Alumni profiles - Bhupinder Gupta

Bachelor of Dental Surgery, 2003

Associate Dentist, Wolverhampton
Currently gaining experience in dental implatology

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How has your career has developed since graduating from the University of Birmingham?

I've had a positive and active career since graduating. I was lucky to stay on in my current practice after completing my foundation training. Soon after graduating, I completed the MFGDP(UK) diploma with the FGDP faculty. Having a supportive team at work, I've almost been like a partner of the practice and helped develop and shape the practice ethos over the years, including private plans for patients, clinical governance and more recently, complying with Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulations.

I returned to the Birmingham Dental School about 4 years ago to study a MSc in Advanced General Practice on a part-time basis. This course developed my clinical skills to a new understanding and ability. Following this, I completed a foundation training programme in dental implantology. During my time at the practice and in Wolverhampton, I have helped develop professional local networks. For example, my friends and I resurrected the local British Dental Association section and we have been volunteering our time after work to run presentations, courses, and social events for local colleagues.

My degree has opened a path for on-going learning, skill enhancement and establishing myself in the local community. Its hard work but thoroughly enjoyable!

What is the best thing about the job you are doing now?

The people I meet and work with make my job so rewarding. I know that sounds clichéd, but its so true! I get to meet people from wide range of backgrounds and ages. No day is ever the same (I truly mean that!)

Working in a small family oriented dental practice, I know my patients really well. It still amazes me how as oral healthcare professionals, we can make such an impact on an individual's life, from getting them out of pain to improving their smile I have a brilliant, supportive team behind me to make the whole process that little bit easier!

Why did you originally apply to do Dentistry at Birmingham?

There were many reasons why I applied to the University of Birmingham. The fact that the Dental School and University had an excellent reputation was a big influence. I heard really good feedback from former students when I was applying for the course. Birmingham also has a great social life for students, with so much to see and do. The central location of the University and Dental School made it easier to meet up with school friends who went to different universities and seeing my family.

What did you think were the best points of the Dental Surgery degree and the University?

The teaching and support staff were incredible! I can honestly say that I wouldn't have achieved so much during my undergraduate years if I didn't have the support and encouragement from all those that taught me during my degree. I also love the fact that the Dental School and University are constantly evolving, updating the course, equipment and techniques.

During my time at Birmingham, I've met some great people, some whom I can call role models and mentors, made friends for life and have some memorable moments that I'll treasure for the rest of my life.

What advice would you give to current students studying on the course?

Prepare to work hard, but have lots of fun too! Don't give up! The staff are there to help you and they truly want you to succeed. They just want to make sure you achieve your full capabilities. The more you put in, the more rewarding the course. Also, organise your time well.

How did you grow as a person by studying at University? Did it change your life in any way?

I learned a lot about myself and about the world around me. It helped shape my beliefs, values and goals in life, and sowed the seeds to help develop my independence and confidence as an individual.

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