



Statement regarding the future working relationships for BSRD, RD-UK and SRRDG June 2021

Informal discussions between colleagues regarding the prospect of closer working have taken place over a number of years. In January 2018, representatives of our three Restorative Dentistry societies and colleagues from BSSPD, met to formally commence discussions of the desirability of the societies working together more closely, for the benefit of our members.

The merits of closer working include:

- A joint annual conference programme, to ensure the quality of content and reduce time away from work and the cost of attending several conferences each year.
- Delivery of joint training and education opportunities.
- Joint development of guidelines, research and quality improvement initiatives.
- External recognition as a unified and influential organisation representing our specialty.

These discussions have continued within the Working Group, with involvement and support of the Councils. Whilst somewhat prolonged, the process has allowed thorough appraisal of the arrangements related to:

- The enduring status of the existing societies.
- Membership and annual subscriptions.
- The existing financial assets of the societies.
- Charitable status of BSRD.
- The delivery of the identified aims and objectives of each society (representing members and the specialty, education and research, promoting high standards of care, patient benefit.)

BSSPD respectfully withdrew from discussions, recognising the benefits of a closer working relationship within Restorative Dentistry but also that maintaining its position as a stand-alone society will best allow the BSSPD to continue to meet its objective of promoting and advancing education in the science and practice of Prosthodontics.

Recent discussions between BSRD, RD-UK and SRRDG have focussed on a range of proposed options:

- Continuation of the current state
- Varieties of a partial merger, with an over-arching new society and continuation of the three societies within this.
- Dissolution of the three societies and formation of a single, fully-merged society for Restorative Dentistry.

These discussions within the Working Group have now reached a conclusion NOT to pursue a full or partial merger of BSRD, RD-UK and SRRDG and to NOT form a new society for Restorative Dentistry. However, we aim to pursue a closer working relationship with regards to representation for Restorative Dentistry and for overlapping functions such as conference, education and guidelines.

These conclusions are based on the perceived importance of maintaining the autonomy of the individual societies, the imbalance of the existing financial assets, the challenges related to alteration of the charitable status of BSRD and the current success in delivering the aims and objectives of the three societies.

At this stage, the members of the Working Group have agreed to present the conclusion to their own Councils, to report the process and conclusion to their own Annual General Meetings. At the AGMs, the Councils will seek

agreement that the members' preferred outcome is aligned with the Working Group's outcome. Planning for working more closely together can then commence. Should the members' preferred outcome not be aligned with that of the Working Group (i.e. a partial or complete merger is preferred), this outcome will then be pursued as appropriate.

As the professional environment within and external to our speciality is likely to change further, the three Councils are encouraged to formally review this current outcome in three years, to reassess the need for a new agreement.



Dr James Baker (President BSRD), Prof Martin Ashley (Chair RD-UK) and Dr Garima Charan (Chair SRRDG)

On behalf of the Restorative Dentistry Working Party.

June 2021