

***Journal of Dental Education:* Advancing Through Innovation in a Challenging Time**

We find ourselves now in a period of rapid change. The dramatic transformation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic has altered daily lives, strained our health systems, and forced us to change the way we facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills to the next generation of health care providers. The uncertainty of the future has impacted not only how we share scientific knowledge and clinical skills, but has created an environment where we must think about patient and provider safety, and how to support the emotional and psychological needs of our teams.

As a result, great minds have sprung into action and are piloting new and innovative approaches to health professions education. Because we need to share information quickly and assess what is effective and what is not, we are adding a new section to the *Journal of Dental Education: Advancing Through Innovation*.

ADEA believes there is insight to be gained from the occasional disconnect between our expectations and the outcome observed, as well as noting when things go better than expected. With that in mind, we want to consider the full range of adaptations taking place in response to the pandemic, from clinical skills to team wellness.

Our goal is to create short, structured reports of effective innovations that have not been formally tested as comprehensive research projects, but display creativity in health professional education.

Problem, Solution, Results

The goal of Advancing Through Innovation is to present a problem, describe how it was addressed, and discuss the lessons learned from the experience in order to help others replicate, refine, or redirect the approach to similar problems in their local environments. The key components of this collection of articles will evolve rapidly and focus on three questions—why, how, and what:

- **Why** was the problem addressed?
Example: *The pandemic limited the gathering of learners in a classroom.*
- **How** was the problem addressed; what was tried?
Example: *We moved all didactics to remote learning.*
- **What** went well, did not go so well, and what lessons were learned?
Example: *Some faculty needed a surprising amount of additional education support to rapidly move online.*

The new format is in no way a movement away from the scholarship of education, or the efficacy of education research studies that rigorously test scientific hypotheses. Our goal is to swiftly share insights gained through implementing new ideas. We want to report where a great idea succeeds or falls short, what we learn from failing, and how taking risks with new ideas helps us to move forward.

In addition, there tends to be a bias in health education research that we prefer to invest the energy to write full research papers in areas where the results show promise. Advancing Through Innovation are scholarly insights that are not completed research yet they will meet our standards of originality, clarity of approach, and significance through a rapid peer review process.

Starting within the next month, ADEA will start publishing Advancing Through Innovation online in an unexpurgated format to facilitate engagement between readers and authors, which in return will improve our community's ability to use information learned by peers at other institutions.

We are very excited about the new format and hope it enables the *Journal of Dental Education* to continue sharing great ideas.

Following are the author and submission guidelines.

JDE Author Guidelines—Advancing Through Innovation

ADEA invites authors to submit articles for consideration for a new feature in the *Journal of Dental Education: Advancing Through Innovation*.

In health care education we often pilot new methods for learning and supporting our teams. Exploring new approaches to a problem often is based on a limited availability of high-quality evidence. Advancing Through Innovation articles are scholarly insights that are not completed research, yet they meet our standards of originality, clarity of approach, and significance through a rapid peer review process. The goal is to present a problem, describe how it was addressed, and discuss the lessons learned from the experience in order to help others replicate, refine, or redirect the approach to similar problems in their local environments. Following are the manuscript specifications and submission information.

Title

A maximum of 90 characters

Authors

A maximum of 4, meeting the [ICMJE author criteria](#)

Format

Word count: a maximum of 500 words (not counting reference materials)

Submissions are limited to three sections:

- **Problem**
Why? (why the problem was addressed)
Briefly explain why this is a problem with context to enable the reader to judge the applicability of the concern to their environment.
- **Solution**
How? (how was the problem addressed, what was tried)
Outline how the solution attempted to address the problem, what resources were required, and how the idea was given a chance to succeed.
- **Results**
What? (what went well, did not go so well, and what lessons were learned)
Share successes and failures and highlight how your perspective has changed in relation to why the innovation succeeded or failed.

Images

A maximum of three image files, including tables, photos and/or illustrations.

References

A maximum of five references.

Website

A maximum of one website url, if the educational materials described are publicly available.

How to Submit Articles

Submit articles for consideration to mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jdentaled. Select “Advancing Through Innovation” from the list of article types.

Call for Reviewers

If you wish to serve as a reviewer for Advancing Through Innovation submissions, please email Sue Kimner at kimners@adea.org.