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**Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry**

**Department of Preventive Dental Sciences College of Dentistry**

**Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University**

**Program name:** Fellowship

**Name of the degree awarded:** Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry

**Objectives of the program:**

Upon completion of the Fellowship program, graduates will:

1. Be clinically competent professionals, able to practice Pediatric Dentistry

independently drawing on their in-depth understanding of the art and science of

the specialty.

2. Be able to demonstrate understanding of all areas of Pediatric Dentistry consistent

with advanced education standards.

3. Be able to educate and guide the child and parent to accept and practice oral

health care with preventive concepts on foundation of clinical practice.

4. Be able to understand the physical and chemical properties of medications and

dental materials used in treatment and physiologic responses of the child and

adolescent to these agents.

5. Be able to explain the growth and development of the stomatognathic system and

apply this knowledge to provide treatment aimed at allowing optimal development

of this system.

6. Possess an in-depth knowledge of basic sciences as they relate to the clinical

diagnosis and treatment of occlusal problems in primary, mixed, and young

permanent dentition.

7. Be able to understand and provide control of pain and anxiety through the use of

psychologic and pharmacologic methods including provision of dental care in the

hospital.

8. Know how to apply the appropriate advanced clinical procedures, based on as well

as the principles of “evidence-based dentistry (EBD)” in accordance with the needs

of each individual patient.

9. Be able to diagnose and manage post-operative complications and dental

emergencies.

10. Possess the expertise to design, implement and oversee an appropriate postoperative maintenance regimen and patient recall program.

11. Know how to access the dental scientific literature to maintain contemporary

professional knowledge and evaluate new dental products and procedures using

critical thinking skills.

12. Be able to apply those critical thinking skills when analyzing patient situations to

reach a diagnosis before proceeding with treatment and know when to recommend

second opinion, referral &/or a need for an interdisciplinary care.

13. Satisfy and, where possible, exceed the performance indicators created for the

program learning outcomes.

10. Join local, regional, national and international organizations in support of dentistry,

in general, and Pediatric Dentistry, in particular.

11. Remain engaged in research efforts independently as well as collaborate with dental

generalists and specialists as well as other health professionals.

12. Adopt the philosophy of making a commitment to “life-long learning.”

13. Be able to teach students and young researchers.

14. Serve as role models for pre-doctoral and other Fellowship students.

**Justification for the program’s provision:**

The rationales for the establishment of the Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry program canbe summarized by the following points:

1. The expansion and depth of knowledge, growth in technology and breadth of

clinical skills required in dentistry today has rapidly surpassed the scope of the

general dental practice. As in many fields of medicine, specialization in different

areas of dentistry is a requirement for the College of Dentistry to mirror the levels

of education currently provided at other leading universities throughout the world.

2. As the leading institution for providing graduate training in the Eastern Province,

the Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry program will enable the College of Dentistry

to expand the levels and quality of dental services currently being provided, aid in

the development and progress of other graduate-level dental programs and permit

the College to provide additional interdisciplinary patient services.

3. The availability of advanced Pediatric Dentistry services will reduce waiting times

for patients in need of complex treatment and also diminish the need for specialty

services presently provided in different health institutes.

4. The Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry program, therefore, will train generations of

clinicians in the specialty and address any shortage of pediatric dentists in different

health institutes in the Eastern Region. It will also encourage graduates to consider

careers in academia.

5. The Program also will stimulate the interest of the Saudi dental community in

terms of continuing professional development.

6. The program will also serve to fulfill the Kingdom vision 2030 by increasing the

number of postgraduate programs and postgraduate graduates.

7. The availability of a Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry program at the Imam

Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University will also offer qualified Saudi dentists an

alternative to external scholarships. This, in turn, will provide for an improved pool

of qualified candidates for the program and also have positive implications for the

Saudi economy.

8. The creation of this program not only will provide for the training of local graduates,

it also will lead to increased employment for Saudi nationals.

**Study plan:**

The Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry program consists of a comprehensive, 4-year curriculum of full-time study composed of 8 academic semesters along with four (3) short, summer sessions.

The curriculum has been designed to graduate students with an in-depth knowledge

and the technical skills required for the practice of Pediatric Dentistry, prepare them for

teaching and provide them with experience and training in research methods. To achieve these goals students will work in an exciting, contemporary, and fast-paced educational environment.

The program is structured with the following allocations of activity and time:

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| --- | --- |
| %36 | Didactics |
| 50% | Clinical/Laboratory |
| 10% | Research |
| 4% | Teaching |

**General overview of the program:**

The Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry program can best be described in the following year-by- year overview.

Year 1 – The program begins with preclinical training in the basic technical aspects of

Pediatric Dentistry to assess the individual knowledge of students and calibrate their

technical skills to the standards of the College of Dentistry. Core and specialty courses are provided along with clinical training. The clinical care course continues into the summer semester.

Year 2 - Students will enroll in additional core and specialty courses, continue with advanced patient care in clinical courses and are introduced to advanced research through courses in research methodologies as well as biostatistics. Students are expected to begin their search for and selection of an appropriate research project by the end of the second year. A research project should be selected, prepared as a research protocol and submitted for approval in this year.

Year 3 - At this stage in the program students will be expected to begin completing some

of their advanced clinical cases begun in Year 1 and Year 2 and expand their engagement in core and specialty courses as well as research. Aside from completion of any remaining core and specialty courses, students will continue enrollment in research to complete their project by year’s end. Students will be required to prepare a manuscript and submit for publication. Also, in Year 3 students will enroll in special 1-hour courses, entitled Directed Study, to provide them with experience in a wide variety of areas related to dental education, teaching and research. The following is a partial list of topics from which students may select areas of interest: Accreditation, accreditation reporting, academic affairs, committee structure and management, clinic administration, competencies, electronic patient records, faculty development, faculty promotions, electronic educational media, interdisciplinary interaction (referrals), scientific writing, strategic planning, technology in dentistry and trends in dental education and private practice. Students are expected to enroll in at least four (4) units of directed study course per academic year (2 units per semester) with the approval of the supervising faculty member and the proposed plan for each term by the Program Director.

Year 4 – In the fourth and final year students will fulfill all remaining didactic core and

specialty course requirements, take at least four (4) additional Directed Study courses,

complete their clinical cases (by the end of the academic year) and submit proof of

acceptance or published article from their research project in a peer-reviewed journal.

Summer Sessions – Students will enroll in Clinical Pediatric Dentistry to provide ongoing patient care during the summer months given the complex nature of the treatment they will be providing. They also will provide emergency services on an as needed basis for their patients for the interval between the end of the Semester II and the start of Semester I of their next year. Summer sessions also will provide additional time for research writing.