Community Dentistry as a distinct branch of dentistry. Duvall was quoted as saying that he hoped new entrants to the field of Community Dentistry would have the same basic, four-year postgraduate training, as in other fields of dentistry, including a requirement to obtain an FDS. This point was unanimously agreed, with some suggestions to broaden the scope of FDS examinations.

In 1976, during Duvall's time as Convenor, an Honorary FDS RCSEd was awarded to Dr Margaret Williamson Menzies Campbell MBChB, wife of John Menzies Campbell, in recognition of her immense contribution to the development of the Menzies Campbell Collection. Duvall's Council enhanced the educational benefits afforded to Dental Fellows with the introduction of an annual Advanced Dental Symposium, with lecture synopses being published in the College journal.

The first of these symposia was held in 1975. The topic was occlusion. A proposal to make provisions for General Dental Practitioners within the College was rejected, and the idea was dropped. As a member of the 1977 GDC Education Committee Working Party on the future of dental education, Duvall was keen to see Dental Council spearhead more initiatives in postgraduate education. This resulted in the College introducing short courses in Orthodontics in 1977. These courses proved popular. One of Duvall's lasting contributions to intercollegiate activities involved converting the meetings of the Dental Deans and Convenors of the four Royal Surgical Colleges from conversational gatherings to more formal occasions with an agenda and minutes. This led to the formation of the Joint Meeting of Dental Faculties (JMDF).

Prior to demitting office as Convenor, and retiring to Harrogate, Duvall made proposals for LDS Centenary Celebrations in 1979.



Figure 27 Augustus Edward Duvall

William (Bill) Donald MacLennan Convenor 1977-1980

MacLennan was the only person to have been elected to serve a second term of office as RCSEd Dental Convenor. In many ways MacLennan was the stereotypical Consultant Surgeon, with his bowler hat, flower in his lapel, cane in later years, and a large car – Austin Princess or Rolls Royce.

Early in his second term as Convenor, MacLennan sought to promote the new Diploma in Restorative Dentistry (DRD RCSEd) as a forward-looking development. To this end, 12 senior figures in UK and Irish dentistry were awarded DRD RCSEd Without Examination.

Times were changing in hospitals. It was no longer possible for non-Edinburgh-based College examiners to participate in examinations involving patients and clinical procedures. MacLennan overcame this problem by introducing temporary clinical contracts for such examiners. Simultaneously, dentistry was changing, necessitating, amongst other things, the inclusion of part-time training in the eligibility criteria for the FDS RCSEd, and modernisation of the LDS RCSEd examination to reduce the significant proportion of dental mechanics (the precursor to modern-day dental technology) included in the examination. Also, proposals were developed for a Scottish Membership Diploma in General Dental Surgery (MGDS), similar to the MGDS RCSEng. At the time, specialisation in dentistry was beginning to be considered seriously. The British Association of Oral Surgeons are on record stating that they believed the FDS RCSEng qualification should become a specialist qualification in Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Orthodontics and Restorative Dentistry. This never transpired.

In 1978, when a meeting of RCSEd Fellows in Jamaica included a dental programme -possibly the first overseas RCSEd dental programme, the Dental Council minute book includes mention of a Dental Executive. The composition or role of this Executive is now unknown, but the group was charged with organising centenary LDS RCSEd celebrations in 1979. These celebrations, which involved much pomp and ceremony, including a large, celebratory College dinner, were strongly supported and highly successful.

The Wylie Report, which established new standards for training in general anaesthesia in dentistry was published in 1979. This report, which had far-reaching consequences, including a review of considerations of general anaesthesia in RCSEd dental examinations, emanated from an intercollegiate working party, formed by RCSEng and its faculties of Dental Surgery and Anaesthetists. MacLennan played an important role in the deliberations of this working party.

European dimensions to considerations by Dental Council were enhanced by linkages to other European institutions, drawing heavily on MacLennan's network of European friends and colleagues.

Importantly, during his second term of office as Convenor, MacLennan acquired the substantial Menzies Campbell Collection of rare dental books and dental artefacts for the College.

MacLennan continued to be exceptionally busy in aspects of College life in retirement; amongst other things, regularly volunteering as a College Museum guide for eminent visitors.

Such was MacLennan's standing in dentistry, surgery and Edinburgh that a memorial service to celebrate his life was held in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh on the 5th of March 2003, following his death in September 2002.

Convenor and Dean

Stephen (Steve) Denis Hatt (1923-2013) Convenor 1980-1982, Dean 1982–1983

Steve Hatt (Figure 28) was born in Norfolk. His childhood family home, however, was in Belgium in a village near Charleroi, where he attended the local school until 12 years of age. Hatt moved to a school in St Albans as a boarder in September 1936. In 1943 he volunteered for the RAF and was accepted for pilot training, undertaking this in Canada and gaining his wings there before returning to the Shetland Islands to fly Catalinas as a member of 210 Squadron Coastal Command. Following demobilisation, Hatt entered dental school at St Andrews in October 1946, qualifying LDS in 1950 and BDS in 1951. He was awarded his FDS RCSEd in 1956. After a brief spell in practice, Hatt was appointed a lecturer in Dundee, moving to Manchester three years later where he completed his MDS in 1959. He moved to Sheffield in 1963 to take up the position of Consultant Dental Surgeon, with a special interest in Conservative Dentistry.

In 1978, in recognition of his great support for the College, Hatt was one of 12 senior figures in dentistry in the UK and Ireland to be awarded the DRD RCSEd Without Examination. Within a few years of joining the College's Dental Council, Hatt was elected Convenor in 1980, bringing to the role an invaluable blend of administrative skill and diplomacy. His term was marked by many changes and innovations. In 1981, it was noted that the need for the Dental Examinations Committee to report to both Dental Council and College Council was 'restrictive and unwieldy'. Hatt successfully navigated the politics of the day and engineered a path for Dental Examinations Committee to report solely to Dental Council. In 1983, RCSEng were considering the formation of an international centre in Malaysia. This did not go unnoticed. Later that year, RCSEd, amongst other actions, ran a diet of the FDS RCSEd Part I examination in Kuala Lumpur. Thereafter, Hatt kept a close eye on the international scene. Amongst his activities overseas, Hatt established connections with the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons.

Notwithstanding the above, Hatt's most significant contribution to RCSEd was the transition of the Dental Council to Dental Faculty in 1982, and in so doing, overcoming the legal impediments identified back in 1952, and setting the precedent for the creation of other Faculties within the College. The creation of the Dental Faculty did not go unopposed. Hatt had to call on his considerable diplomatic skills to appease the objecting members of College Council to achieve his goal.

The formation of the Faculty must go down in history as one of the most momentous developments in the illustrious, more than 500-year long history of the College. Those who formed the Faculty, specifically Steve Hatt, would be immensely proud of its many, different achievements, let alone its present-day standing, both nationally and internationally.

As Dean, Steve recognised the need for, and generously funded, the introduction of the RCSEd Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery Medal to be awarded annually to the most meritorious candidate in RCSEd FDS Part II examinations. The Dental Council minutes of the day note that should the funding provided by Steve be exhausted, Dental Council would be required to find the funds required to continue the award of the medal. The award of the medal continues to this day, but to the most meritorious candidate in RCSEd MFDS rather than RCSEd FDS Part II examinations.

