Dubai, UAE: From the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoom, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, came the creation of Dubai Healthcare City in Dubai, UAE. The well reputed Professor David Wray comes to the UAE to spearhead the creation of the new Dubai School of Dental Medicine located at Dubai Healthcare City.

Dental Tribune Middle East & Africa: Welcome Professor David Wray, we come across you here at the first ‘Fujairah International Dental Conference’ at the booth of Dubai School of Dental Medicine. How are you doing?

Professor Wray: I’m very well thank you very much, a pleasure to be here.

Professor Wray, could you tell us about yourself, your presence here in Dubai and the opening of the new Dental School of Dental Medicine?

Well, I am Professor David Wray, I’m a UK trained doctor and dentist who’s previously been Dean of the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School in Scotland. And in the middle of the summer of this year [2012] I came to Dubai to open the ‘Dubai School of Dental Medicine’. The Dubai School of Dental Medicine is part of Dubai Healthcare City which, in turn, is the idea and the vision of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoom, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who decided that Dubai, as it emerged into a strong nation, required a strong healthcare infrastructure and hence, created Dubai Healthcare City, and the Dubai School of Dental Medicine is one of the products of that vision. What we have been charged with is setting up the Dental School to train postgraduate students in all the dental specialities, and we have started that process and are taking in our first postgraduate students in January of 2013. We will be offering specialty dental training programs in all the recognized dental specialities.

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"A three year intensive clinical training program with a clear didactic component and a research dissertation"
expectations and that I have not been merely taking what was available but have been able to recruit the highest caliber academics from around the globe—senior academics who are experienced in teaching postgraduate courses and who are also research active on an international level. The local licensing authorities within Dubai Healthcare City are very strict and they demand that, in addition to an academic qualification, like an MSc or a PhD and research activity, academic staff must also have a clinical qualification which is largely regarded as either an ability to get on the Specialist list within the UK or board certification within North America. And of course that would be a minimum standard that we demand for ourselves anyway, it means that out of all the senior academics who inquire about the opportunity of coming to join our faculty, a number of them are disappointed because they don’t have the qualifications necessary to make the cut. But there seems to be plenty of people, not only prepared to come to Dubai to participate in this exciting innovation, but also very keen to come when they see the basis on which the school is being set up and the confidence that they have in coming to an institution where education and standards for both academia and medical care are the priorities. This, of course, exists because this is a government initiative which is not profit making in its aspirations.

Students will be keen to know the tuition fees, what are the packages which you will offer?

The tuition fees in the first instance have been set at a competitive rate which, currently within the region, is $55,000, equating to AED 200,000, per clinical year over a 3 year period. But of course, this is a very reasonable investment because the 3 years in the Dubai School of Dental Medicine is going to be a springboard of which our graduates will launch a successful career either in specialist practice or within academia. And of course a large number of students are obtaining scholarships from various sponsoring organizations. Unfortunately, as things stand at the moment, a number of scholarships are only available to students who are prepared to go overseas to get a suitable postgraduate dental training but that, of course, is a regulation issue which was set up when there were no significant opportunities for postgraduate education within the region, and now that Dubai Dental School of Dental Medicine is up and running we feel confident that those scholarships will be extended to other graduates to come here to the Dubai School of Dental Medicine, having been sponsored by various individuals with a scholarship.

Professor David Wray, a pleasure to speak with you and thank you very much. We wish you all the best with the Dubai School of Dental Medicine.

The School opens doors in January 2013

Dubai School of Dental Medicine (DSDM) is a newly established home-grown dental institution launched to support the UAE community with the finest quality of dental care services and education. Dubai School of Dental Medicine is an institution of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Medical Center at Dubai Healthcare City.

VISION

Dubai School of Dental Medicine will set the standard of excellence and be recognised as a leader in dental education, research and clinical practice.

MISSION

Dubai School of Dental Medicine aims to provide internationally recognised student centered dental education programs that combine advanced didactic, clinical and research training designed to prepare the candidate for a career at the specialist level.

