Taking technology forward – technicians and technical skills

Another article from the Dental Laboratories Association: this month on keeping technical skills up to date and CPD

The BDPMA means business

If you’re in need of an inspirational boost, the BDPMA has events and training courses to suit everyone involved in dental practice management, says Vikki Harper.

H as your career in dental management just begun and you’re wondering how on earth you’ll learn all there is to know – as quickly as possible? Has your career bit a plateau and are you in need of a motivational boost? Are you a competent and successful manager who feels under-valued and under-rewarded? Or would you just like to meet like-minded managers to bounce around ideas with?

It doesn’t matter what your circumstances, the British Dental Practice Managers’ Association (BDPMA) aims to help everyone involved in the management of a dental practice, no matter what their position or level of experience, to fulfill their career aspirations. If you’re interested in achieving a long term and successful career in dental management, then there has been no better time to join the BDPMA than now because the Association has invested heavily in providing its members with the tools they need to become better and to benefit from their advanced skills.

Build your confidence

The 2008 BDPMA Conference & Celebration Dinner on June 15 and 14 at Stratford upon Avon is set to be the highlight of the dental management calendar. It provides delegates with a twoproonged approach to success by firstly concentrating on personal accomplishment and then moving onto business achievement.

It’s aimed at everyone associated with management including practice managers, principals, senior nurses and receptionists and to encourage team development, BDPMA members can extend their privileged rates to other members of their teams.

Speakers include Stephen Hancock OBE, Coach Clare McNamara, representatives from BDA Good Practice, Investors in People, NHS BSA and NHS PCT, and colleagues Shaerma and Phil Loughnane from the award-winning Chipping Manor Dental Practice.

Boost your career

What happens when we meet a challenge at work? We usually feel uncomfortable to tackle it. It could be a new payroll system, determining budgets or creating a marketing plan but whatever it is, it fills us with fear.

The remit of the practice manager is broad so developing a broad skill base is important. That’s why the BDPMA, in association with Henry Schein, offers all managers the opportunity to further their management capability with funding of up to £2500 towards a recognised management qualification.

To enter, just appraise your practice; what are its strengths and weaknesses? How do you deliver value to your patients and how can you increase this value? Look at your patient journey and what needs to be changed? How can you make those changes and what do you need to be able to facilitate that change?

You don’t need to write an essay – bullet points are fine. Download an entry form from www.bdpma.org.uk or ask your BDPMA member representative to send you one. Follow the instructions; send it to the BDPMA by APRIL 25th. Don’t forget to keep a copy for yourself, after all, it’s an action plan for your practice and is a useful tool even if you don’t win. But – you’ve got to be in to win it!

What is a manager worth?

As a manager of a dental practice, how do you know if your package adequately reflects your skills and worth? As a principal, how can you manage the performance and the expectations of your manager, and keep him or her motivated?

The BDPMA’s recommended pay scale for 2008 was sent out to all 800 members of the Association in January along with its ten top tips for successful negotiation. The purpose of this much sought-after document is to promote the successful partnership of principal and manager. The pay scale clarifies the skills and responsibilities required to earn a specific level of remuneration and that’s got to be good for both the principal and the manager.

Dental Management

In February the BDPMA launches its latest vehicle to support managers of practice: Dental Management. The 28-page, members-only publication is crammed full of tips, advice and articles to help managers, manage more effectively. No other publication is dedicated to the development of management skills in this way!

Each issue provides one hours verifiable CPD so for BDPMA members that’s four hours of verifiable CPD per year just from reading Dental Management. To receive your copy each quarter, join the BDPMA.

The British Dental Practice Managers’ Association is growing quickly because it fulfills the needs of managers striving to climb that ladder of success. Take your first step towards management success by joining now.

Contact the BDPMA on 01452 886 564 or by emailing info@bdpma.org.uk.