Steve was Chair of the Association of Dental Hospitals from 1975 to 1979 prior to becoming Convenor and was elected President of the British Society for Restorative Dentistry in 1984, a year after demitting office as Dean. Steve retired from his Consultant post in 1988. During his time in Sheffield, Steve took a great interest in student affairs, including umpiring staff-student cricket matches, and a period as

Warden of Tapton Hall of Residence. Steve was one of those individuals with great presence, but who was always happy to offer thoughtful advice and support. Steve retired to Norfolk but kept in regular touch with his many friends and former colleagues, specifically those in Sheffield.

Steve has a special place in the history of dentistry in the UK, having had the distinction of being the last Dental Convenor and first Dental Dean (father of the Faculty of Dental Surgery) of RCSEd.



Figure 28 Steven Denis Hatt



Figure 29 Lawrence Donald Finch

Deans

Lawrence (Lawrie) Donald Finch (1929-2006) Dean

1983–1986

Lawrie Finch (Figure 29) as born in Liverpool. He was educated at Liverpool Institute High School for Boys, prior to attending the University of Liverpool between 1947 and 1955. Lawrie originally obtained an honours degree in biochemistry in 1950, prior to embarking on his career in dentistry, obtaining his LDS in 1954 and his BDS in 1955. During his National Service, Lawrie was based at the Plastic and Jaw Injuries Centre, Princess Mary's RAF Hospital, Halton between 1956 and 1958. During this period, Lawrie was successful in obtaining his FDS RCSEd. Lawrie decided to pursue a career in the then evolving specialty of Oral Surgery, and, to this end, he enrolled as a medical student at the University of Edinburgh, graduating MBChB in 1961. After pre-registration house jobs in Edinburgh, Lawrie received specialty training as a Senior Registrar in Sheffield before returning to his beloved Liverpool in 1965, as a Consultant Oral Surgeon. Over the next 24 years, Lawrie was Consultant in Administrative Charge of the Oral and Maxillofacial Unit at Liverpool Royal Infirmary and, subsequently, the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. The clinical activity of the Unit embraced almost the whole field of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, other than major head and neck oncology.

Following his election to the RCSEd Dental Council in 1971, Lawrie maintained an active and continued interest in the affairs of the College for the remainder of his career. He served on the Dental Examinations Committee from 1972 to 1981, was College representative on the Specialist Advisory Committee in Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine from 1977 to 1985 and was the College's member of the Joint Committee for Higher Training in Dentistry from 1978 to 1986. During this time, Lawrie was an examiner for LDS RCSEd, Part II FDS RCSEd and Part II FRCSEd. He was elected Dean of the Faculty in 1983. As Dean, Lawrie's intellectual and negotiating skills came to the fore. He formulated recommendations to the College Council which had a profound influence on the development of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. On 16 March 1984, College Council accepted the recommendation that, given the increasing complexity of the work being performed within the specialty, a FRCSEd Part II examination in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery should be instituted. The first diet of the examination was held in January 1985, despite Dental Council having raised concerns that this diploma excluded and thereby disadvantaged dentists with special interests and expertise in Oral Surgery. Proposals to create a Diploma in Minor Oral Surgery were resisted by many medically qualified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Lawrie was awarded FRCSEd by election in 1985. Lawrie's contribution to his specialty was recognised by the award of the Down Surgical Prize in 1993.

Lawrie's contributions as Dean were not limited to dentistry's surgical specialties. Education continued to be an important part of the Faculty's offering. In 1983, the Faculty's 'converzione' events were revamped to become 'colloquia', with "Systemic disease and the dental patient" being the first, a subject that remains topical today. In 1983, intercollegiate work with RCPSG produced guidelines for the National Panel of Specialists required to be involved in Consultant appointments in Scotland. The guidelines included specific provisions for Honorary Consultant appointments for academics.

Overseas, the College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka planned to introduce a Diploma in General Dental Practice. RCSEd was the partner College of choice. Lawrie encouraged the adoption of a curriculum and examination format similar to the RCSEd MGDS, with a RCSEd external examiner present for each diet. The proposals were accepted by the Sri Lankan Post Graduate Institute of Medicine. Lawrie would be delighted to know that in 2024 RCSEd signed a memorandum of understanding with the College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka.

Lawrie was a principled Dean. In 1984, there was concern over Dental Council representation at College meetings. The Dental Council minutes of the time note: "The Dean concluded that it was a matter of priorities and that Edinburgh College duties should always be of first importance for Dental Council

members.” As the fledgling Faculty developed, from 1985 onwards, an annual prize was awarded for the most meritorious candidate in the RCSEd FDS Part I examinations. Initially, the prize was funded by the Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland. While the source of funding has changed, the prize continues.

Lawrie had one difficult period during his tenure. In 1985, the RCSEd dental examination portfolio was falling out of favour, and RCSEng were making significant changes to their examinations, without any meaningful discussion with the other Royal Surgical Colleges. At the time, Lawrie noted that a large number of orthodontists were affiliated to RCSEd, and that they were keen to contribute much to the further growth and development of the College’s Faculty of Dental Surgery, but there was nothing to incentivise this group. After much discussion, a working group was established, chaired by Sydney Haynes (1928-2021). The key recommendation of this working group was the development of a diploma examination in orthodontics to compete with the diploma examinations in orthodontics offered by RCSEng and RCPSG. At one point in the ensuing considerations, a workshop was held. Dental Council minutes record that this workshop was so popular that the RCSEd Symposium Hall was filled to capacity, demonstrating the appetite for a RCSEd orthodontic diploma examination – the spark which led to RCSEd becoming the ‘go to’ Royal Surgical College for a postgraduate qualification in Orthodontics.

Concurrently in 1985, an extraordinary meeting of Dental Council was called to consider options for the Faculty’s unpopular examination portfolio. RCSEd decided to revise all its dental examinations. The FDS, MGDS and DRD RCSEd examinations required considerable revision, along with the development of a diploma in orthodontics. Specifically, DRD RCSEd was failing to attract sufficient numbers of candidates. Whilst Dental Council agreed by consensus with the proposal to develop a RCSEd Diploma in Orthodontics, Professor AR MacGregor expressed the view that the pressing need was to revise and popularise the DRD RCSEd. The RCSEd DOrtho examination was established in 1987, involving 12 examiners, many of whom continued to examine for the College until the early 2000s.

In hindsight, RCSEd missed a ‘golden opportunity’ at the time to lead the further growth and development of Restorative Dentistry in the UK through the revision and promotion of DRD RCSEd. Subsequently, the College’s membership examinations in the three specialties of restorative dentistry (Endodontics, Periodontology and Prosthodontics) became the ‘go-to’ examinations in these subjects.

