

## BAOS Feature

### Shaping the Future of Oral Surgery: Reflections and Forward Focus

BAOS continues its mission to promote excellence in oral surgery through education, clinical leadership, and professional support. We are pleased to reflect on the resounding success of our March 2025 Annual Scientific Conference, held in Newport, which brought together colleagues from across the UK for a stimulating and collaborative event.

The conference featured an impressive programme of expert-led sessions addressing current challenges and innovations in oral surgery, ranging from the management of medically complex patients and advances in sedation practice to digital surgical planning and evolving NHS commissioning.

The high level of engagement, particularly from early career professionals, reaffirmed the strength and relevance of our community.

### Promoting the Specialty: A Strategic Focus

As demand for oral surgery continues to grow across both primary and secondary care, BAOS remains focused on advocating for the specialty's vital role within the wider healthcare system. Key priorities include:

- Championing specialist-led care and timely referral pathways
- Supporting equitable and sustainable service commissioning
- Strengthening national training frameworks to meet workforce needs

We continue to work closely with NHS England, educational bodies, and other stakeholders to ensure the specialty is recognised, resourced, and integrated as a core component of oral healthcare provision.

### Supporting Our Members: Education, Engagement and Advocacy

At the heart of BAOS's work is a commitment to member support and professional development.

In 2025, we have continued to expand our member offerings, including:

- **BAOS Webinars:** Held regularly throughout the year, our webinars offer free, CPD-accredited learning opportunities on a broad range of clinical and professional topics. From managing complex extractions to navigating medico-legal considerations, these sessions are designed to be practical, up-to-date, and accessible. All webinar recordings are available on demand via the members' portal.
- **Mentorship and Career Support:** Structured support for trainees, SAS colleagues, and those new to the specialty, including mentoring opportunities and career development resources.
- **Research and Funding:** Ongoing funding schemes and platforms for members to showcase research and innovation within oral surgery.
- **Policy and Representation:** BAOS continues to represent the specialty at national policy discussions, ensuring your voice is heard in the decisions shaping the future of healthcare delivery.

We thank all our members for their continued engagement and dedication to oral surgical excellence. Your participation strengthens the association and helps drive forward the specialty at every level.



**Sarah Jadun**  
**BAOS Council Member**

### BAOS Conference Success!

April 2025 saw the BAOS conference return to Wales for the first time in over 10 years. The organisation of our annual conference is a huge undertaking for BAOS Council members and a great deal of thought and discussion goes into every aspect of the conference, from the location, the venue, the lecture programme to the social events.

As our organisation has grown, so has our conference, but with this success comes additional challenges as we need to find a venue large enough to accommodate our numbers. This was particularly an issue when looking for a venue in Wales that also needed to be as close as possible to transport links for our delegates. Luckily, the Celtic Manor Resort was the perfect venue and 2025 saw our largest ever number of delegates! I am pleased to say that the feedback forms we received from our conference has been excellent with 399 out of 404 responders being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” overall with the event.

Our focus now has to move onto the next conference and our challenge is to try to match the success of this year! Part of our job will be to look at the feedback provided and assess whether we can incorporate any of the suggestions into the 2026 conference. However, I would ask all members to be mindful that “one size does not fit all” and so some parts of the conference may not be 100% relevant to your clinical practice, but I hope you will come along with an open mind and enjoy learning about topics that you may not otherwise get access to! BAOS are also keen to continue providing the social events as part of the conference as we feel these are invaluable networking opportunities for all delegates. The informal event this year was great fun with lots of activities and it was great to see so many people enjoying the evening, and the formal dinner is the ideal opportunity to highlight the successful entries in the Open Paper and Poster Competitions.

However, for the conference to continue to be a success, BAOS need our members to continue to support the organisation and I really hope to see you all at The Hilton Metropole in Birmingham on March 25 - 27 next year!



