

Orthodontic Technicians Association

RECENT NEWS

Members of the OTA can now subscribe to the Journal of Orthodontics at a specially reduced rate.

[Link to the Journal of Orthodontics](#)

About the OTA

The association was formed in 1971 following a meeting between orthodontic technicians employed in London teaching hospitals. Since then membership has grown to the present level of approximately 190 representing all sectors of the industry. It is estimated that there are, currently, between 400 and 500 technicians earning their living from orthodontics in this country.

General Aims

The association is a strictly professional body devoted to the interests of orthodontics. It is not a trade union, but there would be no reason why the association should not give opinions to institutions on the role of the orthodontic technician.

Objectives

1. To encourage the study, improve the practice and advance the knowledge of, Orthodontic Laboratory and Clinical Techniques for the benefit of the orthodontic team and patient. To act as an advisory body to institutions and individuals on the use of all orthodontic laboratory techniques and the service orthodontic technicians provide.
2. To widen, improve and develop the education and knowledge, of those actively engaged in orthodontic technology; through the media, publications, lectures, exhibitions and conferences etc.
3. To keep a register of members and their qualifications.
4. To invite and collect subscriptions and donations to the funds of the Association by any lawful means.
5. To co-operate with other organisations with the view to the promotion of the objects of the Association.

Benefits of Membership

Events

The Association holds an annual technical conference at a suitable venue each year. These are well supported by members and the trade, and are a good opportunity for members to get to know each other. Besides the social aspect of the conference it is probably the best way of keeping up with the latest techniques and innovations in orthodontic technology as the lead time on publication of articles can be long. The annual general meeting of the Association is held during the conference.

In addition to our own conference the Association also takes part in the British Orthodontic Conference each year. Members are invited to put on table and poster demonstrations at these conferences. It is vital that we maintain a presence at this event in order to strengthen our links with the Profession.

Representation

Members of the Council sit on various boards and committees to represent the interests of orthodontic technicians. This is an important function at the moment, with so many changes taking place in dental technology. Areas under discussion at present include registration, orthodontic auxiliaries and clinical dental technicians.

As a member you gain recognition of your skills as an Orthodontic Technician, Clinical Nurse or Orthodontic auxiliary. You also gain representation on the following bodies:

- o Central Council for Health Authority Dental Technology
- o College and University Education Advisory Boards
- o Consultant Orthodontists Group

Affiliation to:

- o The British Orthodontic Society
- o The British Orthodontic Conference

Publications

The Association produces a quarterly Newsletter and Members are encouraged to contribute letters and technical tips. The Newsletter reports on meetings attended by Council officers and keeps members up to date on changes in legislation affecting our profession. The Newsletter also provides updates on materials and equipment thanks to the generous support of the orthodontic supply companies, as well as technical support from the considerable expertise of your fellow members.

Starting with the 1997 Conference we have combined our Conference Programme with a Proceedings, which, as well as containing abstracts of the lectures given at the Conference, also contains technical articles so that it can be used as a reference source.

Membership

The various grades of membership are as follows (under review):

Student Member

Any person undergoing training to become an Orthodontic Technician or any Student Technician with an interest in orthodontics. Students will pay a reduced rate of subscription, receive the journal and can attend conferences and meetings. They do not have any voting rights at the AGM.

Associate Member

Any person with an interest in orthodontics or connected with orthodontics may become a member of the association. Associates will receive Newsletters and may attend conferences. They may not vote at the AGM.

Member

Any qualified technician not holding a specialist orthodontic qualification but working within the field of orthodontics can become a member. Members will receive the Journal and may attend conferences; in addition they may vote at the AGM. Two members only may stand for election to the Council. Members of the Association are entitled to place the letters M.O.T.A. after their names.

Licentiatees

To become a Licentiate of the Association you must possess either a City & Guilds Advanced Certificate in Orthodontics, or at least two specialist units in orthodontics at B.T.E.C. H.N.C. or H.N.D. level or SCOT.V.E.C. equivalent. In addition to the rights of a Member, Licentiatees may stand for election to the Council and may place the letters L.O.T.A. after their names.

Honorary Members and Fellows

Honorary Memberships and Fellowships may be awarded to any grade of member at the discretion of the Council. This will entitle the member to all the benefits of the Association without payment of any subscriptions.

Retired members

A member of the Association who reaches retiring age shall be allowed to pay a reduced rate of subscription as laid down by the Council. They will still have the right to attend all meetings and conferences and receive all literature.

Related Links

[Orthodontic Technicians Association website](#)

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