William Montgomery (Montie) Oliver (1925-2003) Dean 1986–1989

William Montgomery (Montie) Oliver (Figure 30), born in Dundee, was educated at Dundee High School before becoming a dental graduate of St Andrews University, from where he qualified LDS in 1950 and BDS 1951. Following World War II service in the Fleet Air Army, Montie was House Officer to Professor Hitchin. A wonderful mimic, Montie would imitate 'Hitch', asking juniors for some obscure instrument to be brought into the operating theatre, when found and rushed through, there was only Montie's smiling face to greet the flustered junior. In 1957, after a successful period in General Dental Practice in Dundee, Montie was appointed Lecturer in Periodontology at the University of Liverpool. FDS RCS Edinburgh followed in 1960. He subsequently gained his MDS in 1967 and became Senior Lecturer. In 1978, Montie was appointed Professor of Dental Health by the University of Liverpool, the year he was one of 12 senior figures in dentistry in the UK and Ireland to be awarded the DRD RCS Edinburgh Without Examination. Between 1980 and 1985 Montie served as Dean of Liverpool Dental School. Montie's statesmanship resulted in his membership of various national and international bodies. He was a most valued member of the General Dental Council, representing the Council with great distinction on European Union committees concerned with the training of dentists and dental specialists. Prior to becoming Dental Dean at RCSEd, Montie served on Dental Council and convened the Faculty's Dental Examinations Committee. Until that time, the examination of candidates for FDS RCSEd closely followed the assessment process used for the FRCSEd. With his considerable knowledge and experience of university examinations, Montie, with the support of Dental Council, questioned whether the traditional FRCS type assessment processes were fit for purpose for the FDS RCSEd. Processes for the regular review of all assessment procedures, aided by expert educationalists, became firmly established within the Faculty and wider College. Furthermore, Montie established the first conjoint Part 1 FDS/Primary overseas MDS with Singapore and, before Montie demitted office, the College's Diplomas in Restorative Dentistry was upgraded in 1989 to a membership diploma (MRD RCSEd). Montie's research focussed on periodontal disease. He and his team contributed much to the contemporary understanding of the causes and early diagnostic markers of periodontal diseases. Montie was widely admired and respected for his sterling personal qualities and his teaching and administrative skills. He cared about people, showed it, and they responded. In what little spare time he had, Montie was active in the Liverpool University Golfing Society.



Figure 30 William Montgomery Oliver

John Ferguson Gould (1926-2024) Dean 1989–1992

John Gould (Figure 31), the son of a dental surgeon was born in Edinburgh, and educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. John qualified in medicine from Edinburgh in 1948 and following some time in general medical practice with his uncle in Dagenham, returned to university to study dentistry, qualifying BDS from Edinburgh University in 1959. While working for David Middleton in Oral Surgery, John was seconded to work in General Surgery prior to entering the FRCS RCSEd examinations. John was awarded FRCSEd by examination in 1965. Immediately thereafter, John went to Dublin to sit and pass the FFD RCSI examination, as he felt he should have a qualification in Oral Surgery in addition to his qualification in General Surgery.

Throughout his career in General, and subsequently Oral Surgery, John was a strong supporter of the RCSEd. John served as Secretary to the Dental Faculty, supporting Lawrie Finch and Montie Oliver during their tenures as Dean, before becoming Dean himself. Uniquely, John served on College Council, in addition to his many contributions to Dental Council. John, a true gentleman, was highly respected by all who knew him. John was a skilled surgeon, a good colleague to many, and an outstanding teacher, who was popular both with students and surgical trainees. He had a passion for sharing his wealth of knowledge. John instigated the first FDS Part 1 examination in Riyadh and represented the Faculty in inaugural inter-faculty discussions on arrangements for Intercollegiate Specialty Assessments in Dentistry. John also instigated a major revision of the Membership in General Dental Surgery (MGDS RCSEd) and encouraged the development of the Diploma in Orthodontics examination, which rapidly developed into the College's highly successful Membership in Orthodontics examination and diploma (MOrth RCSEd). During John's Deanship the College had a custom of triannual overseas visits, with those representing the College, including the Dental Dean. John promoted strong Faculty associations with Kenya, India, Malaysia, Egypt, Bahrain and Singapore, with examinations supervised by visiting Council members, who in turn contributed to locally arranged international conferences. On these visits, John made many contacts and forged relationships, which subsequently made important contributions to the ever-expanding activities of the Faculty. John was awarded FDS RCSEd ad hominem in 1970 for his services to the Faculty.

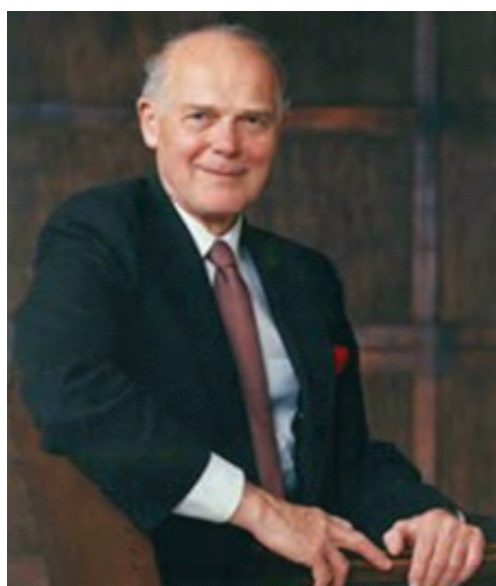


Figure 31 John Ferguson Gould

Dorothy Ann Malcolm Geddes (1936-1998) Dean 1992–1995

Dorothy Geddes (Figure 32) was born in Alloa. She attended Brechin High School, going on to study dentistry at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1959. Dorothy worked for most of the latter part of her career at the University of Glasgow. Dorothy achieved a triple first: she was the first woman to become a RCSEd Fellow in Dental Surgery (FDS), the first woman to be appointed to a Chair in Dentistry in the UK, and the first woman to become the Dean of a Faculty of Dental Surgery in the UK.

Dorothy was awarded her historic FDS RCSEd in 1963, having trained in Oral Surgery in Edinburgh and Birmingham. Following a decision to change direction in her career, Dorothy went to the Eastman Dental Centre in Rochester, New York, where she began her lifelong research into dental caries. After her return to the UK and a six-year, MRC funded research appointment at Newcastle University under the direction of Professor Neil Jenkins, Dorothy was appointed a lecturer at Glasgow University in 1975. In 1990, the University of Glasgow bestowed a personal Chair in Oral Biology on Dorothy.

Dorothy, who served as a member of RCSEd Dental Council for a number of years, was elected Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery in 1992. In addition, Dorothy served as President of the Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland and President of the West of Scotland Branch of the British Dental Association, which she supported nationally as Chair of the Association's Dental Teachers and Research Workers Committee. While never a feminist, Dorothy delighted in becoming President of Women in Dentistry.

Dorothy was determined, shrewd, wise and very warm-hearted, with a quick wit and a mischievous sense of humour. Dorothy, who was expert at managing her dyslexia, was an early pioneer of 'soft skills'; she brought a very gentle touch to her teaching and instilled in her students a deep concern for patients. As RCSEd Dental Dean, she used her talents and skills to make a significant improvement in inter-faculty relations, and 'oiled the wheels' to facilitate intercollegiate specialty diplomas. Her artistic talents and determination resulted in the design and introduction of Faculty gowns. Arguably Dorothy's most important contribution to the College was establishing it as 'The Friendly College'. She is the only Dental Convenor or Dean to have had a portrait commissioned by the College. Dorothy was appointed OBE and awarded an Honorary FRCSEd soon after demitting office as Dean. However, Dorothy's retirement, which should have been one indulging in her loves of opera, painting, gardening and cats, was cut short. In 1996, She was diagnosed with cancer and died just two years later.

Just a few weeks before her death, it was with genuine surprise and customary humility that Dorothy accepted a major European award: the ORCA (Organization for Caries Research)-Rolex Prize for her research in dental caries and leadership in postgraduate dental education. Subsequently, the University of Glasgow established the Dorothy Geddes Multimedia Laboratory to promote the application of new, cutting-edge technologies in the teaching of oral biology, and the Geddes Research Fellowship and Medal in memory of Dorothy.

