

Lifelong learning in times of economic constraints

EDITORIAL

The half-life of knowledge is the time that elapses before half of the knowledge in a field is superseded or shown to be untrue. For medical knowledge the half-life of five to seven years is often mentioned and certainly this is something worth considering also for dental traumatology. New knowledge, materials and new methodology has given us opportunities to move borders to discover new horizons that were not possible to see a decade ago. New knowledge from dental and medical specialties has a huge impact also in the field of dental traumatology provided the new knowledge can be transferred to our field. For this reason we must all be lifelong learners ready to detect, absorb and implement new knowledge

that may be of benefit for our trauma patients and bring it to our field and also be able to communicate such results to each others. However, in a world of economic constraints it is tempting to do short-time savings and cut down on various types of education e.g. continuous education courses, meetings, books and scientific journals. Let us remind ourselves of the expression by Derek Bok, former president of Harvard University who stated "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance".

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