

#### THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL TECHNICIANS COUNCIL

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Dear Stakeholders and Members,

As we reflect on the achievements and developments of the past quarter, I am pleased to share some important updates from the Council's recent activities, as well as exciting news regarding new additions to our leadership.

#### A Review of the Past Quarter

The last quarter has been marked by significant progress on several fronts:

- Strategic Planning: The Council convened its inaugural strategic session in July to chart the way forward for the next five years. The second virtual meeting to discuss the draft plan was held in September with DENTASA and the UoTs represented. The strategic plan document was later shared with the profession during DENTASA AGM held in October 2025. The draft strategic plan has been prepared and is now open for another final round of stakeholder inputs before final approval. Council is hoping to convene this meeting before the December break. This plan will guide our operations, policies, and initiatives to best serve our profession and the public interest.
- Update on the Pipeline Student project: Collaborations with Wits Health Consortium progressed well, with an update of submissions of Logbooks for the work carried by the students from where they had undergone training. Our efforts remain focused on ensuring that these students can qualify for professional registration, enhancing the standards of practice in the field of Dental Technology. Council is aiming at realizing its first report by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2025.

 Media & Public Relations: The Council responded promptly to unfounded media articles, emphasizing that the information presented was inaccurate and damaging to our reputation.
 We reaffirm our commitment to accountability and adherence to best governance practices.
 This matter has been referred to Council's lawyers for further action.

# **Appointment of Mr. Michael Lazarevic**



Mr. Lazarevic is the owner of Ceramident Dental Laboratory in Cape Town. He serves on the Council as a dental technician contractor nominated and elected by dental technician contractors as per section 5(1) (c). He replaces Ms. Alminah Banda who resigned in August as reported in the previous Newsletter. Mr. Lazarevic graduated with a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Dental Technology in 2001 from Cape Peninsula University of Technology. He pursued a career as a dental technician in London where he operated as a specialist crown and bridge dental laboratory from 2001 to 2006. Upon his return to South Africa in 2006, he took up the position of specialist dental ceramist at Ceramident

Dental laboratory. Mr. Lazarevic specialises in highly aesthetic restorative crown and bridge work, implantology and CAD / CAM design. Mr Lazarevic has completed numerous specialist advanced courses in metal-free ceramics and restorative prosthetics throughout South Africa, Europe at Zirkon Zahn in Italy.

In 2026, Mr. Lazarevic was requested by GC Corporation (UK & Europe) to be part of an elite group of 50 dental technicians / technologists from across the globe selected as the Key Opinion Leader for GC Corporation (Sub Saharan Africa). Mr. Lazarevic currently lectures and hosts GC Corporation training courses throughout Sub Saharan Africa on behalf of GC UK and Wright Millners Dental Suppliers. Michael has a driven passion to inspire peers and colleagues through his personal passion, skill and knowledge that he has for the professions of dentistry and dental technology. In March 2022, Mr. Lazarevic and Ceramident Dental Laboratory were presented with a "GC Excellence Laboratory" award – one of only Five that have been awarded worldwide.

## Appointment of Council's Inspector



Council welcomes the appointment of Ms Alminah Banda as an Inspector effective 3 November 2025. She qualified with a B Tech Degree from the then Peninsula Technikon, now known as the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). She was a co-owner of AMU Dental Laboratory in East London.

### **DENTTECH Congress and Council Engagement**

The Council wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the organizers of DENTTECH 2025, represented by Mr. Ralph Schultz (Megadent) and Mr. Peter Doubell (SciVision), for the kind invitation to attend the Congress scheduled for the 11th of October 2025. We also express our gratitude to the President of DENTASA for graciously allowing the Council to address the profession during the DENTASA AGM.

The meeting was attended by the President, Vice President, Chairperson of the Education Committee, former Council member and legal representative, Adv. Gaoraelwe, and the Registrar. During the session, Adv. Gaoraelwe tabled the draft Strategic Plan before the profession, providing members with an opportunity to engage with the Council's five-year strategic direction. The open Question and Answer session was highly interactive, with members raising awareness about the latest technologies, some of which pose potential threats to the future of Dental Technology.

Members of the profession also expressed concerns regarding the long-outstanding Draft Bill, which has yet to be processed by the National Department of Health. Additionally, recent graduates voiced concerns about career progression, especially with the phasing out of the B-Tech qualification. Suggestions were made to consider work experience as a requirement for members wishing to open dental laboratories, to ensure that practical expertise is valued alongside formal qualifications.

We thank all attendees for their active participation and valuable insights. The Council remains committed to transparency, responsiveness, and fostering a collaborative approach to advancing dental technology in South Africa.