The RCSEd continues to recognise the impact Dorothy had on addressing gender equality, with one of the meeting rooms in the RCSEd Birmingham Centre having been named in her honour, and to commemorate the time she spent training in Birmingham. The RCSEd portrait of Dorothy (Figure 32), which includes her beloved cat in the background, is hanging in the College's MacLaren Research Centre in Edinburgh.



Figure 32 Dorothy Ann Malcolm Geddes

RCSEd portrait of Dorothy Geddes wearing the Dental Dean gown she designed.



Figure 33 Nairn Hutchison Fulton Wilson

Nairn Hutchison Fulton Wilson (1950 -) Dean 1995–1998)

Nairn Wilson (Figure 33), now Sir Nairn Wilson CBE, was born in Kilmarnock in 1950, the son of a single-handed general dental practitioner. Nairn received his secondary education at Strathallan School in Perthshire, Scotland. He graduated BDS from the University of Edinburgh in 1973, having played squash for the Scottish Universities during the last two years of his studies, and obtained his FDS RCSEd in 1977, followed by a DRD FRCSEd in 1980. Following a move from the University of Edinburgh to the University of Manchester in 1975, Nairn rose quickly through the academic ranks, obtaining a MSc by research and PhD on the way to be appointed Professor of Restorative Dentistry in 1986. Between 1991 and 1992 he was Deputy Dean and then Dean and Clinical Director of the University of Manchester Dental Hospital and School from 1992 to 1995. He was also Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester from 1997 to 1999. Prior to being elected Dean of the Faculty in 1995, Nairn had, amongst many other things, served, or was serving as Dental Advisor and Clinical Research Scientist to ICI Dental (1980-1986), President of the British Society for Restorative Dentistry (1994-1995), Editor of the Journal of Dentistry (1986-2000), Consultant Adviser to the Chief Medical Officer, England (1989-1998), and Chair of the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (1998-1999) - a position he was re-elected to in 2007 for a three-year term of office.

As Dean, Nairn established the first Part II specialty conjoint examinations in dentistry and played a major role in establishing a RCSEd membership examination in Oral Medicine in the US, a process which involved careful, diplomatic interactions with, amongst others, the Education Committee of the American Dental Association. Nairn's other achievements as Dean included an ever-increasing share of the expanding UK market for Royal Surgical College Dental Diplomas, together with strong growth overseas. The Mouatt Report on UK specialist dental training was a contentious issue that ultimately led to the carefully negotiated Accord between the General Dental Council (GDC) and the Faculties of Dental Surgery. 'Old style' FDSs had to be replaced by a more attainable, intercollegiate MFDS, which necessitated a vast amount of work, and new specialty Memberships and intercollegiate Fellowships diplomas. Nairn strove, and succeeded, with intercollegiate support, to maintain the FDSs as the highest and most prestigious Diploma awarded by the Royal Surgical Colleges. In retrospect, this may be considered his most important achievement as Dean of the Faculty. Nairn was awarded a RCSEd College Medal when he demitted office as Dean - a unique accolade for an immediate-past Dean.

Within a year of demitting office as Dean, he was elected President of the General Dental Council, and in 2001 he was appointed Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Dean and Head of King's College London Dental Institute, whilst retaining the position of Honorary Visiting Professor of Restorative Dentistry at the University of Manchester until 2004. Nairn went on to be honoured with many different fellowships and awards during his remaining 12 action-packed years as a full-time clinical academic, culminating in him serving as Deputy Vice-Principal (Health) at King's College London. Subsequently, in 'retirement', Nairn, who was honoured with three honorary doctoral degrees by the Universities of Portsmouth, Plymouth and Brescia, remained active and continued to be appointed and elected to senior leadership positions, including President of the British Dental Association, Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees and subsequently Honorary Founding President of the College, intended Royal College of General Dentistry and Patron of the Dental Wellness Trust. Nairn's greatest honour came in 2023 when he was made a Knight Bachelor, 19 years following his appointment as a CBE. Nairn's continuing involvement in dentistry is increasingly focussed on supporting dental charities, fit-for-future-purpose leadership in dentistry, and the history of dentistry, specifically the history of dentistry in the UK following the inception of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948.

Murray Clyde Meikle (1938 -) Dean 1998–2001

Murray Meikle (Figure 34) was born in Stratford, Taranaki, New Zealand in 1938 and attended Auckland Grammar School. He read dentistry at Otago University, graduating BDS in 1962, heralding the beginning of an outstanding academic career. An MSD of the University of Washington in 1969 was followed by research at the Strangeways Research Laboratory, St John's College, Cambridge, culminating in the award of a PhD in 1976. Murray was Associate Professor of Orthodontics at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver (1969-1971). Following his move to the UK, he went into private practice and taught at the Eastman Dental Institute before being appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry at the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas'. Murray, who had been an accomplished rugby player – University of Otago blue, New Zealand Universities 1st XV, capped for Canterbury and the South Islands, Blackheath 1st XV and Cambridge University forwards coach (1973-1979), was elected to the Dental Council in 1994 and became Dean in 1998. During his Deanship all Diploma examinations were carefully scrutinised, especially the Membership in Orthodontics, to ensure academic rigour and clinical competence. When Dental Council debated the creation of a special lecture to be awarded (when merited) to a dental Fellow or Member in recognition of a significant contribution to research or education, it was Murray who suggested the title of King James IV Professor. The Council warmly supported this initiative, but it required royal assent that delayed its implementation. King James IV Professorships are now one of the most prestigious awards made by the College to both dentists and surgeons. Murray was awarded the John Tomes prize in 1992 and became Hunterian Professor in 1995 – the same year that he was awarded a DDSc by his academic alma mater, Otago University. Following retirement from King's College London in 2003, he has been Professor of Orthodontics at the University of Otago (2003-2007) and Visiting Professor of Orthodontics at the National University of Singapore (2007-2013). Murray, who was a prolific author as a clinical academic, has a number of books to his name, including a book on immigration from the United Kingdom to New Zealand.



Figure 34 Murray Clyde Meikle

James (Jim) Peter McDonald (1947 -) Dean 2001–2005

Jim McDonald (Figure 35) was born in 1947 in south London to Scots parents and educated by the Jesuits at Wimbledon College. Jim completed his undergraduate dental education at Guy's Hospital in 1971. After a spell in general dental practice and serving as the dental surgeon on the QE II, he entered orthodontic training through the SE Scotland Postgraduate Training Scheme. During training, Jim gained both his FDS RCSEd and MOrth RCSEd qualifications.

To gain further experience in fixed appliance orthodontics, Jim spent two years in university and orthodontic practice in Munich - the focus of American orthodontic expertise in Europe. Jim gained the German orthodontic postgraduate qualification during this time.

On return to the UK, and after a Senior Registrar post in Birmingham, Jim was appointed Consultant Orthodontist to SE Scotland, together with honorary senior lectureships at The University of Edinburgh and, in anatomy, at The University of St Andrews, examining for both institutions as well as the RCSEd.

Jim's keen research interest in the field of cranio-facial development and airway control in children led to the award of a PhD by the University of Edinburgh. This research formed the basis of a substantial publishing record and over 80 lectures and courses throughout the UK and abroad. Jim's other abiding professional interests were in postgraduate education, both for aspiring orthodontists and general dental practitioners (GDPs) and in raising the profile of dental surgery in hospital medical and surgical communities.

