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Committed to Dental Excellence

11 March 2011

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad
Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
New Delhi 110 001

Hon'ble Minister, Sir

The Indian Dental Association (IDA), headquartered in Mumbai, is the recognized body of dental professionals in the country. Its primary aim is to promote optimal oral health in the country and safeguard the interests of its members by promoting their career advancement.

It is quite heartening to know that there is increasing interest to reintroduce the mandatory year long internship in the dental college curriculum once again.

It may be recalled that till the year 2007 the dental college curriculum in existence was a four year degree course with one year mandatory clinical internship. However, this was replaced in favour of the comprehensive clinical training under which the mandatory internship was done away with. However, it was found insufficient to prepare the dental students to face the challenges of the professional field in the context of continuing technological changes in dentistry, as it was devoid of any hands on training with real patients. At that time the Indian Dental Association had written for the continuance of the mandatory clinical internship. Several representations were also received from students and parents for the continuance of the mandatory clinical internship when it was withdrawn in 2007.

Discussions were also held recently by IDA with the Ministry and the Dental Council of India with a view to reviving the system of mandatory clinical internship as it would go a long way in improving the quality of dental education in the country which all of us are interested in.

In the light of the discussions, the Indian Dental Association would urge the Ministry and the Dental Council to consider reviving the one year internship after completion of the four year degree course, from the next academic year. You are also requested to conduct the PG Entrance Examination before the commencement of internship.

IDA extends its full cooperation and support and look forward to an early decision in the matter.

Yours respectfully



Dr Ashok Dhoble
Hon Secretary General

Copy with compliments to:
The President
Dental Council of India