

DentCoach 2011

We would like to invite you to participate in an ambitious not-for-profit coaching project "DentCoach". This global project started in September 2010 after consulting with Young Dentists Worldwide (YDW). The project is the logic follow-up of the successful project for young veterinarians VetCoach that was launched in August 7. VetCoach (www.vetcoach.info) has produced 5 book editions and over 11,000 books, available in English and Spanish for Europe as well as North and South America.



The concept behind the DentCoach project is to collect professional experience from dentists around the world and make it accessible to students and recent graduates to inspire them and to help make the right strategic career decisions. The project includes colleagues in all kinds of roles and responsibilities: practitioner, researcher, professor, government official, business (wo)man. The

DentCoach project is about building up a "collective source of wisdom" to inspire and motivate dentistry professional starters, based on expertise collected from dentists world-wide. The vision of the project is to make this collection available as **a gift to dental students around the world** at or before graduation. The first step for the DentCoach project is to collect career reflections



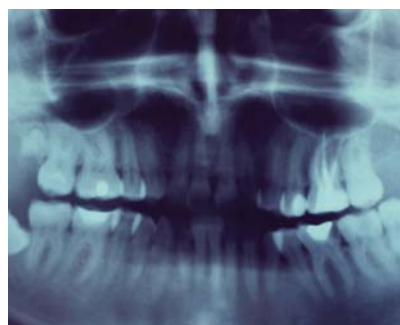
from dentists, like you and the colleagues in your professional network. The inclusive criteria is having finished dental school at least five years ago.

Your contribution

The question we ask you is to share with DentCoach three or four key „*learning experiences*“ that you had after your graduation which made you think now “if only I had known this when I graduated”. For each „experience“ the text is suggested to be about **300 to 400 words**. We accept exceptions but kindly ask you to stay close to the requested format. To give you an idea, this paragraph counts 77 words.

We are looking for the **experiences** you had over the years that have **made you a more successful professional person**. Decisions you made early on that proved to be critical (positive and negative) later in your career. These can be decisions related to your career in practice, in university, or in industry and in your private life that have influenced your professional career. Your experiences in National or International dental associations and organizations would also be of value. The purely scientific or dental technical insights (such as which diagnostic or treatment procedure you prefer) are not what we are looking for. However, experiences and career decisions that made you more successful as a scientist are of course within the scope of the project. Also experience in the area of work-life balance would be highly appreciated and are considered integral part of professional development. With the high number of female students in all schools today, this issue is more relevant than ever. How do you balance work and private life?

We all know well that we learn best from the mistakes that we (and others) make, so please also consider including some DON'Ts in your contribution. Things you did that turned out to be very serious mistakes and which (almost) put your career



at risk, and that should be avoided by new graduates if at all possible. **If English is not your native language**, please don't let this stop you to participate. You can ask a native colleague to edit your text, or you can ask DentCoach to do so. Your experience is what counts!

The experiences you send to us will be presented together with your name and professional credentials. Therefore we will also need:

Your brief but complete resume or CV that includes:

- your current position and location
- year of graduation, dental school country and city attended
- nationality, gender, birthday (or year).
- brief but complete professional history and background in order to give the students a good perspective on “*who you are*” and what you have done so far (if possible please do not exceed 250 words, but if needed, just go ahead)

From a format point we ask for the easy to read “*story format*” that is used for speakers at (international) congresses. Not bullets with year in reverse order.

Your photo

This can be a passport type “*mugshot*” or one that shows you in family, friends, or hobby situation. The file should be JPEG format at minimal 800x1,000 pixels for sufficient resolution. All family digital cameras today make photos with higher resolution (between 1 or 2 MB is now the standard). TIP: don't send the photo as attachment by e-mail in the photo function (as is available in hotmail and others) because these programs reduce the file size back to low resolution. Please send as a normal file attachment.

Submitting your experiences automatically implies that you transfer the information to Uppertunity Consultants and give permission for it to be used it in the context of the “DentCoach” projects. The

combined experiences will be made accessible to new graduates and, depending on the help we get from all of you and thereby the success of the program we plan to use the material in print. Each VetCoach edition has about 100 authors from around the world contributing, with a relative overrepresentation of local or regional veterinarians depending the target student population. Your text contributions and CV collection will not be published in internet. As you can see in VetCoach website, we have some example texts. No CVs.

New contributors!

We highly appreciate your help in identifying other dentist colleagues around the world who you think might be able to contribute valuable and/or significant experiences. Please send your recommendation to us via e-mail and may be the motivation why you think this individual should be approached. Remember, everybody is welcome. Don t forget to include up-to-date e-contact information.

How much time?

Once you have given it some thought and prepared key-words, it will most probably **take you two to four hours**, depending on your personal writing skills. Sharing your wisdom will be highly appreciated by new dental professionals who will be able to benefit from your personal experiences and advice.

Due date

We kindly ask you to submit your **text, CV and photo within four to six weeks** and or to let us know when you think you can do it. We look forward to receiving your input. Please confirm by reply e-mail today that you received this mail. If you are not able to submit your contribution within six weeks, please take a minute and let us know by reply mail when we can expect your input. In case you decide not to contribute to the project for personal reasons, please let us know, so we don't bother you with follow-up reminder e-mails. Your contribution does not include your contact details or website, unless you insist that we do.

Further questions?

Please let us know if you have further questions regarding this project. Looking forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your valuable help.

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