Jim served, at various times, as Chairman of Scottish Council of the British Dental Association (BDA), Chair of the BDA Hospital Dental Services Committee, and BDA member of the British Medical Association (BMA) Council and the Scottish Committee for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (SCPMDE). He was the first dentist to chair the SCPMDE Finance Committee. For his service to the BDA, Jim was awarded the John Tomes Medal and gifted Life Membership.

Jim was elected to the RCSEd Dental Council in 1997 and became the first dental Fellow to chair the Audit Committee of the College. He was, in addition, a member of the College Research Committee and specialist editor of *The Surgeon*. His interest in orthodontic education and his chairmanship of the Specialist Board in Orthodontics, allowed him to promulgate the MOrth RCSEd abroad, where it became the standard of excellence in over 10 countries.

On election as Dean of the Dental Faculty in 2001, Jim continued the impetus of expansion, with the introduction of new dental membership diplomas, while, as far as possible, co-operating with the Deans of sister colleges. Jim's efforts were recognised by the award of Honorary Fellowships of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons, the Hong Kong College of Dental Surgeons and the University of Cardiff, as well as a distinguished Professorship at Peking Medical University and FDS RCSEng *ad hominem*.

The zenith of Jim's Deanship was in 2005, when he ensured that the Dental Faculty played an integral part in the Quincentenary celebrations of the Royal College - a brilliant mix of formal and social events, comprising prestigious ceremonial occasions and symposia in the UK and worldwide. Wonderful celebrations, enjoyed by all. On completion of his extended four-year Deanship, the College awarded Jim an Honorary FRCS.

In 2005, Jim returned to his Chair in Glasgow Dental Hospital and rejoined the school's Bio-technology and Craniofacial Sciences Research Group, allowing him to continue his favoured research into childhood airway development.

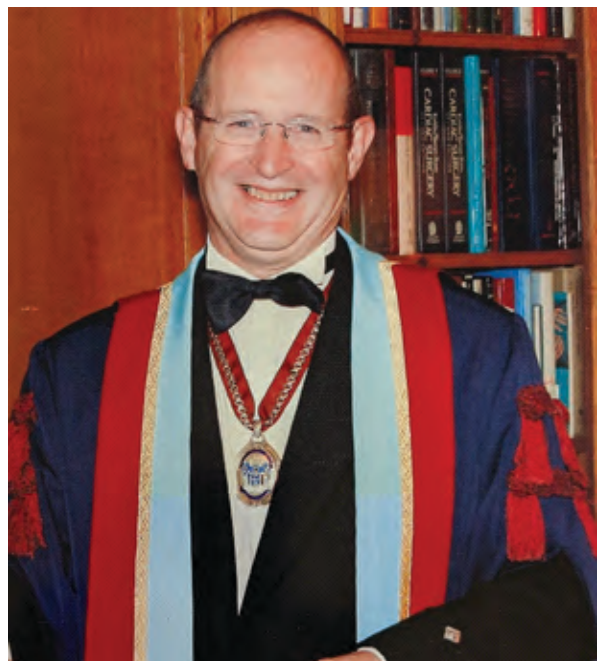
Jim had also been long aware of the paucity of orthodontic provision in the remote and rural areas of Scotland. With financial support from the Scottish Government, he initiated a scheme whereby GDPs and

community dentists with an interest in orthodontics working in remote and rural areas were financed to attend a part-time programme of academic orthodontic training at Glasgow Dental Hospital. This two-year programme, supported by distance learning, resulted in an MSc from Glasgow University. This initiative enabled a total of 25 dentists to return to their remote and rural areas to provide orthodontic care under the clinical supervision of the local Consultant. This initiative resulted in a significant improvement in the orthodontic care of children in Scotland.



Figure 35 James Peter McDonald

Figure 36 Jonathan George Cowpe



Jonathan (Jon) George Cowpe (1952 -) Dean 2005–2008)

Jon Cowpe (Figure 36) was born in Manchester in 1952. He was educated at Holm Leigh School, Sandbach and then Cheltenham College. He graduated top of his class with Honours from the University of Manchester in 1975. As an undergraduate he chose to play hockey for Bowden in Cheshire. Jon embarked on a career in Oral Surgery in the NHS and through clinical academia, with senior posts in Dundee, Cardiff, and Bristol. His early research was on the application of quantitative cytopathology in early oral cancer detection. He attained his PhD in 1984 on the early diagnosis of oral malignancy, applying quantitative techniques through early image analysis equipment to oral mucosal smears. He has been involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education and training developments for over 40 years. Elected to the RCSEd Dental Council in 1995, Jon was the first Chair of the Specialty Advisory Board (SAB) in Oral Surgery & Surgical Dentistry for many years, prior to being elected Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery in 2005.

Jon was appointed Head of the School of Oral and Dental Sciences, Bristol (2001-04). Returning to Wales in 2009, he was appointed Director of Postgraduate Dental Education in Wales. During that time, he was elected first Chair of the Joint Committee for Postgraduate Training in Dentistry (2009-13). These roles facilitated his continuing aspirations to smooth the transition from graduate dental professional into clinical practice, a springboard into a career-long period of continuous professional development (CPD) and promote an ethos of inter-collegiality and engagement across the profession. In addition, Jon promoted a close link between Postgraduate Dental Education in Wales and the RCSEd Faculty of Dental Surgery through the development of a highly successful annual DCP conference in Cardiff. Jon led on the 'DentCPD' project (2010-12) and the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) 'Review of CPD' (2019) and 'Preparedness for Practice' (2020) and 'Professionalism' (2020) published by the GDC. As Professor of Oral Surgery and the head of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department at Bristol University, Jon continued to contribute to education across the educational continuum and link in closely with medical and surgical colleagues. Jonathan was a courteous, effective, hands-on Dean. With this team, Jon was able to exploit the high profile of the Faculty overseas, following highly successful quinquennial celebrations in Bahrain and Hong Kong. Arguably the most significant achievement of his Deanship was the considerable improvements made to quality assurance processes and procedures in the Faculty. With 13 dental specialties, the challenge had been to ensure that the chairs and members of the SABs fully engaged with modern educational theory and practice. Diploma examinations were amended, where necessary, to be fit for purpose, and parity of standards across the specialties was ensured. Chairing the group to establish the bi-collegiate MFDS with the Glasgow College was a particularly sharp learning curve. An FDS by Assessment for holders of the Membership in Primary Dental Care, a new Diploma in Implant Dentistry, MOrth RCSEd in Australia, and the MOralMed and FDS RCSEd International in the US were introduced under Jon's leadership. Shortly after demitting office, Jon was awarded the Faculty Medal in 2014. During his career Jon considered himself privileged to have worked with wonderful teams of colleagues in the variety of roles that he had undertaken.

Jon has an active interest in his local area in South Wales and has been elected as a Plaid Cymru community councillor and Vice-Chair in the same year (2024). He was elected Chair of his local Plaid branch in 2024 and Chair of the Dinas Powys Community Council. Also, Jon is Vice-Chair of Gwyl Gerdd Dinas Powys Music. He volunteers at the Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre and is an active member of the church, where he plays the oboe and cor anglais. He has helped to raise funds over the years for the Teenage Cancer Trust (TCT) in support of his daughter's significant contribution, specifically in support of the TCT unit in Wales, based at University Hospital of Wales (UHW).

