Bringing the Evidence Chairside
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**Problem:** Residents in the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine are required to locate articles in the literature to support their clinical decision-making. Since searching and locating relevant articles is taught early on in their dental education, they have little experience in searching and locating articles in various databases, including the evidence-based resources. It becomes frustrating and exceedingly time consuming for residents to locate evidence in the literature. By working with the dental school faculty, providing in-person instruction, hands-on searching and utilizing Web 2.0 technologies, we strive to create an environment where the residents' searching skills become efficient and foster life long learning.

**Evidence:** The amount of dental literature is overwhelming. In 1998 there were approximately 10,000 about dentistry in the health sciences journals, and that only the articles in English. Given this fact, it is not surprising that practicing dentists find it difficult to manage the flow of information. However, evidence-based dentistry has much potential to improve patient care and delivery.

**Strategy:** Meet with the residents in group settings two-to-three times during each semester of their residency (the number instruction sessions vary by department). At the first session a hybrid PubMed/MEDLINE (Ovid) basic searching skills are reviewed. At the second session, the residents are taught evidence-based resources, such as Clinical Evidence, Up-to-Date, and Evidence Based Medicine Reviews. At the last session, freely available resources, such as PubMed (Clinical Queries) and National Guideline Clearinghouse are covered. Since the residents will not be a part of the University at Buffalo once they are in private practice, it is important to introduce them to what is available free of charge. In addition to the group instruction, search tips and techniques were also made available to the residents using Web 2.0 technologies such as a blog, wikis, del.icio.us, instant message reference and YouTube.

**Practice Change:** Include searching skills and locating evidence in the training of dental residents.

**Evaluation:** Evaluation is determined by librarian and faculty interactions with the dental residents. A more formal pre-test, post-test survey is currently under development.

**Results:** Those that do seek additional help with their searches, ask more pointed and specific questions. There is less frustration as the residents search out evidence-based principles in the literature.

**Recommendations:** Dental residents that receive purposeful training in finding the evidence in the literature are better able to locate materials that will enable their clinical decisions and treatment planning. They have demonstrated an ability to locate materials relevant to their subject area, which can only help them deliver better care in their future practice of dentistry.
Bibliography:
