FROM THE PRESIDENT

Are you being good role models as both practitioners and mentors for your students?

“Perioperative practitioners and mentors can be instrumental in supporting students’ emotional and intellectual growth, by providing a professional, nurturing relationship and promoting a positive non-threatening learning environment.”

(McCallum 2013 p159)

In this month’s edition of the JPP there is a very good article by Heather McCallum discussing the important role you have as practitioners and mentors in ensuring that students have a good learning experience during their time with you in the perioperative environment. We often forget how alien this environment is for both students and patients as we are so familiar with this surrounding. As Heather discusses in her article this can be a very stressful time for students and they can see some very distressing and traumatic events. I thoroughly recommend you read Heather’s article to give you greater insight into how this can be achieved.

The NMC (2008) emphasise in their ‘Standards to Support Learning and Assessment in Practice’ document the responsibility of a mentor in ensuring that students have the right support and care whilst in the learning environment and in spending sufficient time observing and working alongside them to ensure they become competent practitioners. AfPP (2008) have also written specific guidelines for mentors and practitioners in the ‘Supporting Students in the Perioperative Environment’ which can be purchased from the AfPP website and is a useful document for your departments.

The recommendations from the Francis report (2013) and the NHS England Constitution (2013) both emphasise the importance of strong leadership at all levels and by all disciplines of staff. Good leaders should be role models for their peers and students and should exhibit the values expressed in both the Francis report (2013) and NHS England Constitution (2013). These are compassion, caring, respect and dignity, competence, commitment, putting patients first, ensuring we improve people’s lives and that everyone counts regardless of who they are. This is particularly important for those of you as mentors as you are guiding and shaping the practitioners of the future and we need to ensure they take on and display these values.

This edition covers both July and August so I would like to wish you all a good summer and hope that you are able to get some relaxation and rest at some point over the next couple of months. I also hope to see some of you at our summer residential event from the 2nd – 4th August at York University where we can enjoy an opportunity for networking and education together.

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References
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"Perioperative practitioners and mentors can be instrumental in supporting students’ emotional and intellectual growth, by providing a professional, nurturing relationship and promoting a positive non-threatening learning environment."

(McCallum 2013 p159)
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