David Henry Felix (1956 -) Dean 2008–2011

David Felix (Figure 37) was born in Dumbarton in 1956 and undertook his secondary school education at St. Patrick's High School in Dumbarton. He graduated from the University of Glasgow Dental School in 1978 and undertook a number of training grade posts within the Hospital Dental Service in Glasgow, Wigan, Salford and Ipswich. David was awarded the Fellowship in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1982 and the following year returned to Scotland to study medicine graduating from the University of Edinburgh in 1988. He undertook pre-registration posts in surgery and medicine in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh to gain full registration with the General Medical Council and was subsequently awarded a prestigious Medical Research Council Training Fellowship. David completed higher specialist training in Oral Medicine in Edinburgh, being one of the first to undertake such training in the specialty. During his time in Edinburgh, David developed a research profile on oral lesions in HIV seropositive patients. In 1992 he was appointed to the post of Consultant/Honorary Senior Lecturer at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School.

In 1995 David accepted the post of Postgraduate Hospital Dental Services Tutor for the West of Scotland, with responsibility for all the dental trainees within the hospital system across the region. This post came with a leadership role for the West of Scotland Centre for Postgraduate Dental Education. In 2002 David became Associate Postgraduate Dental Dean, NHS Education for Scotland. While in this role David maintained his position as Consultant/Honorary Senior Lecturer on a part-time basis. In 2011 he was appointed to the full-time role of Postgraduate Dental Dean and Director of Dentistry in Scotland, with the responsibility and accountability for the delivery and management of postgraduate dental education and training in NHS Scotland. David held this position until his retirement in 2025. Recognising the challenges faced by the clinical academic workforce David provided extended funding to the universities in Scotland to enable a number of young graduates to pursue a higher degree and undertake clinical training, either simultaneously or sequentially. This strategic approach was successful in developing a new generation of clinical academics in the dental schools in Scotland and played an important role in succession planning.

In 1996, David was awarded the FDS RCSPG without examination, and in 1997 FDS RCSEd, again without examination. In 2012 he was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (FRCPEd) in recognition of his significant contribution to postgraduate education and training. He was the first to be awarded Fellowship of the Faculty of Dental Trainers RCSEd. In 2022 David was appointed Honorary Professor, University of Glasgow, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing and in 2023 an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Dentistry at Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Over the years he demonstrated strategic professional leadership across the UK and further afield, through his election or appointment to a series of key roles. He was a member of the Specialty Advisory Committee for the Additional Dental Specialties (1999-2010), serving as Chair in the last three years. In the role of Chair, he had oversight of development of the first iteration of formal GDC recognised specialty curricula for the four Additional Dental Specialties (Oral Medicine, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology and Oral Microbiology). David chaired the Intercollegiate Specialty Fellowship Board in Oral Medicine (2003-2008) and was Chair of the Joint Committee for Postgraduate Training in Dentistry 2013-2017. He was vice-chair of the Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors (COPDEND) 2012-2018 and Chair 2018-2021.

He was a member of the RCSEd Advisory Board for the Additional Dental Specialties for almost ten years. He was elected to Dental Council in 1999 and shortly thereafter was appointed to the role of Secretary of the Faculty, initially for a period of three years (1999-2002), which with the full support of Dental Council, was extended for a further three-year period (2002-2005). While he was Secretary, David established Trinidad as a new overseas examination centre for MFDS.

He was re-elected to Dental Council in 2005 and in 2008 took on the role of Dean. In the first two years of his Deanship, David was the Associate Postgraduate Dental Dean at NHS Education for Scotland and then Postgraduate Dental Dean and Director of Dentistry. This unique combination of roles enabled him

to have a significant influence and impact on postgraduate education and training across the UK.

During his tenure as Dean, David consolidated all the initiatives and changes that had taken place in previous years. The result was a significant growth in membership, especially in Egypt, where Cairo became the Faculty's largest overseas examination centre. At the time Specialty Advisory Board (SAB) representation on Dental Council was a delicate issue, since chairs of SABs could attend Dental Council, despite not being elected members of Council. There were concerns from a governance perspective that discussion and debate could be heavily influenced by non-elected members of Dental Council. David skilfully and tactfully navigated a compromise whereby a special annual meeting of SAB chairs took place, but with the proviso that should a difficult or contentious matter arise, then a request from a SAB chair to attend Council for that item would be considered favourably. David was instrumental also in gaining approval from College Council to change the name of the Membership in Oral Surgery to a Membership in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. This ensured that the title of the qualification was relevant and attractive to overseas trainees. During his time as Dean, David also established a number of examination centres for MFDS in other parts of the UK. This served to further boost the overall membership of the Faculty.

David Felix continued on Dental Council ex officio until 2025 - serving a record 26 years in total.

Outwith dentistry, he has an interest in foreign travel and fine dining at Michelin starred restaurants.



Figure 37 David Henry Felix

Richard John Ibbetson (1950 -) Dean 2011–2014

Richard Ibbetson (Figure 38) was born in Exeter in 1950 and went to school at Lancing College in Sussex before studying and graduating from Guy's Hospital Dental School, University of London in 1974. Richard spent some time in general dental practice in the West Country and then worked in Northern Canada. Returning to the UK, he undertook postgraduate training at the Eastman in London, prior to joining the staff of the Institute as a Lecturer in 1979. Richard was at the Eastman for 20 years, becoming Senior Lecturer and Consultant. It was at the Eastman that he developed his major interest in the teaching and clinical practice of Conservative Dentistry and Fixed Prosthodontics. He was Head of the Department of Conservative Dentistry in the early 1990s and then established, with colleagues, a new Department of Continuing Education in 1995. He was also a Vice-Dean of the Eastman.

In 1999, Richard was appointed Professor of Primary Dental Care and the Director of the new Edinburgh Dental Institute at the University of Edinburgh, providing a strong focus on the education and training of postgraduate dentists. A further priority was the development of education and training of the dental team: during this period, the University of Edinburgh established the first Honours BSc in Oral Health Sciences for those wishing to register as Dental Hygienists and Therapists.

From 2011 to 2014, Richard was Professor of Restorative Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London with responsibility for postgraduate degree programmes and then more briefly at the University of Central Lancashire. In these roles, the priority was the teaching and education of both undergraduate and postgraduate dental students.

In 2015, Richard was appointed Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Director of Dentistry at the University of Aberdeen. In his various senior academic positions he held honorary Consultant appointments in Conservative Dentistry and Restorative Dentistry, having been first appointed a Consultant at the Eastman in 1986. Richard retired from the University of Aberdeen in 2021 but returned to work after being invited to take on the role of Interim Head of the School of Dentistry at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in 2021. He completed his work at UCLan at the end of 2023 and subsequently took a part-time postgraduate teaching position at Edinburgh Dental Institute.

Richard is Past-President of the British Society for Restorative Dentistry (2005-2006) and Past-President of the Section of Odontology of the Royal Society of Medicine (2014-2016). He has also been President of the Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland (2016-17).

He has taught professional groups extensively both within the United Kingdom and internationally. Also, he has acted as an external examiner both within the UK and internationally for universities and royal colleges.

Richard's involvement with RCSEd began when he was an *ex officio* member of Dental Council from 1999, as Director of Edinburgh Dental Institute. He became an elected member of Council in 2008 and went on to be elected Dean of the Dental Faculty in 2011. Much of his work as Dean focussed on developing stronger links between the Faculty and the College and its Council, whilst also working to develop stronger working relationships with the Dental Faculties of the other Royal Surgical Colleges. During his Deanship he chaired the Intercollegiate Advisory Committee for Conscious Sedation in Dentistry, bringing together dental and anaesthetic colleagues to produce a report which brought about change in clinical practice. His work for this committee was recognised by the award of Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists in 2016. During his time as Dean, Richard also chaired the then new Tri-Collegiate Specialty Membership Examination Board which established assessments for Oral Surgery, Paediatric Dentistry and Special Care Dentistry on behalf of the Dental Faculties of the three UK Royal Surgical Colleges.

