From strength to strength - Clinical Innovations Conference 2012

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The Clinical Innovations Conference 2012, organised by Smile-on and the AOG and in association with The Dental Directory, was a fantastic success, boasting world-class speakers, cutting edge topics and practical advice for the many dental professionals in attendance.

Held at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel in London, the event saw more than 400 visitors from across the country come together for the two-day event.

The event began on the Friday, with world-renowned Dr Nasser Barghi speaking on 'All-Ceramic and CAD/CAM Restorations in 2012: Clinical Steps', to a highly attentive audience. Always a popular speaker, Dr Barghi’s look at restorative materials and the best indication for each was both practical and entertaining.

After the coffee break the conference split into two streams; Dr Wyman Chan and Dr Anthony Roberts. Dr Chan gave a lecture on ‘Modern Bleaching Techniques’. As a dedicated tooth-whitening dentist, Dr Chan focussed on bleaching techniques and the science behind the products he uses, as well as running a live demonstration alongside his lecture, with his dental nurse.

Simultaneously, Anthony Roberts spoke about ‘The Periodontal Jigsaw: Putting it all Together’. Looking at what a measure of success in periodontal treatment might mean for both clinicians and patients, Dr Roberts discussed BPE charting and the journey of diagnosis. He also explained the clinician’s role as motivator, communicator and educator in addition to their clinical capacity for the best treatment for patients.

The afternoon continued the high standard of speakers, with Richard Kahan giving an enthusiastic talk on ‘New Horizons in Endodontic Diagnosis and Treatment Planning’. Comparing the dental and medical industries, Richard highlighted the issue that dentistry has a far smaller range of tests to use when diagnosing a patient’s complaint.

Nasser Barghi, Mhari Coxon and Fraser McCord then separated the conference into three streams, speaking on ‘Bonded All Ceramic Restorations in 2012’, ‘Effective Biofilm Management’ and ‘Diagnosis of Complete Denture Problems’ respectively. Fraser McCord took over the lectures to discuss the best techniques for diagnosing problems with complete dentures.

Mhari Coxon followed on from Dr Roberts’ presentation of the morning with a look at biofilm management. Giving an update on recent research into biofilm, Ms Coxon illustrated the four stages of biofilm development.

The first day concluded with Professor Gianluca Gambarini lecturing on ‘3D Endodontics: Concepts and Techniques’.
Discussing the benefits of cone beam technology, he illustrated the importance of working with 3D images to diagnose patients’ complaints.

In the evening, the event hosted its third annual Charity Ball, where hundreds of delegates dressed to impress. Attendees were greeted by a champagne reception, and were able to relax and enjoy a sumptuous three-course meal, live entertainment in the form of dentist-turned magician Dr Raj Rattan and fantastic company.

The morning after the night before is always a tough start, but with speakers such as Basil Mizrahi and Ajay Kakar to look forward to, delegates were fired up for the Saturday programme.

Dr Mizrahi discussed ‘Clinical Tips and Techniques to improve the aesthetic and biochemical precision of your dentistry’.

As the Conference split into three sessions again, Professor Gambarini returned to speak about ‘Improving Root Canal Preparation and Obturation’. Simultaneously, Ajay Kakar lectured on ‘Non-Surgical Management of Periodontal Disease’, Sandeep Senghera discussed ‘Treating Your Patients and Business to the Latest in Technology’ and Dr Nasser Barghi spoke about ‘CAD/CAM Zirconia’ to MSc students.

Dr Senghera’s presentation was a practical look at marketing your practice to new and existing patients using the technology that many use daily in their personal lives – smartphones, social media etc. Likening the patient base to a bath with water running in and draining out, he emphasised the need to ensure patients are retained with smart recall processes and timesaving strategies for patients such as online appointment booking.

Dr Barghi returned again in the afternoon to repeat his popular lecture on Bonding from the previous day, while Dr McCord’s lecture was ‘An Update on Impression Techniques for Complete Dentures’. Dr Nilesh Parmar looked at ‘Dentistry in the 3rd Dimension’. Discussing the clinical applications for CBCT in various branches of dentistry, Dr Parmar used many case examples using the technology to illustrate how, in his words, it ‘changed my working life’.

John Moore then took over the speaking to explore ‘Digital Dentistry and the Advantages for Cosmetic Treatments’. Primarily discussing how his practice is using the CEREC system to their advantage, Dr Moore showed how clinicians can use CAD/CAM in their practices to fulfil patients’ requirements.

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The Clinical Innovations Conference 2012 came to a close on the Saturday afternoon, with Dr Amit Patel speaking on ‘Peri-implantitis – a Future Timebomb’. With the growing trend of placing dental implants, cases of peri-implantitis and perimucositis will inevitably increase. Dr Patel discussed the process of the inflammation and the reasons for it, looking at prosthetic design. He discussed his preferences for screw-retained restorations and looked at therapies for managing the inflammation. One of the many strengths of the Clinical Innovations Conference is that it combines lectures with live workshops, demonstrations and a trade exhibition, to cater to practitioners’ every need. Between lectures, delegates were able to browse the exhibition stands, accessing some of the latest technologies in the world of aesthetic and restorative dentistry, and put their questions directly to the experts at each company.

Feedback from the event has been fantastic, with many delegates already penning the 2013 date in their diary. Next year’s event, the tenth anniversary of the Clinical Innovations Conference, will be held 17-18th May 2013.