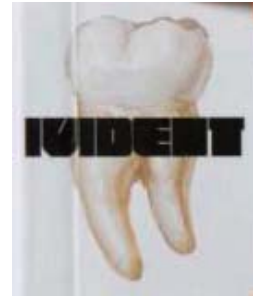




IAOMS Affiliates with IVIDENT (International Virtual Dental School)



--Alexis B. Olsson, Assistant Executive Director

The IAOMS is proud to announce that it has entered into an exclusive academic affiliation to develop an internet based repository and educational tools in oral & maxillofacial surgery for its membership through IVIDENT. IVIDENT is a £ 2 million-three year project funded by the HEFCE (*Higher Education Funding Council for England*) and the Department (Ministry) of Health in England. IVIDENT provides flexible learning in an on-line environment (virtual University). Spearheaded by King's College London Dental Institute (**KCLDI**), KCLDI Intends to transfer its knowledge and expertise in the education sector along with innovation into the wider virtual academic community. Other academic partners include University College London Eastman Dental Institute, Brescia University, Italy, Bristol University Dental School, Queen's University, Belfast, Birmingham City University, University of Portsmouth, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust, King's College Hospital Trust, South Central Strategic Health Authority,

IVIDENT has developed an integrated online campus with the following components and functions: administration, library, teaching, student records, monitoring electives, enrolment, images, video, audio, journals and papers.

Complete lectures have been developed and are peer reviewed and quality assured, along with discussion forums and research.

Contributors and subscribers to this virtual University will be able to create and update courses with high quality using components taken from the IVIDENT repository. They can control and connect systems seamlessly to contemporary tools and materials and then customize the learning environments. No other domain is as far advanced as this one, and it is transferable to all of healthcare. Its development will allow for not only education and information, but also interaction, and the inception of continuing education and accreditation.

Through the support of the education committee and the IAOMS foundation, we are implementing a pilot project in conjunction with the current educational project in Paraguay. The project will involve online education utilizing topics in head and neck infections, with pre and post course testing as well as analysis and outcomes measures.

This exciting new development will promote the advancement of education and patient care in oral & maxillofacial surgery utilizing the most advanced tools in the continually evolving virtual field.