

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success.” *Henry Ford*

Most tasks are more difficult when we try to achieve them alone. However with teamwork, support and interaction from others it is almost always easier to accomplish excellent results.

Whichever role a person takes within the dental practice, each individual relies on a significant number of others with a plethora of skills to carry out their work proficiently. Coming together ensures that patients receive the most appropriate dental care and also takes the greatest possible advantage of the professional skills available. From the team’s point of view, this creates job satisfaction as each member feels valued and they are able collectively to deliver the most successful clinical outcomes and patient care.

The value of networking with like-minded peers should never be underestimated. By meeting to discuss cases and share experiences, dentists – whether principals or associates – dental hygienists, nurses and assistants can all advise and support each other considerably. Each share an understanding of the dental industry from a different perspective, but are united in their passion for quality dentistry and patient care. This enables them to transfer valuable knowledge and information, whether regarding business matters, clinical skills or career progression. Networking can lead to a variety of recommendations and referrals, which is healthy for the business too.

Belonging to a corporate or group of dental practices can offer even more opportunities both for member practices and their patients. As part of a broader network of professionals with an even wider variety of skills and experience, there are significantly more prospects for learning and development, as well as improved chances for career progression. Practices that are associated with larger dental corporates within the industry can also enjoy the benefits and reputation for patient trust that is developed by offering a consistently high level of care as standard, wherever patients are located geographically.

The Association of Dental Groups (ADG) recognises that collaboration makes it possible to achieve more. It represents companies with multiple practices whose members constitute a huge network of dental professionals dedicated to delivering the best possible experience and treatment outcomes for patients. The ADG supports the Government's aim to improve access to high quality dental care and works with both NHS and private practices to maintain high standards and levels of consistency to ensure dental excellence across the UK.

ADG members can rely on support throughout their careers with on-going vocational training, mentoring and the opportunity to develop skills in specialist areas and practices. For example, many ADG practice leaders are qualified in the latest treatment solutions and technology and are able to offer a wealth of valuable knowledge and experience. These skills can be

successfully transferred to other dental professionals and practices through training and advisory roles to enable others to provide a higher level of service to patients.

ADG also provides bursaries and awards for dental students and encourages innovation and ideas through investment. It has helped to launch numerous student projects, many addressing specific areas of concern within UK dentistry. The group and its members also support charities such as Bridge2Aid and Mouth Cancer Action Month, for which an interactive online CPD module was designed and provided in conjunction with IDH to help raise awareness of oral cancer.

Using Henry Ford's notion: by working together across the UK dental sector, it is possible to facilitate progress and achieve success. Most importantly we can offer access to high quality dental treatment and outstanding patient care from a team of extremely well trained and connected professionals.

If you are committed to dental excellence and would like to learn more about the Association of Dental Groups please visit our website at www.dentalgroups.co.uk