

President's Annual Report
Annual General Meeting - November 2022
This report spans the period July 2021 – June 2022.

Despite the ongoing impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic over the last 12 months, the College has continued to evolve and reshape itself into an organisation well equipped to support the dental community into the future.

Throughout 2021 the College consolidated the shift, first implemented in 2020, to online examinations and educational activities. Once again this resulted in strong enrolments across these activities and reinforces the flexibility and accessibility of digital learning and online assessment.

The November / December 2021 Primary Dental Sciences examination and the January 2022 Final examination (GDP) were conducted entirely online and congratulations go to Winthrop Prof Marc Tennant and A/Prof Lara Friedlander, as well as their dedicated examining teams, for their outstanding contribution to the College in facilitating these examinations.

The College continued its accredited Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) training program, and despite the obvious challenges, was able to successfully deliver on all of its commitments. Importantly this allowed the graduation of a cohort of new OMS Fellows. Thanks to Chief Examiner A/Prof Dylan Hyam, the other examiners and all the Fellows who act as supervisors and directors of training in the OMS program, for their flexibility and commitment throughout. The OMS program has been undergoing significant improvements to its policies and processes, particularly over the past year or so, and a substantial amount of work has gone into this. In addition, considerable time and energy has been contributed by Fellows and staff alike, as the College prepares for the accreditation of the OMS program, which is due in the second part of 2022. Thank you to all the individuals and committees that have contributed to this large schedule of work.

Our Membership (MRACDS) program was once again fully subscribed, and my thanks to all of the College Fellows and Members who support this program, through their roles as mentors, examiners and committee members. The shift to online delivery for the Masterclasses that support the MRACDS program has seen a significant expansion in accessibility and attendance at these workshops, and it is fantastic to see other members of the College take the opportunity to join these highly informative education sessions.

Our examinations for Membership and Fellowship in Specialist Dental Practice continued, predominately online and unaffected by COVID restrictions and I thank the examiners involved for their flexibility and adaptability throughout.

Following on from the development of the College's Strategic Plan (2021 – 2024) the Board approved the College's first Reconciliation Action Plan, which will provide guidance to the College in the years ahead. That Plan was supported through consultation with the College's Advisory Council, which itself met on two occasions during the year. My thanks to the co-chairs of the Council, Drs Jessica Manuela and Warren Shnider and indeed all of the members of the Advisory Council for their contribution.

Other significant achievements over the past 12 months include; the establishment of formal recognition with postnominal entitlement for successful completion of the College's Primary Examination, hereafter re-named to Primary Dental Sciences examination in recognition of its nature as a stand-alone program; simplification of the pathway to membership for specialist-qualified dentists through the establishment of the qualifications pathway; the development of three new scholarships to support up and coming dentists which will open in late 2022; and the formal establishment of a partnership with Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences in the UAE.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to Dr Christopher Callahan, Dr Peter Gregory, Dr Suzanne Hanlin, Dr Albert Lee and Dr Warren Shnider, who were all awarded Life Fellowship of the College over the past 12 months. All have made significant contributions to the success of the College over the years and are richly deserving of being recognised with the highest honour the College can bestow on an individual. The College also introduced a new award, the *College Service Award*, to recognise individuals who have rendered significant service to the College. My congratulations to Dr Dina Papas who was the inaugural recipient.

In late 2021, following a thorough recruitment process, the Board welcomed two new directors, with Dr Shiu-Yin (Rony) Cho and Mr Tony Evans joining as the College's first appointed directors. Both were recruited to complement the existing directors' skills and experience and have assisted in the College moving to a more skills-based governance approach. They joined existing elected Board Directors A/Professor John Boucher AM, Dr Erin Mahoney, Professor Liz Martin AO, Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant AM, Emeritus Professor Laurie Walsh AO, Dr Susan Wise and Dr Barbara Woodhouse and I thank them all for their work over the past 12 months.

The generosity of members who contribute their time and expertise to assist the College creates the backbone of what happens at the College. Thank you to the Registrars, and Assistant Registrars, the Chairs, and members of the many boards, committees, and working parties who dedicate their time to ensuring the College remains relevant, and education programs are world-class.

Special thanks to the College CEO, Brendan Peek for leading the dedicated team of staff at the College in providing assistance with delivering programs, tutorials, examinations, lectures and more, with both professionalism and timeliness.

I sincerely thank all those Fellows and Members who volunteer their time and knowledge to assist with the operations of the College. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Prof Ian Meyers OAM
President RACDS