

Editorial

The world of dentistry has seen tremendous changes in techniques and technologies in the recent past. These are not part of the undergraduate curriculum and the dentists, therefore, have no training or exposure to incorporating these in their practices.

A lot of countries have no guidelines for training and usage of these technologies. We also find that a lot of dentists are reluctant to invest in continuing education even though they invest in new technologies.

The dependence for education and authentication of the techniques then shifts on to the companies selling the products. The serious companies invest a lot of time and efforts in this area, but there are a lot of fringe companies without the financial and or moral resources to do the same. This leads to a curious situation, where the dentist is using potentially harmful techniques on patients with impunity, without any evidence base, using patients as guinea pigs.

This has created some very damaging situations for the dental community as evidenced by the recent events in Japan. Daniel Zimmermann, the Group Editor of the Dental Tribune International, has raised the alarm on the use of dental implants without adequate training and research. A lot of products and technologies are being used in the oral cavity with inadequate documentation, research and training.

The serious need of the hour is for the dental community which includes researchers, teachers, clinicians and the dental industry to come together on a common platform that will define the future of new technologies.

We request the concerned authorities to set guidelines, recognize and certify the procedures and very importantly to set standards for training and education. We also recognize that this will need unbiased, scientifically oriented training courses and not by organizations whose only motive is profit.

The strongest scientific evidence is always peer-reviewed publications and we are very happy to announce that we have been receiving lots of articles, but we want this momentum to continue and foster better understanding of the science.

The IALD's 2013 International conference will focus on problem solving in implant and laser dentistry and is slated to be held on 20th to 22nd September 2013 in Chennai, India.

So, let us work together to make dentistry more patient friendly, for we all owe our successes to our patients.



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