Saudi Specialty Certificate in Prosthodontics
SSC – Dent (Prosth)

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I. Introduction

As the adult population in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia increases, there will be a proportional increase in the need for high quality prosthodontic care. Consequently, the demand for highly trained prosthodontists becomes evident. There are currently about 7000 dentists in Saudi Arabia. Of this number there are less than 300 prosthodontists – grossly inadequate for the present demands of Saudi patients. More significantly, Saudi prosthodontists constitute less than 20% of those in this specialty! There is therefore a very urgent need to mount a high quality specialty training program in Prosthodontics. Graduates of the Saudi Specialty Certificate in Prosthodontics [SSC-Dent (Prosth)] program will provide such optimal prosthodontic care.

The Saudi Specialty Certificate in Prosthodontics [SSC-Dent (Prosth)] program is a four-year training program that offers didactic, clinical and laboratory training in the field of prosthodontics.

II. Program Objectives

The educational objectives of the Saudi Specialty Certificate in Prosthodontics program are:

- Provide the residents with basic and advanced knowledge in prosthodontics.
- Provide the residents with the ability to examine, diagnose, plan and execute simple as well as complex prosthetic dental care for a wide variety of patients including fixed, removable, implant and maxillofacial cases.
- Acquire the necessary skills to interact with other dental specialists and communicate, understand and function effectively with other health care professionals.
- Acquire experience in executing prosthodontic laboratory procedures relevant to the clinical cases.
- Keep abreast with the basic principles of dental practice management.
- To qualify certified Prosthodontists who are clinically competent in providing the highest standard of care.

III. Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission into the SSC-Dent (Prosth) training program should fulfill the following requirements:

- A Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree (BDS) or equivalent from a recognized university
- Successful completion of an internship year in general dentistry (12 months)
- Pass the comprehensive dental selection examination set by Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.
- Provision of at least three confidential recommendation letters from consultants as to the suitability of the applicant for training which must include a letter from the candidate's immediate supervisor.
• Letter of no objection from the applicant's sponsor indicating that the applicant can be in a full time training program for the entire period of 4 years.
• Applicant should be registered with the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties as trainee.
• Applicant should pay the application and training fees.
• Signed obligation to abide by the rules and regulations of the training program and the SSC-Dent (Prosth).

IV. Program Content

The didactic, laboratory, and the clinical training are integrated into the program. Prosthodontic clinical training continues throughout the entire program duration.

a. Didactic

i. Basic Science Courses

Basic biomedical and bio dental sciences are designed to cover in-depth topics including Anatomy – Oral Pathology – Pharmacology – Practice Management – Biostatistics – Research Design Methodology and Scientific Writing – Educational Methods – Biomaterials – Health Administration. In addition, a certification in basic life support is required.

1) Applied Head & Neck Anatomy

This course will review salient anatomical structures of the head and neck as applied to dentistry to reflect significant clinical considerations. Topics covered include, but are not limited to: the facial skeleton, muscles of the face and mastication, the mouth, oro-pharynx, larynx, blood vessels, lymphatic and nerve supply of the oral cavity and of the salivary glands.

2) Clinical Oral Pathology

This course is intended to cover the basic principles of the pathology of the head and neck region. In particular, the jaws and contiguous soft tissues and their relationship to systemic diseases are reviewed.

3) Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology

This course provides residents with the knowledge of radiation physics, radiation biology, hazards and protection, advanced imaging techniques and diagnostic oral radiology. Emphasis will be placed on developing the residents’ ability and skills in analyzing and interpreting radiographic findings.
4) **Pharmacology**

This course is designed to review medications and other therapeutic agents most frequently used, drug interactions and therapy in medically compromised patients.

5) **Practice Management**

This course will include issues related to the management of auxiliaries and other office personnel, maintenance and management of patient records and quality assessment as well as quality assurance. In addition, principles of peer review and business management, including an understanding of third party payment and professional practice development will be covered. Finally, methods of infection control and environmental health management, principles of professional ethics and alternative health care delivery systems are also taught.

6) **Dental Biomaterials**

This course will provide residents with the basic physical, biomechanical and optical properties necessary to properly select and manipulate various dental materials used in relation to prosthodontics.

7) **Research Design, Methodology and Scientific Writing**

Topics cover scientific theories, definition of terms, research systems and problems, design of experimental research and evaluation of research data. The course is given in a lecture format. A broad spectrum of topics including information retrieval systems, critique of published data, scientific expression and terminology will be covered. Residents are introduced to the preparation of scientific papers, writing of manuscripts, writing research proposals, grant applications and reviewing of such applications.

8) **Biostatistics**

This course covers basic and intermediate statistical concepts, definitions and methods commonly applied to research or data analysis. Topics include types of variables, frequency distribution, sampling methods, and measures of central tendency. In addition, the measures of dispersion, various parametric and non parametric statistical tests analysis and probability will be covered.

9) **Educational Methods**

The resident, regardless of his/her future professional aspiration, will learn how to teach and impart knowledge and will therefore be integrated into the supervision and teaching of undergraduate and junior residents in the program. Topics include the nature of learning and teaching, curriculum development, instructional objectives, instructional media, audio-visual teaching and learning aids and assessment methods for knowledge, skills and attitude.
ii. Specialty Courses

Clinical training will be combined with specialty courses that are planned and directed by members of the attending staff and conducted on a weekly basis. Such activities can be implemented in the form of lectures, seminars, literature review, case presentation and treatment planning.

