

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Moving with the times

Sir, I have been a podcast listener for over five years; however, I've only recently discovered the wonderful world of dental podcasting. I would like to share with your readers this somewhat novel source of dental education, which has proven to be both highly educational and engaging.

Named after the *iPod*, podcasting is a relatively new media platform. It offers a low-cost avenue for creators to broadcast their content. Podcasting has experienced significant growth; in just the last five years its popularity has doubled.<sup>1</sup>

**'Podcasting is an effective form of auditory learning, an aspect not well covered by traditional teaching styles.'**

There are many attractive aspects to podcasting. They are free, easily accessible, engaging and permit multi-tasking. Students tend to find them much more engaging than traditional teaching styles.<sup>2</sup> Podcasting is an effective form of auditory learning, an aspect not well covered by traditional teaching styles.<sup>3</sup> They offer particular benefits to individuals with visual or reading impairments.

Readers will be surprised by the wide variety of dentistry related podcasts available. Their topics range from business to clinical education. Personally, I've found some of the clinical podcasts invaluable. For example, 'The Dental Guys' podcast has a two-hour breakdown of the history of endodontics, the evolution of filing systems, in addition to countless of clinical tips (episode 46). Throughout the episode, they discuss and appraise the current literature, allowing clinicians to supplement the listening with further reading. For users not keen on learning about clinical dentistry, podcasts cover many other topics. These can range from the business of dentistry to the psychosocial aspects of dentistry, such as dealing with burnout.

I would encourage all readers to start their smartphone's podcasting app and explore the world of dental podcasting.  
*H. Antov, via email*

### References

1. Ofcom. Communications Market Reports. London: Ofcom, 2018.
2. Harris H, Park S. Educational usages of podcasting. *Br J Educ Technol* 2008; **39**: 548-551.
3. Fernandez V, Simo P, Sallan JM. Podcasting: A new technological tool to facilitate good practice in higher education. *Computers and Education* 2009; **53**: 385-392.

## Malcolm Smith new Chair of the Advancing Dental Care programme

Malcolm Smith has taken over as Chair of the HEE's Advancing Dental Care programme (ADC) after Nicholas Taylor, Dean of Postgraduate Dental Education, Health Education North West retired at the end of last year.



Malcolm, who has a wealth of experience in dental education commissioning and training as Postgraduate Dental Dean for HEE North East, will drive forward the ADC programme into its second phase over 2019-2021, ensuring close alignment with the priorities outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan.

Leading on a broad programme which is designed to deliver the recommendations of the 2017/18 'Advancing Dental Care Review', Malcolm will take an evidence-based approach to develop dental training that responds to the changing needs of patients and services, in a prevention-oriented integrated National Health Service.

On appointment to the new position, Malcolm said: 'I feel immensely privileged to be appointed to lead this important piece of work as I passionately believe that we have a duty to develop innovative structures and models of education and training, not only to support the delivery of excellent oral healthcare for patients but also to create meaningful and flexible career structures for the whole dental team.'

'With the NHS Long Term Plan setting a clear strategic direction for the service and a strong commitment to develop the workforce, the timing couldn't be more appropriate to work with partners across the system to futureproof the dental workforce for generations to come.'

'I look forward to working closely with colleagues, dental organisations, other stakeholders and patients so that, working together, we can produce models and pathways to enable oral health to take its rightful place in the holistic healthcare improvement.'

