

## Education for Success in Implant Dentistry

### The Broad Goals:

Our broader mission will be to provide quality continuing education for all phases of implant treatment and for all levels of experience. **There will be a special emphasis on the foundation of knowledge necessary for the development of a sound, evidence-based treatment philosophy – i.e. knowing the basics.** Some of the areas that will receive our early attention will be:

1. To increase the comfort level of people who already work with implants and expand foundation of knowledge to help solve restorative problems.
2. To bring implants into more offices
  - a. Where practitioners have limited or no prior implant experience
  - b. Replace prior unfavorable experiences with positive rewarding outcomes.
3. To foster a “Team” approach to implant treatment.
4. To provide education for office staff
  - a. To elevate implant awareness for all office personnel.
  - b. To familiarize office staff with the many applications of dental implants
  - c. To improve the maintenance and assessment skills of hygiene staff.
5. Develop meaningful, user friendly patient education programs.
6. Educate the laboratory technicians in the nuances of implant supported prosthesis:
  - a. The importance of provisionals
    - i. For temporary function
    - ii. As a treatment tool
    - iii. As a diagnostic tool
    - iv. As a tissue sculpting tool in esthetic cases.
  - b. Use of custom impression copings for esthetic cases
  - c. Transition form and embrasure form

7. To make implant treatment more cost effective with:
  - a. Better treatment planning and decision making.
  - b. Better impression technique
  - c. Appropriate use of provisional restorations
  - d. Improved communication with the lab
  - e. Time management.

### **The Vehicles:**

With such a broad mission there will be a variety of vehicles for this initiative. The reference for all of the elements of our program will be our web site and the Referring Doctor section. The elements of this program are planned to include:

- 1) Essential Implant Fundamentals** – in the past we have had a variety of mini-residency programs of four to six sessions. Each of these programs involved a commitment to multiple dates and was designed as a continuum. In an attempt to create a more user-friendly format that will not require an extensive commitment, this program will include a series of modules that will each stand independently.

**Topics:** to be announced

- 2) Useful Topics in Implant Dentistry** – a series of topics that will assume a level of familiarity with implant supported prosthesis. These will each be a review of a current topic in implant dentistry, along with current references.

**Topics:** to be announced

- 3) Recommended Readings** – Every month we will take the opportunity to point out important articles that we think will you may find useful in everyday practice.

- 4) Recommended Continuing Education Courses and Events** – courses and speakers that will keep you current and keep your thinking fresh.

As a practice, we have had a great deal of support and success working with Straumann USA and, more recently, Thommen Medical as implant vendors. We plan to continue to partner with these companies as well as the many vendors that supply us with materials for the associated reconstructive procedures that we regularly perform. We are always actively assessing and evaluating new companies and products and will share information about those companies and products that we feel are worth being familiar with.