

Networking, Networking, Networking

Have you ever felt alone in your position as Practice Administrator? Do you ever wish you had somebody to share the journey with you, to encourage you along the way? Have you ever heard anybody say, "It's not my problem"? I have found that one of the greatest benefits of membership in GMGMA is the opportunity for networking with others in the medical practice management arena. There is always somebody out there who is willing to listen and help you out, or to at least commiserate with you!

Several years ago I received an e-mail from a fellow Administrator that told a story about a mouse. I pull it out of my file and read it every now and then. I am not sure where the story originated however, I think it's probably okay to share it here since I was also able to pull it up on the Internet recently...

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover that it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do but pray. Be assured that you are in my prayers."

Mr. Mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse, I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap...alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house – like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to his farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But the wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. And so many people came for the funeral the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

So the next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think that it does not concern you, remember that when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk.

We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and be willing to make that extra effort to encourage one another.

Nobody makes the journey alone.