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Letter to the editor

# An opinion on education and scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery in China

Dear Editor,

I have the opportunity to read an influential article entitled "Specialty education and scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery in the United States" by Pooja Gangwani et al.<sup>1</sup> I wholeheartedly appreciate authors' deep insights on oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS) education in the United States. This article elaborated how to become an excellent OMS resident in the United States from the different perspectives. These suggestions play a demonstration role on the world dental education. I would like to introduce some Chinese dental education methods for readers.

A qualified OMS resident requires 5 years of undergraduate education train and at least 3 years of postgraduate education training in China. The undergraduate stage is general medical and dental education covering biochemistry, physiology, head and neck anatomy, oral histopathology, oral anatomy, etc. A postgraduate candidate can obtain the degree of MDS followed by receiving three-year standardized training and passing thesis defense. During three-year standardized training, a pre-qualified OMS resident will receive the training on dentoalveolar surgery, implant surgery, cleft lip and palate surgery, oral and maxillofacial trauma surgery, maxillofacial plastic surgery, etc. under the guidance of professional tutors. Meanwhile, OMS residents also receive training in basic medicine and public health under the guidance of professional tutors. In some dental college, professional tutors will give basic and clinical guidance combined with clinical dental practice based on advanced problem-based learning (PBL) model.<sup>2</sup> A qualified OMS resident receiving this training is competent for general dental work, OMS work, and academic research.

In addition, I agree with authors' opinions on business administration training. It is vital for a private dentist to know human resource management, finance and accounting. A private dentist might face various challenges regarding dental service price, personnel recruitment, daily clinic expenditure, tax payment, etc. An excellent private

dentist not only masters professional skill but also understands other business administration.

In general, an excellent OMS doctor requires continuous professional learning, clinical experience accumulation, and clinical practice. Current dental education models in China will keep pace with the times.<sup>3</sup>

## Declaration of competing interest

No.

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