

Diary of a newly qualified podiatrist

Charlie Young

Recent podiatry graduate Charlie Young shares his experiences of his first job since leaving university

I have been in my job at a private practice in Horsham for just over a month now. I came straight out of school into college and then on to university and I have now been offered a full-time position. So, what have I been doing? How is a newbie seen? Am I developing as a practitioner still?

Well, the caseload is vast and so different from what I imagined. Because of the nature of the clinic, I treat just about anything that walks through the doors. I have dealt with soft-tissue complaints, long-standing nail abnormalities, walking difficulties and ulcers. I have developed orthotics to alter gait patterns, added modifications to shoes, and contacted GPs to request blood tests and imaging. I have used the ultrasound scanning machine, referred for steroid injections, made all sorts of wonderful shapes and sizes of offloading padding, issued CAD-CAM technology insoles, taken moulds of feet and altered footwear. I have also

treated patients with all kinds of varying mental and physical complications from dementia and Parkinson's to polio and amputations. All in an age group ranging from 3 to 104!

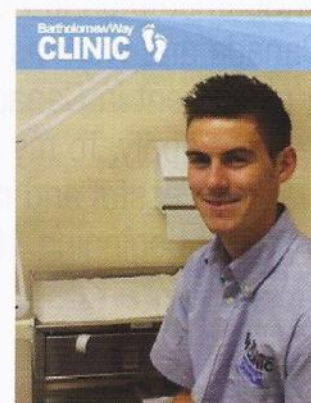
Next month I'm off to complete an electrosurgery course, which will add to my armoury of tools as a podiatrist. Additionally, I have also had a poster accepted for my undergraduate research at this year's annual conference!

Therefore, I guess you could say that I have been thrown in at the deep end, and done things I didn't expect to be doing. And it's brilliant! I am not just seen as a pair of nail clippers, but am able to use the theoretical knowledge I gained from three years of training. I can liaise with our physiotherapist and chiropractor when needed too. However, most of all, I am allowed to use my skills to help people with the treatments that I feel are correct. And, most of the time, it works!

It just goes to show what an

array of conditions that we as podiatrists face, regardless of 'banding', and that each individual patient requires different management plans and attitudes towards their condition(s). I feel that all podiatrists can learn from each other, and that does not necessarily just mean us newer pods learning from the more experienced, but sometimes vice versa!

I cannot wait to continue building on my skills and knowledge to give the best treatments possible. I feel that other newly qualified podiatrists should also be given these opportunities, again, regardless of their bandings



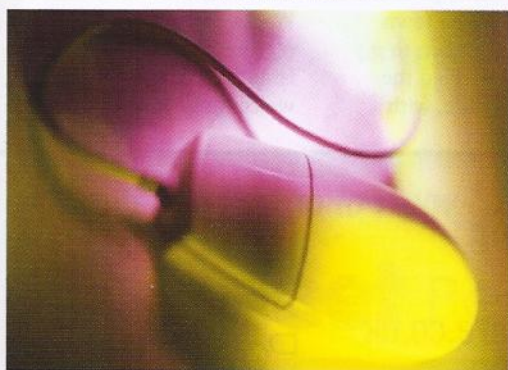
because after discussions with friends I don't think this is being facilitated enough.

But enough of the politics for now...my next patient is in the waiting room.

Newly qualified?

If you are a recent graduate and would like to become a member of the 'Graduate Support Network' then feel welcome to join. This relatively new group has been set up by new graduates for new graduates and will be focusing on mentioning schemes, study days and signposting, as well as acting as a combined voice for recent graduates within the SCP.

To receive further information please email Elaine on EG@scpod.org



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