Are you making the most of your AfPP membership?

“The secret of happiness is not doing what you like to do, but in liking what you have to do”

Sir James M. Barrie (1860 – 1937)

As healthcare professionals you are bound by your professional bodies ‘Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics’ (NMC 2008, HCPC 2012) to ensure that you deliver evidence based care and keep your knowledge and skills up to date. This means it is your responsibility to ensure that you meet this requirement by accessing the necessary education and training to achieve these outcomes.

The national economic crisis has lead to financial pressures on the Government, which means they have given steep cost saving targets to NHS trusts. Moreover, due to financial pressures, the number of people accessing private healthcare has reduced thus impacting on those of you employed in the private sector too. As you all know one of the first things to be cut when money is short is the budget for staff education and training. Mandatory training takes priority and then there is a small budget left to support CPD for staff.

Through your AfPP membership you have free access to a multitude of educational material; the Journal, online learning modules, online articles and journals through EBSCOhost, CPD portfolio development and access to various awards; 3M Academy, Hilda Mears, Siobhan Rankin, etc. How many of you make the most of this plethora of learning opportunities?

As well as the free education, detailed above, we also deliver educational events closer to you through our regional study days lead by our regional teams. In the last year these have been delivered successfully in all four countries, England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, and we are seeing increasing numbers of events being offered. These study days have provided some excellent educational topics and are also being supported by our colleagues from industry so you have an opportunity to up date your knowledge of the latest technology and equipment. We have some excellent events coming up in the next few months; the first Annual Ophthalmic Symposium in the Northern and Yorkshire Region on 11 May, Assistants in Surgical Practice in the West Midlands Region on 8 June and many more to come.

In addition, with support from Mölnlycke Health Care, we are proud to announce the delivery of four Patient Safety Roadshow events, in Liverpool on 23 May, Glasgow 19 June, Reading 19 September and Bradford 17 October. The day will cover the latest in patient warming techniques, surgical site infection, the EU sharps directive, and will also offer exhibition and networking opportunities.

We will also be holding a summer residential; a weekend of education and exhibition at York University Campus during the weekend of the 2-4 August. This is again to make education and training accessible and affordable to you by offering two days of education and networking, access to industry, accommodation, gala dinner and food at an all inclusive early bird price from as little as £50 so hurry up and book soon as this 60% reduction is for a limited period only. We will be holding our AGM at this event to give our members the opportunity to share ideas and understand AfPP’s objectives for the year ahead.

OK so it means you’ve got to give up a day or two and put your hand in your pocket for a few pounds to attend one of the above fantastic opportunities to enhance your knowledge and skills, but I can assure you it will be worth the effort and you will have a great time too. Go online to www.afpp.org.uk/events to see the full details for all of the above events and to book your place.

Alongside the educational opportunities your membership provides support and advice through our Professional Advisory Service. Designed to give clear, helpful, accurate and confidential advice to members within 48 hours, our team of trustee advisors provide assurance on standards and best practice and promote professional conduct across all perioperative disciplines.

Additionally, upon joining the Association, you receive access to legal representation that provides legal costs and expenses of up to £50,000. Therefore, should you find yourself in a disciplinary situation at work, have employment contract disputes or personal injury claims, you have peace of mind that your AfPP membership is supporting you.

So are you going to “like what you have to do” by making the most of the opportunities AfPP can offer you? Why not tell a friend what it can offer them too?

Sue Lord
President AfPP
president@afpp.org.uk

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www.facebook.com/safersurgeryuk

References

Health & Care Professions Council 2012 Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics London, HCPC
Nursing & Midwifery Council 2008 The Code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives London, NMC
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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