Topics to be covered are:

1) Fixed Prosthodontics
2) Removable Prosthodontics
3) Dental Implant Prosthodontics
4) Maxillofacial Prosthodontics
5) Occlusion
6) Geriodontics
7) Classic and current Literature in Prosthodontics
8) Prosthodontic Book Review
9) Multi-disciplinary Treatment Planning Seminar

b. Laboratory Component

Residents will enroll in preclinical exercises simulating clinical procedures to refine their clinical skills prior to treating patients.

c. Clinical Training

Prosthodontic Clinic (R1, R2, R3, R4)

In the context of providing comprehensive prosthetic dental care, the program includes advanced clinical training in removable, fixed, implant and maxillofacial prosthodontics. For each of these disciplines, there will be a sufficient number and variety of cases to ensure adequate training of the resident. The resident is expected to increase his/her knowledge and ability in the management of a wide range of prosthetic difficulties and at the same time, fully understand the role of the specialist in treating a variety of complex conditions.

Residents will, through a formally structured and documented program, provide comprehensive prosthetic care (as opposed to episodic, emergency, referred specialty or one-time care) for a significant number of patients who present with complex restorative treatment needs.

The program will be structured to permit the resident to exercise independent judgment beyond that expected in the pre-doctoral curriculum. Residents will be assigned patients who present increasingly difficult problems and will be given increasingly greater clinical responsibility as they progress in their advanced training.
Residents will be required to successfully complete a minimum of:

1. **Complete Denture**
   - Total 40 Units*
     - [* “units” refer to appliances and prostheses*]

   a. Conventional Complete Dentures 20 units
   b. Over dentures (natural teeth)
      i. Conventional 10 units
      ii. with attachment 4 units
   c. Immediate Dentures 6 units

2. **Removable Partial Denture**
   - Total 50 Units

   a. Conventional Cr-Co RPD*
      - 40 units
      - It should include:
        i. Kennedy Class I (minimum 12 units)
        ii. With Surveyed Crown (minimum 12 units)
        iii. With Attachment (minimum 6 units)
   b. Rotational path RPD 1 unit
   c. Transitional RPD 9 units

3. **Fixed prosthodontics units**
   - Total 350 Units

   a. Single crowns
      i. Full metal (minimum 10 units)
      ii. PFM (minimum 50 units)
      iii. All-ceramic (minimum 40 units)
   b. Fixed partial dentures
      i. PFM (minimum 100 units)
      ii. All-ceramic (minimum 10 units)
   c. Porcelain Veneers (minimum 40 units)
   d. Cast post and cores
      i. Direct Technique (minimum 25 units)
      ii. Indirect Technique (minimum 25 units)

4. **Implants**

   a. Single crowns (minimum 10 units)
   b. Fixed partial dentures
      i. Fixed/fixed (cemented) (minimum 2 prostheses)
      ii. Fixed/removable(Screw-retained) (minimum 2 prostheses)
   c. Implant-retained over dentures (minimum 6 prostheses)
5. **Comprehensive full mouth rehabilitation**
   a. A minimum of two full mouth rehabilitation cases which include crowns and fixed partial dentures
   b. A minimum of two full mouth rehabilitation cases which include crowns and fixed partial dentures and at least one removable prosthesis
   c. A minimum of two full mouth implant rehabilitation cases

6. **TMD’s**
   4 occlusal therapy appliance

7. **Maxillofacial Prosthesis**
   2 cases (patient availability)

*(Students are required to complete a minimum of 30% of all he requirement to be eligible for Part I exam)*

V. **Program Duration**

The Saudi Specialty Certificate in Prosthodontics program (SSC-Prosth) is a program which extends over a period of four years.

VII. **Evaluation**

a. **Resident Evaluation**

   i. **Periodic Evaluation**

   A periodic formal evaluation of the student during their residency program will be implemented. This is to determine whether they are meeting the qualitative and quantitative standards the program. Documentation of the program progress and all resident activities must be maintained by the program director and should always be available for review.

   ii. **Clinical Evaluation**

   - Resident should provide evidence of completion of clinical cases in fulfillment of the minimum requirements. (E.g. Log Book, Digital photo for the Clinical procedures)

   - An annual comprehensive oral and written examination in basic science and various prosthetic subjects will be held at the end of each year.
iii. Examinations

- Part I exam can be held after the first year provided that the resident has completed a minimum of 30% of the clinical requirements in the program and has the approval of the program scientific committee. According to the regulation of the Saudi Commission.

- Part II exam (Graduation Exam) this exam will be held after the completion of 4 years training. The resident should also fulfill all clinical requirements and obtain the approval of the program scientific committee.

VII. Certification

The successful candidate will be awarded a Certificate in the Saudi Specialty of Prosthodontics upon satisfactory completion of all the program requirements as well as the final certificate examination.

VII. Program Training Centers

The Saudi Specialty Certificate in Prosthodontics program [SSC-Dent (Prosth)] is governed by the rules and regulations of the Saudi Council for Health Specialties (SCHS). The program will be conducted at various training centers which are accredited by the SCHS. The accreditation procedure is conducted by a committee according to the criteria of the SCHS. In addition, the following requirements should be taken into consideration:

- The training center must provide a readily accessible facility for comprehensive dental treatment.
- The training center should have resources sufficient for the training of residents.
- The training center must also provide full and comprehensive laboratory support.
- Partially accredited centers should seek affiliation with other institution to fulfill the SCHS requirements.
- Residents assigned to a specific training center must have clinical privileges and are subject to the rules and regulations of the training center.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of course</th>
<th>No. of teaching hours 1st Year</th>
<th>No. of teaching hours 2nd Year</th>
<th>No. of teaching hours 3rd Year</th>
<th>No. of teaching hours 4th Year</th>
<th>Total hours in every course</th>
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230

* Table shows teaching hours for various subjects. Residents are not examined in individual subjects. Rather, they are assessed in an over-all, integrated examination according to SCHS regulations.
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