Contact Information

David Wray, MD, FDS, F Med Sci.
Dean & Professor of Oral Medicine
Dubai School of Dental Medicine

Direct: +971 4 424 8601
Fax: +971 4 424 8686
P.O. Box 505097, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
E-mail: david.wray@dsdm.ac.ae
www.dsdm.ac.ae
Dental Tribune Middle East & Africa

Academia is the place for creative minds

Dubai, UAE: Dental Tribune Middle East & Africa interviews Dr. Khaled Abdullah Balto, Professor of Endodontics and Consultant of Micro-Endodontics in King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Saudi Arabia. (Photo courtesy of DTMEA)

Dr. Khaled Abdullah Balto, Professor of Endodontics and Consultant of Micro-Endodontics in King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Saudi Arabia.

by Dental Tribune Middle East & Africa

As Al-Khaimah, UAE: Every long journey begins with a single step. Workshop on Computer Guided Implantology and 3D imaging was organized by RAK College of Dental Sciences, RAKMHSU on 17th January 2013. The workshop was organized as a part of Continuous Medical education (CME) program and was accredited by Ministry of Health, UAE. It also provided meaningful coverage on basics, concepts and controversies related to Computer Guided 3D Implantology.

The opening ceremony for the workshop was attended by Dr. S.Gurumadhva Rao, Vice Chancellor of RAKMHSU and Dr. Jai-meela Alawadi, Vice president of Emirates Dental Society and the deans of the constituent colleges. The event started with a lecture on "Surgical Principles in Oral Implan-tology" by Dr. Vladimir Kokovic, ITI Fellowship and a surgical lecture by Dr. Phillippe Tardieu, Academy of Dental Implantology by Dr. Vladimir Kokovic, ITI Fellow and a surgical lecture by Dr. Phillippe Tardieu, Academy of Dental Implantology. He emphasized the importance of image treatment, implant planning and design surgical guides.

This workshop was attended by private practicing dental specialists and GPs who wish to start working in Computer guided Implantology to improve their skill in this field. Apart from this the workshop was also attended by Dental Interns and students. At the end both the speakers were awarded with mementos by the Dr. Mustaphan Rahman, Dean of RAKC ODS and Dr. S.Gurumadhva Rao, Vice Chancellor of RAKMHSU.

RACKODS is planning to organize similar workshops and CME activities in near future at advanced level for dentists, interns and students. Furthermore as a part of Continuous Medical Education (CME) program another Hand on workshop on Implantology and rotary endodontics will be organized in the Mid of March by RAKC ODS for all the dental specialties, interns and students.

Report Submitted by: Dr. Ebadullah Shafi Member of the Organizing Committee
"I am inspired by the pursuit of excellence and the discovery processes represented by the academic university setting"
Aim high, acquire additional knowledge and training, go for a specialty.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Kahtani: I am Dr. Ahmed Al-Kahtani, Associate Professor of Endodontics and Head of the Division of Endodontics in the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences at the College of Dentistry in King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I am also the President of the Saudi Dental Society.

Please tell us about your role as President of the Saudi Dental Society? Including upcoming SDS events, courses, plans for the coming year and relationship with other dental societies and associations in the Middle East?

SDS continuously holds monthly activities for its members whereby a dental specialist or a dental company is invited to give a seminar on a particular topic of major dental interest. In this way, members gain additional knowledge and also interrelate with each other on a professional level. In January 28th-30th 2013, we will be holding the 24th Saudi Dental Society International Dental Conference at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The three full-day program will feature oral presentations and continuing educational courses given by renowned international speakers. You are all cordially invited to participate in our big event which is held annually.

What about the role SDS plays in the Saudi Dentistry scene?

The Saudi Dental Society is a community of dental professionals. Its mission is to disseminate dental knowledge and concern, promote scientific research and establish a closer relationship amongst its members locally and internationally.

As Associate Professor and Consultant and Head of the Endodontic Division in the College of Dentistry, you must be very busy?

I have always enjoyed my role as academician and play a vital role in the efficient running of the day to day activities of the Endodontic staff and assure that professional objectives are met. As a Consultant, I have always been committed to help people. By being a dentist will enable me to provide the healthcare needs of my countrymen.

How is King Saud University for the Saudi Dentistry?

