

# Staying strong

The world has been turned upside down with the arrival of COVID-19 disease, and the impact on dentistry has already been vast.

One of the first great shocks of this terrible time was the tragic news that Kimberley Finlayson, one of the co-founders of FMC, had passed away.

I would like to pay tribute to Kimberley, who founded this journal nearly 25 years ago, establishing it first as *Restorative and Aesthetic Practice*.

I remember the many meetings we had at my home as I watched her apply her remarkable problem-solving skills to making this journal a success – and one that has so far, lasted more than two decades.

Kimberley would light up a room with her energy, passion and enthusiasm for life. Her devotion and dedication – to everything she put her mind to – was exemplary.

I loved how she overcame objections quickly, always trying to move forwards with positivity. I valued her advice, leadership and sound counsel.

My heart goes out to Kimberley's children and her dear husband. They, like dentistry as a profession, have lost a giant; a legend who will continue to inspire the next generation.

We at *Aesthetic Dentistry Today* salute all that Kimberley has achieved for the dental profession. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

## GLOBAL IMPACT

Since Kimberley's passing, the global impact of COVID-19 has become enormous.



## Stay home, stay healthy and pursue personal growth through resilience at this time

For the first time in the history of UK dentistry, we have had to down tools. This unprecedented event has left dentists wondering about the future of aesthetic dentistry and the future of their dental practice.

I know of so many dentists who have volunteered to help the NHS: many have been deployed on the front line and in ITU rooms.

Others, often newly-qualified dentists, will be helping in the newly established Nightingale Hospitals, repurposed from convention centres all around the country, while still more will be telephone-triaging emergencies at

the dental hospitals.

These efforts are noble, but there are financial impacts of having to close your private dental practice with immediate effect.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE

While we are doing our best to harness technology to stay in touch with our teams and patients – using video conferencing to contact our elderly and vulnerable patients in particular – it's a long way from the busy scenes we are used to.

And it's here to stay – we all need to face the realisation that this situation may be present in the UK for many months, with the possibility of another 'curve' arriving when schools reconvene in the autumn. Can we put aesthetic dentistry on hold for now?

Many patients are using this time at home to improve their health, boost their immunity and consider their plans for their post-coronavirus future. Perhaps we could do the same with our businesses, and build our resilience to move through these challenges, keep the spark within ourselves, refine our purpose and achieve personal growth through self-isolation.

My message to our readers is to stay home, stay healthy and pursue personal growth through resilience at this time. It's the perfect time to read the journal and update your knowledge of aesthetic dentistry today – ready for tomorrow.

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