GDPUK round-up

Rather than any major debates dominating the GDPUK forum of late, shorter, less-involved discussions have been the order of the month.

Topics relating to the study of occlusion and the comparison of techniques and courses have been popular with members throughout January. Illustrating their posts with images, colleagues have discussed several cases and the use of various appliances.

In the practice management arena, members aired their views and shared experiences of dealing with verbally abusive patients, how to ensure the patient does not return, and supporting the practice team after such an event. An older topic concerning whether to give compassionate leave in unusual circumstances was rehashed, and this attracted further questions and concepts.

Despite the first meetings of the BDA Rep Body and the GDPUC's three-year cycle, there wasn't much discussion of UK dental politics. Often, this is a time when political ideas and crystal-ball gazing are flowing fast and there is always condemnation of the UDA system, but there were few ideas of how to move the agenda forward, to make everyone happier about NHS dentistry.

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An innovation for UK dentistry has been GDPUK offering a webinar to members for free. This will be aired in early February and will be reviewed in this column. Sponsoring dental companies make this possible, and CPD certificates are sent out by email. These two events have made the New Year an exciting time to be involved in GDPUK, and as its owner, I have been involved in many aspects of improving the site, but more about this later in the year, and perhaps, like a blog, I can tell you more of the personal effects for me, as the year goes by.

I have been experimenting with what might be the next big thing on the web – Twitter. www.twitter.com has been championed by many savvy people, and despite being about two years old, has recently published its billionth ‘tweet’. Words such as this, are featured in Twittonary, its own dictionary, and real-world news seems to break there very early. Twitter also works on your mobile phone. A way of describing it is as microblogging, maximum message size on Twitter is 140 characters so writers have to be brief. By the time this column is published, expect GDPUK to be putting out its latest news by this method to colleagues who are interested. More followers might be found!

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About the author

Dr Anthony V. Jacobs started the GDP-U.K. emailing list in 1997, and the group membership is now just under 2000. The list is read in all corners of the UK dental profession as well as by laboratories, and the trade and dental industry. Qualifying in London in 1979, Dr Jacobs is now in partnership with Dr Stephen Lazarus, practicing at 406 Dental in Manchester. He enjoys his profession, and takes pride in providing both simple and complex gentle dentistry, as well as caring for families in a relaxed atmosphere. Dr Jacobs has a long-term commitment to continuing professional development, both for himself, and for the profession in general through his mailing list. He has been a member of the British Dental Association (BDA) since 1975, and is presently Chairman of the Dental and Bach Flower Therapy Advisory Group, as well as vice-Chair of the Bury and Rochdale Local Dental Committee (LDC). Dr Jacobs also sits on the committee and helps to organise the annual conference of Local Dental Committees.