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part of our interconnected society, impacting people’s personal and professional lives.

Social media can be defined as a collection of internet-based tools that create a platform for individuals and groups to assemble and communicate, enabling the easy sharing of information, ideas, messages, and images, and collaborating in real time.

In an interesting article on this topic, two viewpoints of the use of social media by dental students for communication and learning are discussed.¹ The first viewpoint argues that social media benefits student learning and should be used as a tool in dental education. This argument is based on evidence concerning the use of social media and improved learning across the health professions, improved peer-to-peer communication in clinical education, improved engagement in interprofessional education (IPE), and the provision of a mechanism for safe and improved communication between practitioners and patients as well as between faculty and students. The second viewpoint argues that the potential problems and risks inherent in the use of social media outweigh any benefits in terms of learning; therefore, social media should not be used as a tool in dental education. This argument is supported by evidence of the negative effects of social media on learning, the establishment of a negative digital footprint in the

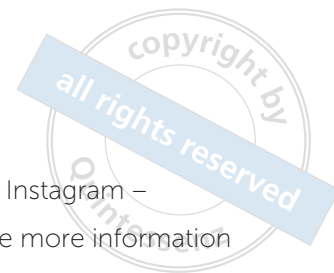
Why a tree’s annual growth rings on the cover? The oldest known living tree is the over 4,800-year-old Bristlecone Pine in the Californian White Mountains known as Methuselah. The exact age of a tree cannot be determined until it falls or is cut down and the annual growth rings become visible and can be counted. As climate fluctuations affect not only individual trees, all trees in a region share a characteristic pattern of growth rings, making it possible to reconstruct climate development over centuries using

EDITORIAL

We want you!

What would a journal be without its readers? It is time to thank our growing number of devoted readers for your loyalty and positive feedback over the years. Today, the *International Journal of Esthetic Dentistry (IJED)* can really call itself international. The number of languages and countries in which the journal can be read is continually increasing.

We are aware that a growing proportion of our readers, especially younger readers, search for and consume their information on the internet, and, above all, on social media. Social media has become a major



dendrochronology. One objective of this research field is to predict the growth of trees, thereby enabling the prognosis for the behavior of forests as ecological systems under changing climate conditions.

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public view, the risk of privacy violations when using social media, and the new phenomenon of internet addiction with its negative physiological and psychological effects on social media users. It is important for the use of social media by dental professionals to fit within the established social contract between the profession and society to avoid any damage to the patient–professional relationship.

We are aware of this responsibility and take it seriously. We are therefore committed to using the internet and social media in the most positive way for communication and exchange with our readers on a professional basis. We are excited to announce that the newly designed Quintessence website will be up and running soon. You might

also like to follow us on Instagram – @ijedentistry – to receive more information about what is going on with the journal on a visual basis. We hope to motivate our readers to be an active part of our Instagram profile and look forward to linking up with you on that platform. If you have any questions, please feel free to drop me a line at devigus@quintessenz.de.

Enjoy reading!

Sincerely yours
Alessandro Devigus

Reference

1. de Peralta TL, Farrior OF, Flake NM, Gallagher D, Susin C, Valenza J. The Use of Social Media by Dental Students for Communication and Learning: Two Viewpoints. *J Dent Educ* 2019;83:663–668. <http://doi.org/10.21815/JDE.019.072>.