INTERVIEW
with — Dr. Louie al-Faraje

Q: How have technological advancements changed oral implantology since you first started practicing in this field?
A: Implant dentistry is changing at a rapid rate, primarily driven by the results of current research and the advancement in technology and products. Only by updating our knowledge and skills constantly will we be able to keep pace with current trends.

When I started, there were no tapered implants, implants with internal hex, advanced surface technologies, computer-guided surgical stents, drill stoppers or other such useful tools. I would say the most useful tool in our armamentarium these days is CT imaging. Today's oral implantology clinicians have the advantage of cone beam volumetric imaging. CT technology allows us to visualize the patient's anatomy and pathology like never before. With these images, we can measure the exact distance available for implant placement below or above certain anatomic landmarks, measure the exact bone density, measure precisely the width of the available alveolar ridge and select the most suitable locations for the planned implants. This leads to improved planning and reduced morbidity and reduces our liability.

Q: What sets the California Implant Institute apart from its competitors?
A: Oral implantology is a complex discipline. Many factors must be taken in consideration when developing a treatment plan involving dental implants. These factors include the patient’s anatomy; the patient’s general health; the patient’s bone density; horizontal and vertical spaces of occlusion; the soft-tissue biotype; parafunctions (if any); the smile line; the patient’s age, sex and size; opposing dentition and the location of the implants in the mouth (posterior vs. anterior placement).

The California Implant Institute offers the most comprehensive dental implant training program in the world, covering all areas that are pertinent to oral implantology. The extensive live-patient surgical component of the master’s program is unique. Our curriculum and world-famous faculty make ours the most sought after program in the world.
Q: How can dentists benefit from enrolling in the Master of Oral Implantology program?

A: The Advanced Surgical and Prosthetic Master of Oral Implantology Training Program at the California Implant Institute is the only one of its kind. It consists of seven highly structured modules that ensure dentists will receive the most comprehensive dental implant training available.

Module 1 consists of the institute’s signature Fellowship Program, in which dentists gain fundamental knowledge and skills through in-class lectures, hands-on laboratory sessions, online webinars and live surgical demonstrations.

Module 2 is the hands-on cadaver module, in which participants improve their clinical skills by performing advanced and complex procedures on human specimens.

Module 3 consists of the live-patient surgical training programs held at the institute’s Baja office in Rosarito, Mexico. All dentists and patients are shuttled from San Diego to the Mexico site. The participants take a total of four live-patient externships of six days each. Each externship includes 3–4 hours of treatment planning each morning. Course material and surgical DVDs are provided before each program to enhance the learning experience.

Module 4 offers the unique opportunity for participants to shadow and assist one of the institute’s prosthodontists on-site. During this module, the participants are exposed to complex cases, treatment planning for those cases, occlusion design and proper hygiene protocols for implant patients. Other topics include documentation of implant cases, the informed patient consent process, capturing the necessary extraoral and intraoral photographs for precise implant treatment planning, digital smile design for aesthetic and complex cases, and dental laboratory training for immediate implant provisionalization.

Module 5 provides live-patient oral sedation training.

Module 6 is a five-day module covering a wide range of topics related to CAD/CAM and computer-guided surgical training, with a hands-on workshop.

Module 7 is the academic and research component of the program. Dentists are encouraged to make use of the institute’s resource center throughout in order to complete the following academic assignments:

- Watch 50 surgical videos on the institute’s private YouTube channel
- Complete the research/literature review assignment
- Provide documentation for five clinical cases:
  - Two single-implant fixed cases
  - Two multiunit implant cases (bar overdenture and locator overdenture will fall under this category)
  - One full-arch fixed implant case.

Q: What have previous participants said about the program?

A: “The surgical externship courses were an incredible learning experience for me. There is no better way, in my opinion, to learn the necessary skills required for implant placement than to actually participate in a well-supervised program like this. There is so much to learn and gain knowledge in while doing the surgery and while assisting and observing over the six days, during which hundreds of implants are placed.”

Dr. Wayne Young—general dental practitioner, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

“Your fellowship program has opened a new chapter in my dental career. Your great personality, encouragement, professional staff, handouts, binders, articles, hands-on sessions, outstanding lectures and live-surgery presentations have given me the lifelong confidence to diagnose and treat patients with implants. I proudly apply your knowledge and techniques at my dental practice. Thank you for your outstanding performance, incredible service and hospitality.”

Dr. Peter Zahedi—general dental practitioner, San Rafael, California, U.S.

“I have been placing implants for over seven years and found the course to be invaluable. You provided information that could be implemented after each session. The course is well structured for both the novice and the more experienced. I believe this course to be a must for anyone interested in or continuing their education in implant dentistry. You will be hard pressed to find a more well-prepared and organized teacher. The live surgeries and hands-on portions of the course pay for themselves.”

Dr. Robert Matiasevich Jr.
The California Implant Institute and its world-renowned faculty have developed the most comprehensive curriculum focusing on essential information that is immediately useful to doctors, their staff, and their patients. Through in-class interactive lectures, online webinars, hands-on laboratory sessions, live-patient surgical experiences, and much more, participants will gain the highest level of knowledge and technical skills necessary to provide safe, appropriate, and efficient treatments.

Understanding the value of the time invested to complete the Master of Oral Implantology Program, CII offers a unique opportunity for doctors to fully customize their program track to best fit their availability while having the least impact on their practice.

Visit the CII website for detailed curriculum and schedules.

Faculty Members

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