Letters to the editor

Send your letters to the Editor, *British Dental Journal*, 64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8YS. Email bdj@bda.org. Priority will be given to letters less than 500 words long. Authors must sign the letter, which may be edited for reasons of space.

Dental education

Smart glasses

Sir, as the world saw the launch of Facebook-Rayban Smart Glasses and the news of upcoming, similar smart glasses expected in the near future, we see great potential for smart glasses in dentistry.¹ Smart glasses, equipped with microphones and built-in speakers and which respond to voice commands, will allow users to capture images and videos for sharing on social media platforms.

Historically, medical operating theatres were termed 'theatre' because of an amphitheatrical setup where students could watch surgery performed from a distance. The invention of smart glasses opens many opportunities in dental clinical settings for remote dental training. An operating dentist wearing smart glasses will allow a first-person view of dentistry like never before, which we feel could be a great tool in training and continuing education models. When streamed through closed group settings, this could make learning through observation safer with no risk of aerosol exposure and more trainees benefitting without any geographical barrier. With a growing number of dentists opting for social media-based learning, smart glasses can bring remote training to a whole new level.²

Furthermore, apart from training aspects, as the smart glasses allow two-way communications, they can aid remote assistance during clinical practice, helping to provide basic and advanced clinical care in developing countries. With robotic surgical systems in their experimental stages in maxillofacial surgery, smart glasses can become a tool for guided operations in remote locations where there is limited access to specialised dental care.³ With future smart glasses to be built-in

with augmented reality functionality that will overlay one's view of the physical world with digital images, it is only a matter of time before one can teach dentistry using virtual reality. While privacy remains a concern, tech giants put the onus on users to behave responsibly by issuing best practice models and suggestions. We believe smart glasses will be a stepping stone for future next-generation computing platforms, and embracing new technologies.

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Social media

Proactive professionals

Sir, we read with interest the letter 'Clip-on caution'.¹ As regular users of Instagram and other social media platforms, we too have noticed an increased prevalence of unregulated dental products and services.

It is part of our professional duties to protect our patients and the wider public from such 'products and services'. GDC standard 8.2.1 states: 'You must act on concerns promptly. Acting quickly may mean that poor practice is identified and tackled without there being a serious risk to patient safety'.²

We would therefore urge other dental professionals who are also social media users to communicate their concerns by using the

local social media reporting systems. For example, Instagram has a direct reporting function which is categorised under 'sale of illegal or unregulated goods'. Additionally, the GDC has a four-page online form that can be utilised to report a concern about unregistered practice.

By being proactive, we are preventing further risk or harm to the general public, thereby not enabling neglectful, unregulated companies.

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<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-021-3625-4>

Medical emergencies

Register your AED

Sir, on 17 October 2021 during a televised football match between Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur, the game was halted and viewers stood still as a member of the crowd was treated for a suspected cardiac arrest. This incident again thrust the topic of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and basic life support (BLS) into the public domain, sparking widespread debate about the appropriate measures that should be taken in the event that someone suffers a cardiac arrest.

A key message from the Resuscitation Council is that 'bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) increase the chances of survival by two to four-fold'.¹

It is for this reason I draw readers' attention again to your earlier correspondence in which the authors