**Rhian Jones**  
**BAOS President**

## New Oral Surgery specialist examination

The Tri-Collegiate Membership in Oral Surgery (MOraISurg) is the existing speciality examination in Oral Surgery. Upon successful completion, candidates may consider sitting the Intercollegiate Speciality Fellowship Examination (ISFE) to attain Fellowship status. The final first sitting of the MOraISurg and ISFE is planned for Spring 2026 and Spring 2028 respectively, with an additional window allocated for re-sits. (see Figure 1)

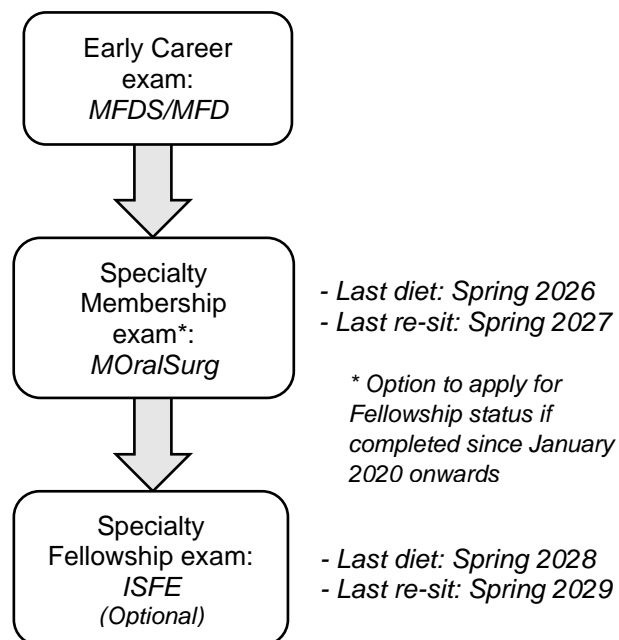
This is being replaced by a new intercollegiate Dental Speciality Fellowship examination (DSFE), set to commence in Autumn 2026. The DSFE will cover ten dental specialities, including Oral Surgery (F(OS)). To be eligible to sit this exam, candidates must have been awarded MFDS/MFD (see Figure 2). The intention of the DSFE is to ensure an appropriate assessment strategy which aligns with the recently updated GDC curriculum. The curriculum change provided a timely opportunity to revise the examination process.

The structure of the new exam will include a 'Single Best Answers' paper, followed by a 'Clinical Structured Oral' component. Completion of the standardised Fellowship examination will demonstrate satisfactory knowledge for specialist listing, ensuring the highest standards of patient care.

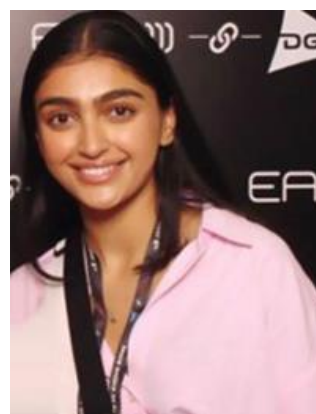
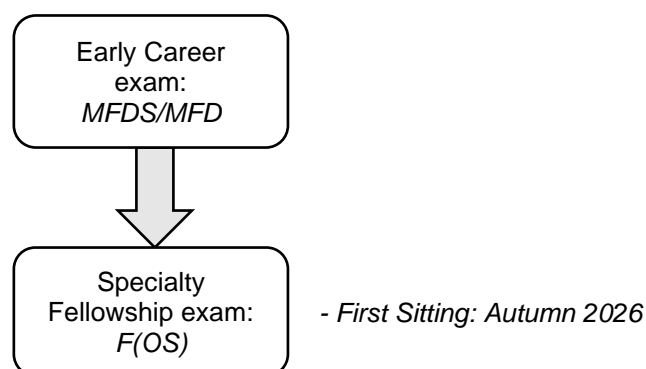
For existing specialists who have passed the MOraISurg exam since January 2020, there is an option to convert their Membership to Fellowship status. This conversion requires payment of an election fee, as well as an increased annual subscription fee. Additional benefits, as outlined on the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh website, include: eligibility to apply for a broader range of fellowships, awards, prizes, lectureships, research opportunities, professorships, and the possibility to undertake more senior roles within the College reserved for Fellows.

However, it's important to note that the post-nominals of MOraISurg are deemed equivalent to the F(OS). Therefore, conversion to Fellowship status is optional, and individuals should consider whether this step is necessary for their professional goals.

**Figure 1:** Summarises the existing speciality examination in Oral Surgery



**Figure 2:** Summarises the new speciality examination in Oral Surgery



**Richa Arya**  
**BAOS Trainee Rep**