



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE:

Name: Gerard Balague Viladrich DDS
MSc implantology MA Education PGCert
forensic FHEA

Age: 35

Job title: Dentist and clinical teacher

Where did you qualify? Barcelona. Spain

**How would you sum yourself
up in just 3 words?**

Laid-back, friendly, easy – going

What time do you usually get up on a weekday and how far away from work do you live?

It varies as I work in different dental practices everyday. However, I usually get up around 7:30. My commuting is anything from 20min to 1.5h away by public transport.

What do you eat for breakfast?

Not that much. ... milk with cereal usually

How do you travel to work?

Public transport

What are your favourite areas of dentistry and what do you find most challenging?

Apart from anything related to dental implants or periodontology, I like the rapport that one builds up with patients over the time. However, at the same time, patient management and meeting their expectations can be difficult.

What appealed to you about a career in dentistry?

I've always liked medicine and to help patients to get better.

Who were some of our influences that you looked up to during your childhood?

My neighbour. He was a doctor and played the piano. I don't know why but I've always wanted to follow his path.

Is there any one patient who has most stood out for you during your career so far?

Many. Many patients have had an impact on me. This is one of the best things about seeing so many patients every so often. That you end up being part of their family.

Do you express an interest in business? Do you think there is enough in the dental curriculum about the business side of running a dental business?

I've always had an interest but it never happened yet. There should be more information available on running your own

business so that people like myself would be keener on opening our own dental practice.

Tell us more about your longer-term ambitions?

Keep improving in what I am doing day by day. From dentistry to teaching. The small details make the difference.

Tell us more about the extra curricular activities you've taken part in during your undergraduate educations? Have you been able to maintain these during your practicing career?

I've always done swimming, music and learning a foreign language. I think it is easy to combine few things while you are still a dental student. The difficult bit starts once you graduate and start working. Having said that, I think it is important to keep time for things you are interested in. Too much dentistry can be stressful.

What did you find most challenging during your undergraduate studies and what pieces of advice would you give to younger students now entering the profession?

The most challenging bit was to try to keep up with exams and not to leave everything for the last minute. That is a mistake and you forget everything once the exam is passed. Try to be consistent. Although I know this is easier said than done.

What do you believe will be the biggest changes we face in field of dentistry over the next 20 years?

How to handle the increase of patients' formal complains day by day and if this may have an impact on our daily practice.

The increase of dental corporates may also have an impact on the quality of dentistry.

Once home in the evenings what do you do to relax?

Gym, swimming, walking or just watch a good series on TV