To educate or not to educate? That is the question!

Many managers are currently facing some very tough decisions on who they can release to undertake CPD education and how they can best allocate their ever decreasing budget.

In last month’s Nursing Times Caroline Shaw’s article entitled ‘Strong leaders get results’ (Shaw 2012) discussed the difficult decisions managers often have to make about their staff and how it is better to be decisive in their answers. How many of you have recently been refused time or funding to undertake CPD training? Wasn’t it better to have a definitive ‘yes’ or ‘no’ rather than being left in limbo with a ‘maybe’ or ‘perhaps’?

Put yourself in your manager’s shoes and think what you would do? As Tracy, our President, has eluded to over the past months the governments cuts in education funding to SHAs has seen a significant cut in funding for CPD which means that managers are having to make tougher and harder decisions about who to release and who to support. This along with the cuts to NHS trust spending with regards to employment of staff, you are also seeing reductions in staffing levels within many of your perioperative areas which impacts on your managers ability to release you for study.

So how can AfPP support you as staff and your managers in supporting you gaining sufficient CPD to meet your professional body requirements?

There are a wealth of resources at your finger-tips with the monthly journal, regional study days, the Careers Day in May in Manchester, Congress in October in Birmingham, access to the online modules and literature search facilities and much, much more. This allows you to achieve your CPD requirements even if you can’t get funding or access to formal CPD courses.

How many of you make the most of this opportunity and how many of your colleagues are members of AfPP so they can access it too?

So next time your manager says no to you don’t think it’s the end of the world. Take a different perspective on your learning needs and see how else you can meet them through AfPP resources.

If you are a manager reading this editorial then encourage your staff to utilise these resources especially if you have just had to say ‘no’.

Sue Lord
Vice President AfPP

References
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The Association for Perioperative Practice
Daisy Ayris House
42 Freemans Way
Harrogate
HG3 1DH
United Kingdom

Email: hq@afpp.org.uk
Telephone: 01423 881300
Fax: 01423 880997
www.afpp.org.uk