

“In the interests of our patients’ care, BAOMS is fully committed to dual degree training of OMFS Consultants in the UK. OMFS is a unique surgical specialty. BAOMS asks all stakeholders to help it develop the unique solutions needed to improve and shorten OMFS training.”

## **Background**

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is a medical specialty that requires dual qualification in both medicine and dentistry. External reviews of our specialty in 2008 (PMETB)<sup>1</sup> and 2013 (GMC)<sup>2</sup>, which included input from our patients, recognised that the scope of care provided by a consultant on the UK GMC OMFS specialist list requires degree level training in both dentistry and medicine. This recognition was unequivocal.

There have been numerous attempts to streamline training, often focused on the potential for a single dental or medical degree to be sufficient or more efficient<sup>3</sup>. This has been discussed extensively within BAOMS. From a 2003 debate, via road shows of 2008, through debates at our annual scientific meetings to our most recent strategy day, BAOMS members<sup>4,5</sup>, fellows<sup>5,6</sup> and their representatives on BAOMS Council<sup>7,8</sup> have repeatedly and overwhelmingly supported our dual degree status whenever the question is raised<sup>3,9</sup>. OMFS is the unique surgical bridge between medicine and dentistry, and the need for dual qualification is recognised internationally<sup>10</sup>.

## **Reason for Oxford Declaration**

BAOMS is committed to streamlining training, but this must not be at the expense of the extensive knowledge that underpins our specialty which is most efficiently delivered by dual qualification in medicine and dentistry. Following the BAOMS 2024 Strategy Day in Oxford, BAOMS plans a range of objectives to improve and shorten dual degree OMFS training. BAOMS Council wants all stakeholders with whom BAOMS will work to understand its unambiguous position on this issue.