

Innovative teaching methods for CPD in Gerodontology. The impact of the DentCPD project.

KOSSIONI AE^{1*}, BAKAS AS¹, DAFLI E², BAMIDIS PD²

¹Dental School, University of Athens, Athens, Greece, ² Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Medical School, Lab of Medical Informatics, Thessaloniki, Greece

Aim: The lack of trained educators is a significant barrier in undergraduate Gerodontology teaching in Europe and CPD is the primary source of training for many practicing dentists. The aim of this presentation is to discuss the benefits of educational interactive technology for continuing education in Gerodontology.

Methods: The objectives of the DentCPD project will be discussed in relation to Gerodontology education.

Results: The DentCPD project: "Harmonization & Standardization of European Dental Schools' Programs of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Graduate Dentists" is concerned to provide guidelines for the management and delivery of high quality dental CPD in Europe. One of the objectives is to provide guidelines on the development of electronic CPD teaching modules using interactive technology. Recent technological developments have added additional dimensions beyond traditional Web services, concerning communication, research, formal and informal education and training, career development and life-long learning. Among them, learning applications have proved themselves to be one of the most promising and prospective type of virtual services. ICT technology supports educational activities which can be flexible, realistic, interactive, engaging, measurable and user-friendly. Gerodontology will greatly benefit from the DentCPD deliverables. Electronic learning modules specific to the required competences in Gerodontology could be developed based on the DentCPD guidelines. An ECG working group could be organized to agree on the core CPD topics, gather data on the existing teaching material and methods of delivery and develop electronic teaching modules. Those modules could then be adapted and translated into many European languages and utilized by dental CPD providers and particularly academic institutions across Europe.

Conclusions: Gerodontology could greatly benefit from the deliverables of the DentCPD project. The development of standardized educational material using modern educational technology will help in the convergence of Gerodontology continuing education in Europe.

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