



Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee |

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*Compiled by: Pamela Abela
SAC registrar non-medical*

*Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee
Office of the Superintendent of Public Health
Department for Health Regulations
Triq il-Kappillan Mifsud,
Santa venera SVP 1851,
Malta.
e-mail: sac.dental@gov.mt*

March 2026

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DENTAL SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE (DSAC) |

The Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee (DSAC) continued to strengthen its regulatory role in the field of dental specialist education and recognition throughout 2025.

The Committee's work focused on the assessment and processing of applications for specialist recognition in accordance with the Health Care Professions Act and Directive 2005/36/EC.

Particular attention was given to governance and procedural matters, ensuring that processes remained compliant with the applicable legal framework while safeguarding trainees' rights and legitimate expectations.

FUNCTION OF THE SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE |

The Specialist Accreditation Committee is established by Art. 30 of the Health Care Professions Act 2003 (Cap. 464). Article 30(6)(a) specifies that the functions of the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall be:

- To issue Certificates of Completion of Specialist Training in the specialities listed in the relevant part of the Fifth Schedule, upon the fulfilment of criteria recommended by the relevant Professional Associations listed in the Fourth Schedule within three months from the date of receipt of the application or from the day any documentation which the Committee may request, whichever is the latter.
- To advise the Minister and the relevant Council on issues concerning Specialist Training and registration, and any other matter that may be referred to it.
- To act as the advisory body for training in any of the special areas of practice.
- To accredit post-graduate training programmes.
- To levy such fees for accreditation, as may be prescribed.

COMPOSITION OF DSAC |

In accordance with Article 30(2) of the Health Care Professions Act, the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- a) One member appointed by the relevant Council.
- b) One member, not being a member of the relevant Council, appointed by the Dean of the relevant Faculty or Director of the relevant Institute of the University of Malta.
- c) One member, not being a member of the relevant Council, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Health.
- d) One member, not being a member of the relevant Council, appointed by each of the relevant Professional Associations.

The members of the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall be so appointed for a term of three years and may be re-appointed for a further term or terms. The members of the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall, every three years, elect a Chairperson from among themselves.

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SUBSTITUTES OF THE DSAC |

Chairperson (2021)

Dr Adam Bartolo *BChD (Melit.), MSc Pharmacology (Melit.), MClintDent Implantology (London), Dip.MJDF, Dip.MFGDP (UK), MFDS RCS (Eng.), FCGDent (UK), FEA Oral Surgery & Implantology*

Medical Council

Representative: Dr David Muscat *BDS (London)*

Substitute: Dr Christian Satariano *BChD (Melit.)*

Faculty of Dental Surgery of the University of Malta

Representative: Prof. Gabriella Gatt *BChD (Melit.), MSc (London), PhD (Melit.)*

Substitute: Dr Anne-Marie Agius *BChD Dental Surgery (Melit.), MSc Dental Public Health (Manchester), PhD (Melit.)*

Superintendence of Public Health

Representative: Dr Alexandra Betts *BChD, MPhil, FRCPath, FMCPPath*

Substitute: Dr Timothy Vella Briffa *BChD, MSc, MJDF RCS (Eng.), MOS RCS (Eng.)*

Dental Association of Malta

Representative: Dr Adam Bartolo *BChD (Melit.), MSc Pharmacology (Melit.), MClintDent Implantology (London), Dip.MJDF, Dip.MFGDP (UK), MFDS RCS (Eng.), FCGDent (UK), FEA Oral Surgery & Implantology*

Substitute: Dr Nicholas Busuttil Dougall *BChD (Melit.), MFDS RCS (Ed.), MSc Oral Implantology (Frankfurt)*

Malta College of Dental Surgeons

Representative: Dr Brendan Cini *BChD (Melit.), MSc Clinical Endodontics (UK), MFDS RCS (Ed.)*

Substitute: Dr Christian Gauci *BChD (Melit.), MSc Oral Implantology (Frankfurt)*

Malta Dental Specialists Association

Representative: Dr James Galea *BChD, FDS RCS (Eng.)*

Substitute: Dr Nicolas Bezzina *BChD, MFDS RCS (Eng.), PGDip, MOS RCS (Ed.)*

Registrar

Pamela Abela *BSc (Nursing Studies), MA (Digital Arts)*

MEETING & ATTENDANCE |

Throughout the year meetings were held both virtually and physically. Virtual meetings were held through the MITA approved virtual platform of Microsoft Teams. Dr. Adam Bartolo as Chairperson of the Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee attended all the meetings of the Committee.

Special Accreditation Committee for Dentists												
Member from	Attendance / 2025											
	17 01	08 02	11 04	09 05	13 06	11 07	08 08	15 09	17 10	21 11	28 11	12 12
Malta College of Dental Surgeons		y		y	y							
Dental Association of Malta	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
University of Malta	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
SPH	y		y		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Medical Council	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y

BACKGROUND & VISION |

During 2025, the Dental SAC continued its work on regulating specialist training pathways whilst ensuring compliance with regulatory and legal frameworks. They reviewed and processed applications for specialist recognition.

Key priorities included:

- Strengthening governance structures
- Ensuring transparency and consistency in assessment processes
- Supporting the development and accreditation of postgraduate training programmes.

APPLICATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE DENTAL TRAINING PROGRAM |

1. Registrations:

Oral Surgery – 0 applications

Orthodontics – 1 application

2. Progression:

Oral Surgery – 0 applications

Orthodontics – 1 application

3. Total number of registered trainees:

Oral Surgery – 0 trainees

Orthodontics – 2 trainees

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION |

1. Certificate of General Professional Training (CCGPT)

During the year 2025, a total of four (4) trainees were assessed. One application was in progress from 2024. Of these, three (3) certificates were awarded, one (1) application remained pending.

2. Certificate of Completion for Specialist Training (CCST)

In progress from previous years:

Oral Surgery – 0 applications

Orthodontics – 0 application

Received this year:

Oral Surgery – 0 applications

Orthodontics – 0 application

3. Specialist Registration Applications:

In progress from previous years:

Oral Surgery – none

Orthodontics – 2 incomplete applications (Dr Racha Hariri & Dr Andreia Estrela)

Received this year:

Oral Surgery – 1 received and in process (Dr Rohini Kanitkar)

Orthodontics – 0 received

APPEALS |

Ongoing – none

Opened this year - none

MEETING OUTCOMES & CONCLUSION |

In 2025, the Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee continued to develop and consolidate its regulatory and advisory functions.

The Committee focused on:

- Extensive work in relation to postgraduate training at Mater Dei Hospital
- Enhancing governance and legal compliance
- Strengthening assessment mechanisms
- Improving coordination with training institutions
- Promoting transparency and consistency in specialist accreditation processes

The DSAC remains committed to ensuring that specialist training and accreditation in dentistry are conducted in a fair and legally compliant manner.