

## Adrian Curtis Bio

I graduated BDS, from Queens Belfast in December 1990. After two years of Oral Surgery training across Ulster I moved to England in 1993. After a further two years of OMFS SHO jobs in Bedfordshire and Dorset I achieved old style FDS in 1995.

At this point I knew I did not want to go to medical school as I was not interested in a career in OMFS, I wanted a career in Oral Surgery. This was a difficult if not impossible career path to follow outside academia at that time. The position of Staff Grade, however, looked like a way forward. I chose my final SHO job in Chichester, to gain more experience of skin surgery, as I felt that was necessary before applying for a staff grade role. Chichester also had an Oral Surgery staff grade (a rare thing back in the mid-1990s), and I used him as a mentor whilst I sought an Oral Surgery Staff Grade Position.

I was appointed staff grade at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire in January 1997, being upgraded to Associate Specialist in 2002, as part of a local service redesign.

I was grandfathered on to the Surgical Dentistry specialist list in the first cohort of mediated entries in 2000. This list was amalgamated with the oral Surgery list by the GDC in 2005, after lobbying from this association and other interested parties. We all finally became Oral Surgeons.

As an SAS grade in our Trust for nearly 25 years I have taken on many other roles.

Initially these were low key roles such as appraiser, SAS lead for our unit, and audit lead.

In 2008, I was appointed Clinical Director for Oral Surgery and Orthodontics and undertook this role for 9 years. In that time, we expanded both the Oral Surgery and Orthodontic provision, and established a part time Consultant in Restorative Dentistry.

Towards the end of my tenure as Clinical Director, along with another Associate Specialist colleague (Simon Moore), we established our successful Oral Surgery Training programme. I currently act as Educational Supervisor for one Specialist trainee, and as Clinical supervisor of another trainee. We have already had one trainee complete the programme, who is now working with our team as a LTFT specialist..

I first became involved in the precursors to BAOS, when the first meeting of Non Consultant Career Grades (NCCGs), as we were then known was convened in Nottingham in the Spring of 1998. This group joined with BASD in the early 2000s, and finally morphed into BAOS in 2003. I achieved my place on Council in 2020, cementing over 20 years of involvement with the group.

It can be easy to let your career stagnate if you are in an SAS role.

I think that it is possible to use it as a career choice and keep your career active. Realistically, with Consultant numbers so low in the speciality, if you want a hospital career, it is the role you will most likely be appointed to.

I tell our current SAS grades to keep looking for different things to do. With clinical practice there is the option of iMOS or independent oral surgery practice.

I see the three main choices outside of clinical practice as

- Leadership & Management
- Medical Education
- Medical Politics

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I encourage all of our SAS grades to look at these options, and try to get them to put something related to them in their PDPs during the appraisal process. Using the PDP is a way to ensure career progression.