Richard's commitment to dental education was recognised by the award of an honorary Doctor of Dentistry Degree by the University of Plymouth in 2021. He examined for the College both in the UK and abroad for the Membership in Restorative Dentistry (MRD), later the Membership in Prosthodontics (M Pros). Richard's rapport with early career dentists resulted in many joining the 'Friendly College'.



Figure 38 Richard John Ibbetson

William Philip Saunders (1948 -) Dean 2014–2017

William (Bill) Saunders (Figure 39) was born in Carlisle in 1948. After many moves as part of an RAF officer's family, he undertook his secondary education at RAF Changi Grammar School, Singapore, and Maidstone Grammar School in Kent. He graduated from the Royal Dental Hospital in 1970, served in the RAF for five years and then worked as an associate and principal in general practice for six years. He was appointed Lecturer at the University of Dundee Dental School in 1981. During his time at Dundee, he completed Higher Specialist Training in Restorative Dentistry, being the first academic in the United Kingdom to accomplish formal clinical training. He also gained his PhD at this time, not as one might expect on an endodontic topic, but on resin-retained bridgework. He moved to the University of Glasgow as senior lecturer in 1988. His rapidly and widely expanding research programmes in applied dental materials and endodontology, his publications, reputation as an excellent educationalist and national and international standing led to him being appointed to a Personal Chair in Clinical Practice in 1993.

In 1995, Bill was appointed the first Professor of Endodontology in the UK. He was Editor of the *International Endodontic Journal* (IEJ) between 1991 and 1998 and then Consultant Editor until the end of 2013. In these roles, he had a major influence on the quality of endodontic research and was a great help to many authors as they struggled to prepare manuscripts for publication, often not in their first language. Indeed, Bill had a reputation as someone willing to invest his valuable time and effort in helping young research workers develop their writing and research skills and thus had a major influence on their careers. Whilst taking a major role in the IEJ, Bill was also a referee for numerous other peer-reviewed journals. He has lectured in many countries around the world and pioneered many hands-on courses. His whole aim was to improve endodontic care in general dental practice and thus the patient experience and he did this by undertaking relevant clinical research. He had a busy clinical practice as a consultant and was particularly interested in surgical endodontics, being one of the first clinicians in the UK to use the operating microscope in endodontics. He was pivotal in helping to formulate standards for Endodontology at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Bill was elected President of the British Endodontic Society and the British Association for Teachers of Conservative Dentistry, and Congress President of the European Society of Endodontology. His illustrious academic career culminated in the Deanship of Dundee Dental Hospital (2000–2011). At the behest of the Scottish Government, Bill was also responsible for leading the dental team in setting up the new Aberdeen Dental School which saw the first cohort of students walk through the doors in September 2008. In recognition of his hard work and determination to make this project a resounding success, he was awarded DSc (hc) from the University of Aberdeen in 2011. Bill was also active in setting up the state-of-the-art Dundee Dental Education Centre in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland and NHS Tayside. He was, for three years, Chair of Dental Schools Council. In 2012 he was awarded the inaugural Scottish Dental Lifetime Achievement award.

He was elected to the Dental Council of RCSEd from 1999 to 2009 and again in 2011. He was Chair of the Specialist Board in Restorative Dentistry for six years. In 2014 he was elected Dental Dean of RCSEd. Being retired from university life, Bill devoted much of his time to the Faculty and the College. He worked with the Dental Executive to produce a strategic plan that supported the priorities of the College. This involved expanding the examination portfolio, specifically overseas. He also produced a proposal for accreditation of institutions to allow staff in training to be recognised for entry into specialty examinations of the College. Bill was keen to be inclusive, seeking ways to engage dental care professionals. The Faculty of Dental Trainers was created during his tenure, allowing all members of the dental team to join the College to help promote and support dental training. Being, in effect, a full-time Dean allowed Bill to forge strong relationships with surgeons, Office Bearers and other Faculties of the College. Following his tenure

as Dean he chaired the Audit Committee of the College for two years. and was also an assessor for the dental specialty examinations. For outstanding service to dentistry and the College, Bill was awarded an Honorary FRCSEd. This honour was richly deserved.

Outside dentistry he has a keen interest in ornithology (a qualified bird ringer) and the arts, particularly contemporary Scottish art.



Figure 39 William Philip Saunders

Fraser McDonald (1957 -) Dean 2017–2020

Fraser McDonald (Figure 40) was born in 1957 in the Midlands. He attended King Edward VI School, Lichfield before moving to Birmingham University to study dentistry from where he graduated BDS in 1980. He combined his time in general dental practice with hospital jobs in Worcester and Basingstoke and then trained as a specialist orthodontist at the Royal Dental School in London under Professor William Houston. He pursued academic education alongside clinical hospital training, acquiring the FDS RCSEng in 1984, an MSc in 1985, MOrth RCSEng in 1988, a PhD in 1992 and FDS RCSEd in 1998. Prior to his affiliation with RCSEd, Fraser served two terms on the Board of the RCSEng Faculty of Dental Surgery working as Chair of the Clinical Effectiveness Committee and with the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence. He had an outstanding research portfolio combining basic cell science of osteoblast function and blood flow through tissues with clinical themes involving the delivery of contemporary specialist orthodontic care. All this contributed to the award of a King James IV Professorship in 2002. Election to the Dental Council followed in 2009. During his time on Council, Fraser chaired the Specialty Board in Orthodontics and served on the Specialty Advisory Committee for Orthodontics. Internationally he served two terms as treasurer for the European Orthodontic Society, after acting as the editor of the *European Journal of Orthodontics* for 17 years. In addition, he supported the editorship of the *British Journal of Orthodontics* as well as the *Italian Journal, Progress in Orthodontics*. During his term as Dean the role of Regional Advisor was replaced by Ambassador to great effect. He encouraged examiners to work as a group, motivated younger professionals to engage with the College and appreciate the College as a charity. Fraser helped raise funds for the College and established a teaching scholarship. Less well known, but quietly appreciated by the College, was the compassionate attitude McDonald brought to the Faculty, serving as a volunteer with Dentaids in Uganda and Kenya, as well as similar work in Vietnam. Outside dentistry he has enjoyed all aspects of oenology (the science dedicated to the study and knowledge of wines).



Figure 40 Fraser McDonald

Philip (Phil) Duncan Taylor (1957 -) Dean 2020–2023

Philip Taylor (Figure 41) was born in Leigh, Lancashire in 1957 and educated at Bolton School (Boys Division). He graduated BDS from Newcastle in 1981 where he played hockey and cricket for the Newcastle Medicals Club. He spent the early years of his career working in primary dental care in the northeast of England where through the BDA and the Local Dental Committee (LDC) he gained his grounding in dental politics. He obtained a Membership in General Dental Surgery (MGDS) before heading to the Eastman to undertake a master's degree, then his Membership in Restorative Dentistry (MRD) and FDS in Edinburgh. Phil had several years in part-time private practice in the West End of London and as Lecturer in Gerodontology at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). With the introduction of specialist lists he was admitted to the Prosthodontics, Endodontics and Restorative Dentistry lists and became an Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry. In 2000 he took on the role of director for the Masters, and later Doctorate, in Clinical Dentistry (Prosthodontics), which he led for 20 years. His teaching and management in moving the Dental School into the first new build for over 40 years culminated in him being awarded a personal Chair in Prosthodontics at QMUL. Phil was Clinical Director of Dentistry, OMFS and Ophthalmology for 10 years leading both the Dental Hospital and the Royal College through the COVID-19 pandemic by guiding the Faculty and College administration very effectively to provide regular online activity in order to maintain administrative and educational activity. He was President of the British Society of Prosthodontics and the British Society of Teachers in Conservative Dentistry, and was awarded Fellowship of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, Fellowship of the British Society of Restorative Dentistry, and was honoured as a Life Member of the British Society of Prosthodontics.

