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# Dean'S Update

Mills, I

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# DEAN'S UPDATE



**IAN MILLS**  
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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GENERALIST HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN RECOGNISED, AND AS GDPs, WE HAVE PERHAPS BEEN CONSIDERED AS THE 'JACK OF ALL TRADES'. THAT IS UNFAIR AND I AM INCREASINGLY MADE AWARE THAT MANY OF OUR PROFESSION ARE "MASTERS IN GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE" WITH SKILLS WHICH HAVE BREADTH AND DEPTH.

Spring has certainly sprung, and I trust no-one will be relaxing beside the fire, as I suggested in my previous article. Instead I hope you are sitting in the spring sunshine (albeit with the appropriate precautions) reading the latest edition of *PDJ*.

Once again, I will offer my congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Igor, his editorial team and the corresponding authors who have contributed to such an interesting and highly relevant group of articles resulting in another high-quality edition of our journal. The 2019 spring edition includes an eclectic mix of articles which address a range of issues. Although these issues may seem disparate in nature, they have at least one thing in common – they are problems frequently encountered in everyday practice.

Repair of failing restorations; antibiotic prescribing; dentine hypersensitivity and the cracked tooth, are some of the challenges which GDPs face on a daily basis, and the management of such conditions is key in providing high quality care for our patients. Two additional papers provide an interesting and thought provoking perspective on issues which are becoming increasingly relevant in practice; private practice pricing and development of dentists with enhanced skills.

Such a range of topics give some indication of the varied issues which a dental professional may face in practice, but also provides insight into the breadth

of knowledge required to work as a "generalist". This variety is undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable aspects of working in general dental practice, ensuring that no two days are ever the same – no matter how much we would occasionally like them to be!

The importance of the generalist has not always been recognised, and as GDPs, we have perhaps been considered as the "Jack of all trades". That is unfair and I am increasingly made aware that so many of our profession are indeed "masters in general dental practice" with an enviable portfolio of skills which have breadth and depth. This was reinforced last month when I attended both the Diplomates Ceremony and the FDGP (UK) Annual Dinner, and I was fortunate to meet so many inspirational colleagues who have excelled within our profession.

The foundation of a Royal College of General Dentistry will undoubtedly raise the profile of those working in general dental practice and provide the appropriate academic home for all dental care professionals. Establishment of the new College of General Dentistry (CGDent) is progressing well, albeit slowly, and a detailed update will be provided at our AGM in Birmingham on 7 June. I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and at the various FGDP study days which have been organised across the UK.

