

To all BAOMS members and Associate Fellows and SAS colleagues working in OMFS departments across the NHS in all 4 nations!

Hesham Emam and Vinita Shekar, two of our active Associate Fellows, are offering support and advice for SAS and Trust Grade dentists working in OMFS units who may be or already have been re-deployed outside their normal roles. Please share this message with colleagues.

Hesham is a Specialty Doctor in OMFS along with his additional role as a part-time primary care practitioner. Outside clinical work he is an invited member on the Faculty of Dental Surgery Board as SAS representative, a member of the SAS committee of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges representing Faculty of Dental Surgery, SAS representative on the Central Committee of Hospital Dental Services of the BDA, the local BMA negotiating committee.

Vinita works full time as a specialty doctor in OMFS and represents SAS doctors/dentists in OMFS on BAOMS Council. Outside her clinical work she is an Educational Advisor (SAS Tutor) for SAS for Doctors and Dentists in NHS Tayside. She is also chair of SAS committee of the Royal college of Surgeons of England representing SAS doctors in all 10 surgical specialties. Like Hesham she is also member of SAS Committee of Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. Within NHS Tayside she is part of Teaching and Training Medical Group led by Director of Medical Education.

In the current circumstances and challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic facing all NHS staff, the SAS and Trust dentists working in hospitals may be in the unusual position of being moved from a work environment where the demand exceed their skills, to a new and unknown territory. There has been a flood of dazzling information and correspondences from all directions at a local, national and international levels, bombarding us with an ever changing and updating list of guidelines related to patient care and personal safety. If added to the broadcasted media as well as social media frenzy, it forms a huge messy cloud of data, which creates a significant level of confusion and anxiety. We totally appreciate and understand the pressure our SAS and Trust dentists are feeling during those unprecedented times and circumstance, especially with the significant disruption of their clinical work, the uncertainty resulting from hospital workforce planning and reconfiguration.

In the light of current circumstances, we would advice that as hospital SAS and Trust dentists, who are practicing at the front line, should focus their attention on the individual trust/health-board local guidelines along with guidelines released from the bodies and societies relevant to your own practice. The clinical leads should remain your first point of contact, as they will help co-ordinate the recommendations made by your own trust/health, and specialty guidelines in their capacity of being COVID Leads for OMFS.

In addition, we would be happy to listen to any concerns raised by our SAS colleagues and Associate Fellows and offer support and advice via the Associate Fellows discussion forum. For those who are not members of BAOMS, we can be contacted via the BAOMS office.

Finally, we wish you all the very best during these challenging times. Stay safe and stay well.

Sincerely Yours

Hesham Emam, BAOMS Associate Fellow
Vinita Shekar, BAOMS Associate Fellows and BAOMS Associate Fellow rep on Council

Link to Associate Fellows website page and discussion forum:
https://www.baoms.org.uk/professionals/associate_fellows.aspx

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