

Building the Continuing Education Structure for the Young Dentist's Prospect

The continuing dental education of oral health professionals (OHPs) is of fundamental importance to update and improve CE to be able to deliver the highest quality of oral healthcare to address the oral health needs of the population. Today's oral health professionals are seen as the front-line medical practitioners in the prevention, early detection, and monitoring of both oral and non-communicable diseases. On this regard, continuing dental education is vital to keep their knowledge and skills up to date to maintain career-long highly-qualified professional development.

There is a big discrepancy between today's educational methods and what the new professional generation mostly prefer. Not only the educational models but also the demands and preferences on educational topics has been identified based on the results of the survey enrolled within the collaboration of ERO and EDSA.

ERO recommends National Dental Associations to organize their CE events to fulfill the demands and needs of the young generation of dental professionals;

Educational Preferences: The expected outcomes of CE courses include achieving proficiency, enhancing patient education, and improving clinical skills. Thus, medical clinical and operative topics are the mostly emerging gaps in the needs of the young dental profession.

Preferred Educational Formats: Conferences and lecture sessions are favored in means of their effective learning outcomes however hands-on courses and workshops being the most attractive to improve their clinical skills and experiences.

Participation Criteria for CE: Factors such as credibility, lecturer credentials, format, timing, venue, and cost influence course selection plays important selective criteria. Smaller groups (up to 15 participants) are preferred for better engagement for the best outcome of professional improvements.

Conclusion

-There is a strong commitment of the young generation dentists to reinforce their professional development.

-With a clear preference for clinical specialties and hands-on learning outcomes and experiences, students can improve their academic medical knowledge with practical skills.

-As future dental professionals, their proactive approach to education will significantly improve their ability to provide high-quality patient care.

- Through the current recommendations for learning, teaching and the emergence of new technology in professional education, such as practical teaching (workshops, hands-on courses) virtual reality simulation, an overview of the providing of these practices and educational events are necessary.

ERO calls European NDAs for collaboration across education stakeholders and institutions to support and improve the contemporary continuing education topics of the future oral health professionals.