



Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, LONDON, WC1H 9HD

Tel: +44 (0)20 7419 5494: Fax +44 (0)20 7380 1482

Email: [admin@dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk](mailto:admin@dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk)

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

**Embargoed until 00.01 18 May 2009**

### **A Survey of Staffing Levels of Dental Clinical Academics and Dental Clinical Teachers in UK Dental Schools in July 2008**

Data published today by the Dental Schools Council indicate a 2% increase over the past twelve months in the number of clinical academics and clinical teachers in post in UK Dental Schools, to a total of 469 FTE. The total number of Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers in post has declined year on year, from 476 FTE in 2000 to 373 FTE in 2008. However, with the inclusion of Senior Clinical Teachers and Clinical Teachers, the 2008 staffing level is comparable with 2000.

The Dental Schools Council is concerned that 58% of Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers are aged over 45. Rapid action must be taken to improve recruitment and retention in clinical academic dentistry. Existing schemes to support young researchers in accessing the clinical academic career pathway must continue to receive support.

There is encouraging evidence that the age, gender and ethnic profile of the clinical academic team is becoming more diverse with time. However, women continue to be underrepresented at every academic grade. With an increasingly female intake into UK Dental Schools, action must be taken to increase the appeal of an academic career for women.

Dental clinical academics are those dentists who not only treat patients, but are also responsible for educating the dentists of the future and for carrying out research into all aspects of health and disease. Their work enjoys an unparalleled international reputation and must be protected. NHS clinicians also make a significant commitment to teaching and research in the service environment and it is vital that they too are supported and not overwhelmed by clinical commitments.

The report published today serves to update the data published in June 2007 by the Dental Schools Council. This continues to demonstrate the need for concerted action to support clinical academia to the benefit of the UK as a whole.

#### **Notes to editors:**

1. This is the seventh data update to be published by the Dental Schools Council since 2000. 16 Dental Schools were asked to return data on clinical academic grade, specialty, percentage full-time, source of funding, age, gender and ethnicity for each individual in post as at 31 July 2008.
2. The Dental Schools Council is the authoritative voice of the Heads and Deans of the University Dental Schools across the United Kingdom. The Council is currently chaired by Professor William P Saunders, Dean of the School of Dentistry, University of Dundee. Its Executive Director is Dr Katie Petty-Saphon.
3. For further information about the work of the Dental Schools Council please see [www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk](http://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk)
4. The Dental Schools Council can be contacted at:  
Woburn House  
20 Tavistock Square  
London WC1H 9HD  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7419 5494  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7380 1482  
[admin@dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk](mailto:admin@dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk)