Satisfying the hunger for knowledge

**Dental Tribune** savours the choice of continuing professional development options available to dentists and their teams

Sir Winston Churchill is quoted as having said “The most important thing about education is appetite.”

This analogy is prevalent in many areas when discussing education – a thirst for knowledge, the hunger to learn – and describes the drive which is contained in the desire to provide the best care for patients and the most satisfying career for dental professionals.

Everyone, whether they are aware of it or not, has ambition. It may be in the form of someone who just wants to make a difference to their working environment to someone who is aiming to be the leader in their field. And it is this hunger to improve that is the cornerstone to continuing education.

Now, I am not going to bore you with the fundamentals of Continuing Professional Development and what you need to do to keep the General Dental Council from deeming you unfit to practice – we all know the requirements! It is the how that I want to talk about; a quick look at some of the many ways in which you can feed your hunger to learn and develop in your chosen career.

Since the introduction of CPD, a veritable feast of ways to make up your hours and fill your personal development plan has been released. In addition, for those whose palate craves something a little more refined, the menu of post-graduate qualifications is ever increasing. This is not just for dentists either; there are opportunities for MScs in subjects such as Primary Dental Care. There is the facility to digest your CPD in bite-sized chunks (for example DCPBites available from UCL Eastman CPD), course by course, or go the whole hog and sample the all you can eat style of conferences and events (ie Clinical Innovations Conference, British Dental Conference, International Symposium on Dental Hygiene...) – or you can even get it to go!

The traditional ways to get your fill include: reading journals, attending conferences, participating in study days, going on courses. Technology has made this even easier, allowing for virtual attendance to events such as webinars and live streaming of presentations, or the collection and storage of education online (Care CPD).

You can also choose from a variety of takeaway options in the form of CD-ROM programmes covering the whole spectrum of topics in dentistry or paper-based educational resources depending on your preferences.

For those wanting to take the gourmet post-graduate option, convenience is still the key. Local events, part-time courses, there is even the opportunity for a home delivery option with an online MSc (available in Restorative and Aesthetic dentistry from the University of Manchester).

So, there really is no excuse these days to go hungry when it comes to CPD and furthering your knowledge in your chosen profession – eat, drink and be merry!

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**UCL EASTMAN DENTAL INSTITUTE**

**THIS UNIQUE AND CHALLENGING PROGRAMME BRINGS TOGETHER CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED LEVELS OF ORAL HEALTH THROUGH ACTIVE PREVENTION AND THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY CARE**

This innovative programme is offered by the UCL Eastman Dental Institute with the support of the Chief Dental Officer and the Department of Health in order to encourage and support the whole dental team in their desire to deliver effective leadership and clinical excellence within the NHS whilst improving oral health through the delivery of effective preventive dentistry.

**WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?**

This programme is designed for NHS general dental practitioners who wish to embrace the delivery of clinical excellence through a commissioning framework and introduce new concepts and approaches to leadership, clinical management and team development within the primary care setting. DCPs working with course participants will be invited to attend selected training sessions.

**COURSE DELIVERY**

This challenging and thought provoking blended-learning programme will offer verifiable CPD and be delivered through 28 days of didactic and skills laboratory training over 15 months (approximately one day every three weeks) supported by work-based distance learning and assignments to include a service improvement project. Elements of Core CPD will also be made available to course participants and DCP colleagues.

**FACULTY**

**Programme Director**

Professor Andrew Eder

**Programme Coordinator**

Dr Rishi Patel

**Module & Teaching Leads**

Dr Janine Brooks MBE

Mr Robert Craig

Mrs Helen Falcon

Dr Sue Gregory OBE

Dr Shahad Saleem

Professor Peter Spurgeon

Dr Vivian Ward

Professor Richard Watt

Supported by an experienced faculty of dynamic teachers and clinicians invited by both the Eastman and the Department of Health.

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**Developing leadership and clinical excellence within the NHS General Dental Services**

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**Module 1 Clinical Leadership and Service Delivery**

This module will cover the five leadership domains outlined in the Medical Leadership Competency Framework (2009); namely demonstrating personal qualities, working with others, managing services, improving services and setting direction.

**Module 2 Achieving Clinical Excellence**

Through an evidence-based understanding of the dental literature, this largely hands-on skills laboratory based module will provide a comprehensive review of the diagnosis, treatment planning and management of patients within the scope of NHS general dental practice. The challenges presented by both young and old patients, as well as those who may require special care in the community, will also be considered.

**Module 3 Improving Oral Health**

Current concepts in the aetiology and management of caries and periodontal disease, as well as behaviour management and an understanding of patient psychology, will all be considered as part of the team approach to improving oral health.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

This programme is designed to support dental professionals:

• to lead the delivery of dental health services

• to manage the dental team

• to deliver effective prevention

• to improve oral health

• to deliver quality dental care

**Course fees:** £8,960 (to be confirmed by fees committee). Individual modules may be taken by those who have a specific training need.

Closing date for applications: 31st August 2010

For further information or to register, please contact: Marjorie Kelly, Programme Administrator, UCL Eastman CPD, 123 Gray’s Inn Road, London WC1X 8WD

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