

# Final report of the Special Interest Group in Special Care Dentistry

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## Rationale and history of SIG in Special Care Dentistry

The International Association of Disability and Oral Health (iADH) Education committee held a SCIP meeting prior to the 37<sup>th</sup> ADEE Annual Meeting in Antalya 2011. This was a key consensus meeting that led to the development of the core Undergraduate Curriculum in Special Care Dentistry and Postgraduate Curriculum guidance in Special Care Dentistry.

A number of educational papers about the need for and the process of curriculum development in Special Care Dentistry (SCD) were subsequently published in the EJDE.

### This led to development of SIGs in Special Care Dentistry at ADEE meetings:

Lyon (2012)

Birmingham (2013)

Riga (2014)

Szged (2015)

## Aims and Objectives

1. To provide an international forum to develop learning and teaching in Special Care Dentistry, within dental teams.
2. To promote the inclusion of Special Care Dentistry in undergraduate courses for all members of the dental team
3. To promote and support development of Special Care Dentistry in postgraduate courses for all members of the dental team
4. To share educational knowledge and best practice in learning and teaching in Special Care Dentistry and host resources for common use.
5. To develop educational research to provide an evidence base for best practice in learning and scholarship in Special Care Dentistry.

## Membership

- Members of ADEE with an interest in education in Special Care Dentistry
- Members of iADH who have an interest in education in Special Care Dentistry and subsequently joined ADEE
- Inclusive to those ADEE with an interest in Special Care Dentistry

## Outcomes

### 1. Curriculum Development

Outcomes that involvement in SIG in SCD and IADH has contributed to:

1. The value of education in Special Care Dentistry as a means of reducing inequalities in oral health. Faulks D, Freeman L, Thompson S, Sagheri D, Dougall A. *European Journal of Dental Education* (2012). *Eur J Dent Educ*, **16**, 195-201. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0579.2012.00736.x  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0579.2012.00736.x/pdf>
2. Dougall, A., Pani, S. C., Thompson, S., Faulks, D., Romer, M. and Nunn, J. (2013), Developing an undergraduate curriculum in Special Care Dentistry – by consensus. *European Journal of Dental Education*, 17: 46–56. doi: 10.1111/eje.12011  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eje.12011/pdf>
3. Dougall, A., Thompson, S. A., Faulks, D., Ting, G. and Nunn, J. (2014), Guidance for the core content of a Curriculum in Special Care Dentistry at the undergraduate level. *European Journal of Dental Education*, 18: 39–43. doi: 10.1111/eje.12054  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eje.12054/pdf>
4. iADH Education Undergraduate Curriculum in Special Care Dentistry <http://iadh-education.org/iadh-education/56-2>

The undergraduate curriculum has been translated into Turkish, French and Spanish, others pending.

### 2. Educational Research Strategy

Steering Group: Denise Faulks (France), Tim Newton (UK), Alison Dougall (Ireland)

Evaluation of attitudes and intentions in relation to persons with disability and other marginalised groups (ongoing international study, 2013-date).

The meeting of the Research group was held at ADEE meeting in Birmingham 2012 (for those participating in ADEE SIG in SCD).

### 3. Networking and dissemination of learning and teaching

SIG meetings at ADEE has facilitated networking between individual educators from many countries and introduced others to Special Care Dentistry.

**Proposed further outcomes to ADEE for next 3 year cycle, if SIG was continued:**

<b>1</b>	Complete Guidance for a Postgraduate Curriculum in Special Care Dentistry.	<b>Completed and published</b>
<b>2</b>	Develop teaching resources in SCD to be hosted on iADH website via a Creative Commons licence with links to the ADEE website to learning resources and guidance.	<b>Completed</b>
<b>3</b>	Develop resources for evaluation of teaching and host resources for common use / adaptation to individual countries.	<b>In progress through: iADH Education committee, Individual Schools and Institutes.</b>
<b>4</b>	Feedback and evaluation of UG courses developed using the guidance of the core Undergraduate Curriculum in SCD. This will be extended to inclusion of key stakeholders i.e. Students and people with disabilities.	<b>Not completed</b>
<b>5</b>	Promotion of core curricula in SCD for allied health professionals to educational providers e.g. Course Directors, Deans.	<b>Partially met -BSDH Teachers Group -ISDH</b>
<b>6</b>	Feedback from students on dental nursing, dental hygiene and therapy courses on knowledge, skills and experience in SCD.	<b>Not completed</b>

### **Conclusion**

The Special Interest Group in Special Care Dentistry was created to address a specific topic/need. The SIG in SCD has met the initial predetermined objectives and expected outcomes and delivered these within the initial agreed timeframe of 3 years.

It is anticipated that ongoing work below will lead to further involvement with ADEE at the ADEA /ADEE meeting in Barcelona 2016 and IADH Congress in Chicago in 2016.

### **Further work**

1. Review the inclusion and/or integration of learning and teaching of Special Care Dentistry- as evidenced in ADEE School Visitations. This work is underway.
2. Develop a SIG in Disability and Oral Health.
3. Investigate potential for integration with Human Diseases SIG to promote SCD education in Europe.

4. IADH executive to continue advocacy role through the education committee and political arena to improve provision of teaching and learning in Special Care Dentistry and meet the global educational objectives of the World Health Organisation 2011.  
[http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/)

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