Sharing Scientific Knowledge

It’s time for a change, but what’s the best way to proceed?

Dental Side Effects

The results of a study published in the September/October 2004 issue of General Dentistry suggests that treatments for mood disorders may cause adverse dental side effects. The clinical, peer reviewed journal is published by the Academy of General Dentistry. Medications used in treatment can cause xerostomia and a higher rate of dental caries and periodontal disease.

It is estimated that approximately 70% of adults face mood disorders—depression or bipolar disorder are common—at some point during their lives. Early diagnosis and treatment can significantly reduce the risk of suicide from these disorders. Left untreated, major depression usually lasts eight or nine months. With treatment, patients usually begin to feel better and rid themselves of suicidal thoughts within one to three weeks. Approximately 60% of those who suffer from bipolar disorder notice improvements when psychotherapy and medication are used jointly for treatment.

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What Do They Expect?

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What Is Beauty?

Which mechanisms work together when we judge someone as being beautiful, plain or ugly? Which characteristic features of a person’s appearance lead to this decision? Join Dr. Hofé for Part II of her article on the topic of beauty.

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Dental Tribune International

By Robin Goodman

Every year the world of scientific publishing publishes some 2.5 million articles with the pages of 24,000 journals. The majority of these journals are ‘peer reviewed,’ a method to human teeth and successfully produce a 3-D object are obtained and put together to form a complete 3-D picture. Poland’s team are the first to apply the tool capable of informing dental practices that will be fast and simple to use. This would be a powerful diagnostic tool, fully capable of informing dentists about the size, shape, and progression of tooth decay.

Scientific & Research

What the Public Knows

In spite of people who seek to get ahead dishonestly, the system of peer review seems to achieve its aims. A recent survey by MOR, a market research company in London, found that 71% of respondents had no idea what peer review meant. Common sense, however, allowed them to identify the peer review method as a suitable control measure. Some respondents (40%) felt that more rigorous controls should be implemented.

Dental Tribune International

By Daniel Zimmermann

The Australian Dental Association (ADA) has accused the government of failing to fund the Commonwealth money on dental treatment. “Federal, State and Territory governments must improve coordination of care and funding to address the delivery of efficient, economical dental care. They must guarantee that funding earmarked to deal with the provision of dental services is expended on delivery of dental care and not diverted to other activities,” Dr. Houghton said. “Waiting lists for public dental treatment in most, if not all, States and Territories are unacceptably long.”


Dental Tribune International

By Robin Goodman

The clinical, peer reviewed process is intended to establish credibility for the work presented in the paper, but it is not intended to determine if it is ‘right.’

Scientists are human of course, and the confidence and trust we instil in them does not make them infallible. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) monitors violations such as plagiarism, conflicts of interest, duplicate publication, bribery, and a lack of proper ethical clearance. The Committee’s 2005 Annual Report documented 29 violations such as these encountered by medical journal editors.

The most common violation was duplicate publication, pursued in an effort to increase total publication numbers. It entails having the same paper printed in more than one journal. A conflict of interest example would be authors who wrote about passive smoking and failed to mention that some of their funding came from the tobacco industry.

While an editor will usually report a violation to ethics committees or the researcher’s employer, disciplinary action is not mandatory. COPE has recommended a code of ethical conduct as an aid for editors. The editors would voluntarily sign and abide by the code. This code is currently being drafted and will ultimately define unacceptable activities, clarify an editor’s duty, and present disciplinary procedures.

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