King Saud University is the first university in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and it has always provided the best education and quality training to almost all the dentists in the Kingdom. Together with the Ministry of Higher Education, it has always been supportive in providing quality instructions in the diverse fields of arts and sciences. They have continually supported its graduates in their pursuit for advanced specialty training abroad and numerous valuable researches.

How does the University differ from other universities in Saudi Arabia and the region?

King Saud university is the first in its rank in the kingdom and also in the middle east. What do you consider an important region specific factor that contributes to the health of the dentistry scene in the Middle East?

In the Middle East, not only in Saudi Arabia, more programs are needed to support the growing needs of the community for quality dental services, providing other facilities and extend health care support in other locations especially for low income regions and population especially the寮ing in the huge number of private Dental Clinics all over the regions that cater to the public who could not all be seen in the dental clinics of the College of Dentistry and several other hospitals.

How many companies are there in Saudi Arabia more or less?

There is a big influence of the dental industry in Saudi Arabia with many more Saudis to pursue careers in the health care that is why King Saud University provided free education to develop and train competent dental professionals.

How big is the influence of the Dental Industry in Saudi Arabia?

As a Consultant, I have always been committed to help people. By being a dentist will enable me to provide the healthcare needs of my countrymen. Some examples of community events you provide? How does this help build your members and participants in the SDS events?

The College of Dentistry of King Saud University in particular not only established several research programs that aims to produce innovative methods and quality researches but with the support of the University now has build the first Dental Hospital in the Kingdom that will continually provide excellent dental health care and community services for the citizens of Saudi Arabia. The construction of the Dental Hospital is underway and will soon be finished. We are anticipating that the University will continually support our goals.

How is the school adapting to the changing professional market?

The Kingdom never cease to encouraged more Saudis to pursue careers in the health care that is why King Saud University provided free education to develop and train competent dental professionals.

How big is the influence of the Dental Industry in Saudi Arabia?

There is a big influence of the dental industry in Saudi Arabia equally to that of the medical industry. This is why the University supported the College of Dentistry in establishing the Dental Hospital which will serve the public very soon. This is only in addition to the huge number of private Dental Clinics all over the regions that cater to the public who could not all be seen in the dental clinics of the College of Dentistry and several other hospitals.

How many companies are there in Saudi Arabia more or less?

I believe there are more or less 100 dental companies alone in Saudi Arabia. They are either companies officially distributing dental products and materials abroad or manufacturing locally materials or products used in dentistry.

How many dentists operate in Saudi Arabia more or less?

In the Saudi Dental Society membership alone, we have a list of 7833 dentists on
We Welcome you to the 24th Saudi Dental Society International Dental Conference

In tandem with their recent accredited success, Dr. Ahmed Al-Kahtani, President of the Saudi Dental Society, presents an open invitation to their upcoming 24th Saudi Dental Society International Dental Conference at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center on January 28-30, 2013.

First of all, I would like to thank you for your wholehearted support that made the Saudi Dental Society the “1st Scientific Society according to the results of evaluating the performance efficiency 1431-1432AH”. We definitely cannot receive this award without your help.

Secondly, I am inviting you once again to participate in our 24th Saudi Dental Society International Dental Conference that will take place at Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center on January 28-30, 2013. The joint collaborative effort of the last King Saud University’s 14th International Dental Conference, the 23rd for the Saudi Dental Society, was totally a tremendous success with an enormous attendance.

Our international speakers for this year’s conference will be of different specializations, with the latest and highest technological aspects applied in the dental fields that will be shared to all the participants attending this conference. Advanced Continuing Education Courses will also be given to our General Practitioners, Dentists, Students, Dental Assistants, Technicians and Hygienists for further information about their vocations.

Other highlight of this conference will be the Research Award’s Competition whose candidates will be coming from the Graduate Students, Young Dentists, Interns and Students who will participate in the three different categories of the competition. Poster Sessions that will run from Monday to Wednesday will be held along the corridors of Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center. Medical and Dental Companies will also be participating in this conference by promoting their most up-to-date medical and dental equipment. Staff of the different companies with their own expertise will be demonstrating their latest and most modern medical and dental products.

Again, I will be expecting your full support and cooperation to make this conference a fruitful and successful one.