EDITORIAL

PROMOTE MENTORING AMONGST YOUNG DENTISTS



International President Pierre Fauchard Academy Dr. James A. Englander in his President's Message to Dental world emphasis on the need to expand the concept of mentorship to our fellows globally. He quote's Lani Becker, Wisconsin Dental Association Director of membership services "a mentor programme means many things to many people but when it comes to write down to it, is a way to share and prepare for the future.

The students and young dentists are our future and essentially are what our profession will become. Even Dr. Ahmed the father of Dentistry in India said "Tomorrow's dentistry will be what we make it by today's efforts." He was the grand mentor who moulded and presented the road map of dentistry what we have today.

The mentor shares his or her experiences with someone novice to the Dental profession. He guides and help them prepare their future in dentistry after formal education, as working at the dental school clinic is quite different than practicing in our offices where we must deal with more than just dental procedures, such as staffing, calculating over head, determining fees, scheduling, as well as developing filing systems, ordering of supplies, and other things that we must take care of or delegate on a regular basis.

Mentorship means to counsel, to advise, to help, to support, to aid, and to be a friend. The mentor should introduce the student to the profession, to the community, to the dental organisation, to suppliers, and to financial organizations. A mentor needs to inform his protege about local customs in ethics and advertising and about third-party coverage and to assist whenever possible.

Mentoring is rather a serious undertaking. A good mentor must actively interact with his or her student... an uncommitted volunteer is more determental to the program than no volunteer." It is essential to select mentors who are ethical, honest, friendly, professional, knowledgeable and respected by the community and by the profession. They must be congenial and have a positive attitude toward dentistry and willingness to spend time with the protege.

With the large number of admissions in more than 270 colleges in the country, a bulk of young graduates nearly 17000 a year shall be coming out every year looking for a reasonable settlement in Dental career. DCI, IDA, PFA and other bodies should come forward to rescue these young Dentist who are key to the future of organised modern Dentistry in India and introduce mentorship program like the Wisconsin mentorship programme as mentioned by international president Dr. James A. Englander.

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