He brought a wealth of professional experience from clinical dentistry to academic and management expertise taking the College successfully through the first ever GDC inspection of specialty examinations. He never shirked from the challenging issues he encountered at the College and was a strong voice for dentistry within the wider College. He oversaw updating of the Faculty's administration processes and re-ignited the College's dental links with Bahrain, Malaysia, India and Egypt, introducing new contacts in Ajman, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago. He was instrumental in introducing a series of sub-specialty diploma examinations related to the GDC dental specialties. This initiative contributed to the Faculty's support for wider career progression in dentistry. Philip also opened the door for those dental professionals successful in the Diploma level examinations to be part of the wider College membership as Associate members. He also instigated a Past-Deans medal, which was presented to all the living Past-Deans. He chaired the Intercollegiate Advisory Committee for Sedation in Dentistry, completely revising the national standards document.



Figure 41 Philip Duncan Taylor

Grant Thomson McIntyre (1970 -) Dean 2023 - to date; VicePresident (Dental) 2025 - to date

Grant McIntyre (Figure 42) was born in 1970 in Glasgow, graduated BDS in 1993 from the University of Glasgow, obtained FDS RCPS in 1996 and began his association with RCSEd in 1999 with a Masters In Orthodontics (MOrth). Having completed a PhD during specialty training, Grant obtained his Intercollegiate Specialty Fellowship Examination (ISFE) Orthodontics and became a Consultant Orthodontist in Dundee in 2003, with clinical sub-specialty interests in cleft and facial deformity. He has supervised multiple Masters and PhD students as well as training a large number of UK and overseas registrars. From 2013-2019 he was part of the 'flying faculty' model for an innovative University of Dundee Masters in Orthodontics programme delivered in Egypt. Grant became an Honorary Professor in Orthodontics at the University of Dundee in 2016, served as joint Clinical Director for Dundee Dental Hospital between 2017 and 2023 and Chair of the SAC (Specialist Advisory Committee) in Orthodontics, leading the 2023 orthodontic specialty training curriculum review for the GDC. He was also Honorary Treasurer for the British Orthodontic Society 2022-2025, and as an established Consultant also took on the role of visiting Consultant Orthodontist for Shetland developing a mix of teledentistry, upskilling the local team and in-person clinical work. Within RCSEd, Grant joined Dental Council in 2014 becoming Vice-Dean in 2022 and Dean in 2023. He was awarded a King James IV Professorship in 2024. During his tenure, the Faculty moved MFDS and all dental specialty examinations to a fully tricolligate model and addressed the inequality in the examination portfolio by converting all specialty examinations to fellow level within RCSEd. Also, Grant led the delivery of the new diploma examinations, an expansion in international examination activity and oversaw the dental aspects of the College-wide governance review, moving many matters pertaining to dentistry from the College Laws to new Dental Regulations. As part of this RCSEd governance review, the Faculty of Dental Surgery developed a second Vice-Dean role recognising the increased workload for dental office-bearers and Grant became the College's first Vice-President (Dental), cementing the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery as an Office Bearer for the wider College.



Figure 42 Grant Thomson McIntyre

Concluding remarks

The Dental Council, and from 1982 the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the RCSEd has benefited from remarkable leadership by initially a succession of eminent Convenors and latterly Deans of substantial national and international standing. Each Convenor and Dean faced challenges and contributed to the illustrious history of the Faculty, which continues to thrive, both across the UK and in many parts of the world. The Faculty has grown in standing and status in RCSEd, with the Dental Dean being appointed ex officio Vice-President (Dental) of the College, subsequent to the most recent review of the governance of the College. All the Deans and, it is understood, the Convenors before them, benefited greatly from the support of Dental Council, notably Secretaries to the Council, the College Council, successive Presidents of the College, and the staff of the College, who either directly or indirectly provided administrative support to the Convenors, Deans and Dental Council, together with effective arrangements for dental examinations, courses and other events both at home and across the world. Additionally, the engagement and commitment of the Dental Fellows and Members of the College, who have numbered around 8,000 in recent years, must be acknowledged. As the Faculty has repeatedly demonstrated, it successfully adapts to the ever-changing nature of the clinical practice of dentistry and the needs and expectations of the Dental Fellows and Members of the College. There is every expectation that this will continue, with the Faculty going from strength to strength.

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The authors

Professor Grant McIntyre is the current Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery at RCSEd and Vice-President (Dental), continuing his role as Consultant and Honorary Professor in Orthodontics in Dundee at the same time. Whilst Grant is a beekeeper rather than a historian, Grant was aware on becoming Dean that there was an extremely rich history of dentistry within the College, much of it collected and curated by Howard Moody. Grant was keen to make this more widely available and hopes this article will be of value in celebrating the substantial contribution of successive Convenors and Deans to the dental profession.

Professor Philip Taylor is Emeritus Professor of Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) University and was an Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry at Barts Health NHS Trust. He was Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery RCSEd, President of the British Association of Teachers in Conservative Dentistry, President of the British Society of Prosthodontics and Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the Higher Education Authority and the British Society of Restorative Dentistry. In retirement he chairs the Intercollegiate Advisory Committee for Sedation in Dentistry and is an Associate Editor of the European Journal of Prosthodontics and Restorative Dentistry.

Dr G Howard Moody was a Senior Lecturer, Honorary Consultant in Oral Pathology and Honorary Fellow in Forensic Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and Honorary Forensic Odontologist for Lothian and Borders Police. Howard was Honorary Secretary and subsequently Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Howard, a career-long stalwart of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, had unique insights into the history of the College's Faculty of Dental Surgery. Howard was awarded an Honorary FRCS RCSEd for his services to the College.

Dr Jacqueline Cahif is the College Archivist at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. She was awarded a PhD in the History of Medicine from the University of Glasgow in 2009, which was followed by a post-doctoral Research Associate position at the University of Cambridge. She then decided to follow a career in archive management, qualifying with a Diploma in Archives and Records Management from the University of Dundee. Jacqueline held professional posts at Transport for London Corporate Archive and the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, before joining the College in 2014.

Sir Nairn Wilson CBE is Emeritus Professor of Dentistry, King's College London and President Emeritus of the College of General Dentistry. In addition to many other senior leadership positions, Sir Nairn served as Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and, uniquely, President of the General Dental Council, President of the British Dental Association and President of the College, intended Royal College of General Dentistry during his fifty year long career in clinical academic dentistry. In retirement, Sir Nairn has increasingly focussed on supporting the growth and development of the College of General Dentistry, the history of dentistry in the UK, subsequent to the creation of the National Health Service, and projects to help promote fit-for-future-purpose leadership in the profession.



