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**Fellowship in Periodontics**

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

**Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University**

**Program name:** Fellowship

**Name of the degree awarded:** Fellowship in Periodontics

**Objectives of the program:**

Upon completion of the Fellowship program, graduates will:

1. Be clinically proficient professionals, able to practice periodontics independently and draw on their in-depth understanding of the knowledge and skills of this specialty.

2. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of all areas of periodontics, consistent with advanced education standards.

3. Be able to diagnose medical problems related to periodontics and periodontal diseases in the child and adult and apply the principles learned from the oral systemic link. (Perio-systemic link, smoking, diabetes).

4. Be able to apply cutting-edge Periodontics clinically, especially in Implant Dentistry and regenerative procedures (periodontal regeneration with various graft materials, implants placement in periodontally compromised patients, bone regeneration, guided bone regeneration utilizing grafts and membranes).

5. Be able to apply the appropriate advanced clinical procedures, based on the principles of “evidence-based dentistry (EBD)” in accordance with the needs of each individual patient.

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

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

8. Be able to access the dental scientific literature to maintain an understanding of contemporary periodontics and evaluate new dental products and procedures using critical thinking skills.

9. Be able to apply those critical thinking skills when analyzing patient situations to reach a diagnosis before proceeding with treatment and to know when to recommend a second opinion, referral and/or a need for interdisciplinary care.

10. Satisfy and, where possible, exceed the performance indicators created for the program learning outcomes.

11. Join local, regional, national and international organizations in support of dentistry, in general, and periodontics, in particular.

12. Remain engaged in research efforts independently, as well as collaborate with general dentists and specialists, as well as other health professionals.

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

14. Be able to teach students and young researchers.

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

The rationales for the establishment of the Fellowship in Periodontics program can be summarized by the following points: patient care, research and education:

1. The expansion and depth of knowledge, growth in technology and breadth of clinical skills required in dentistry today have 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, especially health sciences universities.

2. As the leading institution for providing postgraduate training in the Eastern Province, the Fellowship, Periodontics 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 periodontics services will reduce the need for patient referrals outside the College of Dentistry, reduce waiting times for patients in need of complex periodontics treatment, and also diminish the need for specialty services presently provided in different health institutes.

4. The Fellowship, Periodontics program, therefore, will train generations of clinicians in the specialty of Periodontics and address any shortage of Periodontists in different health institutes in the Eastern Region.

5. The Program also will stimulate the interest of the Saudi dental community in terms of continuing professional development.

6. The availability of a Fellowship, Periodontics program at the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University also will 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.

7. The program will also serve to fulfill the Kingdom vision 2030 by increasing the number of postgraduate programs and postgraduate graduates. 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 and increase the number of Saudi Periodontists in the Kingdom.

**Study plan:**

The Fellowship in Periodontics program consists of a comprehensive, 4-year curriculum of full-time study composed of 8 academic semesters along with four (4) 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 Periodontics, 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 Periodontics 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 Periodontics 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 (patient care). The clinical care course continues into the summer semester.

Year 2 – In this year students enroll in additional core and specialty courses, continue with advanced patient care in clinical courses. Additional courses include an introduction to advanced research through courses in research methodologies as well as report and biostatistics. It is in this year that students are expected to begin their search for and selection of an appropriate research project by the end of the second year.

Year 3 - By this stage in the program students are 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 project. A research project should be selected, a research protocol should be written and submitted for approval early in this year. Ideally, the research protocol should be approved in Year 3 to allow the data collection to begin. 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: dental photography, presentation skills, ethics, practice management and marketing, clinic administration, competencies, electronic patient records, faculty development, electronic educational media, interdisciplinary interaction (referrals), scientific writing, strategic planning, technology in dentistry and trends in dental education.

Students are expected to enroll in at least two (2) units of directed study course (1 unit 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 final year students will fulfill all remaining didactic core and specialty course requirements, take at least two (2) additional Directed Study courses, complete their clinical cases (by the end of the academic year) and submit proof of acceptance or published articles from their research project in a peer-reviewed journal.

Summer Sessions – Students will enroll in Clinical Periodontics 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 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 and report writing.