Delegates from across the UK braved the flood warnings and torrential rain to attend the BACD’s 9th Annual Conference at the Manchester Central Convention Centre. Set over three days, the conference featured an outstanding line-up of national and international speakers including the likes of Dr Rafi Romano, Dr Basil Mizrahi, Dr Elliot Mechanic and Dr Michael Zybutz. The event also featured a trade show section, where delegates were able to visit stands featuring many of the industry’s most prominent names.

Building on the success of previous years, the BACD successfully raised the bar for its 9th Annual Conference, offering delegates a strong blend of cutting-edge education from some of the world’s leading speakers, combined with a trade exhibition, and excellent networking opportunities. At the climax of the event, on the evening of the second day delegates were invited to attend a special charity fundraising event at Manchester City Football Club, which featured a stadium tour followed by a Gala Dinner and evening entertainment. Dr Qureshi made a President’s Award that evening and dedicated it to one of the most influential clinicians of all time within minimally invasive dentistry, Dr Sverker Toreskog. Dr Chris Orr gave the acceptance speech on behalf of Dr Toreskog who is currently of ill health.

The incoming President of the BACD, Dr Julian Caplan was also welcomed into his position. Julian spent some time at the Annual dinner outlining his strategy for the year ahead within the BACD as well as entertaining the audience as a participant in Movember alongside other BACD board and com-
committee members who together raised more than £3,000.

_Changing perceptions_

Founded in 2003 by a group of dentists keen to share their knowledge and passion with others, the BACD has fast grown to become one of the most significant dental organisations in the UK today. At the heart of the BACD philosophy is an ethos centred on education, and a commitment to dispelling many of the myths surrounding cosmetic dentistry that still exist within the profession even now.

These objectives were made no more evident than in the conference’s opening ceremony, which included a welcome from outgoing President Dr Tif Qureshi. In his address, he reminded delegates of the BACD’s core mission to “Establish and promote core strong principles of minimally invasive cosmetic dentistry”, and showed how in the past year, the BACD had made great strides in this area, with particular progress working with many of the dental schools across the UK, as well as redeveloping the BACD website to wider platform and establishing a firm base for future growth.

Another area Dr Qureshi was keen to place focus on in his address was the BACD’s prestigious Accreditation programme. Designed to improve clinical skills across a range of different case types, Accreditation is one of the pillars of the BACD’s programme, and is a fantastic way for clinicians to gain recognition for the outstanding work that they do. Just as dentistry itself has changed a great deal over the course of the last decade, BACD Accreditation has also evolved to reflect this fact, and has fast become one of the most prestigious accolades a cosmetic dentist or technician can attain.

_Bringing it all together – the 9th Annual Conference_

Following on from an extremely well-received welcome from the President, delegates were treated to 15 minutes of a light and dance show before the conference programme began.

First on stage was the renowned Dr Rafi Romano, who presented on Current Innovations in Aesthetic Orthodontics. In a talk designed to be accessible to all GDPs, not just those with a particular interest or speciality in orthodontics, Dr Romano encouraged delegates to “think outside the box” and adopt a wider view to treatment planning. In a detailed yet thoroughly engaging presentation, he outlined a number of cases that he was able to solve using minimally invasive approaches that in some instances fly in the face of conventional thinking. A
keen proponent of technology Dr Romano described a number of different systems that he sees as the future of treatment planning, and also gave tips on some innovative approaches he regularly takes in his own work. These include placing orthodontic wires without brackets, and using a vacuum-forming machine to produce "home-made" tray retainers.

Following on from lunch in the Exchange Hall, delegates were treated to an afternoon hosted by Drs Anas Aloum and Mamaly Reshad on the subject of Which Ceramic Should I Use? In a talk designed to shed light on what can to many seem a complex and confusing field, the two speakers presented their own simplified solution which classes ceramics under two main headings, from which clinicians can select materials based on the specific case requirements. This investigation also then covered the important issue of selecting materials, and thicknesses to avoid underlying discolouration showing through. Though a fine balancing act at times, with some careful planning, and the selection of the right materials for the right cases, delegates came away from the lecture with an enhanced understanding of exactly what ceramic to use, and when.

_Day two_

With nine separate lectures to choose from on the second day at the BACD conference, delegates were hard pressed to choose precisely which of the many excellent lectures, they would attend. Among the many standout lectures to choose from were Smoothing Over the Cracks in Aesthetic Dentistry, Short Term Orthodontics for the General Dentist and Clinical Photography – Getting Started.

A particular highlight of day two was the two-part talk given by Dr Basil Mizrahi, who was speaking at the BACD conference for the very first time. In the first part of his talk he expanded upon the selection of ceramic crowns and outlined the best clinical approaches in order to achieve the long-term success of the restoration. He also paid particular attention to the selection of cementing material, and how cement also plays an important role in ceramic selection. Following a short break Dr Mizrahi then went on to address applications in more complex cases, with emphasis placed firmly on precision, and the steps and rationale needed to achieve this precision.

Following on from an extended lunch break that included the BACD Annual General Meeting, delegates were again treated to a wide selection of lectures covering a broad range of subjects. As well as the ever-popular Dr Elliot Mechanic, one of the highlights of the afternoon session was Aesthetics – It's Not Just About The Teeth presented by Dr Michael Zybutz.

A specialist in periodontology, Michael Zybutz is one of the few periodontists to be fully accredited by the
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American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, and was actually the first ever speaker at the opening BACD meeting way back in 2003. In an engaging and detailed lecture, he highlighted the role of the attachment apparatus and soft tissues in dental aesthetics, and provided delegates with his own “check list” to help in aesthetic case assessment. This included an understanding of the gingival biotype and its impact on treatment planning, as well as the various types of smile that a clinician may encounter, and how these too, can also affect the way a dentist should plan a case.

_Success by design_

Given the sheer number of high quality, world-class lectures on offer over the first two days of the BACD Annual Conference, the third and final day had a lot to deliver – and it did! Saturday 24th November featured as its main attraction a day-long course delivered by two of the biggest names in cosmetic dentistry: Dr David Garber and Dr Maurice Salama, of the world famous Goldstein Garber & Salama dental practice in Atlanta, Georgia – namely “Team Atlanta”.

In a talk entitled Success By Design: Integrating Biology, New Implant Design And Aesthetics In Simplified And Complex Therapy, Drs Garber and Salama spoke passionately about the importance of aesthetically excellent implant restorations. In a wide-ranging and comprehensive lecture the two experts detailed methods of preserving the restorative site, while also integrating evidence-based biological principles with treatment and implant designs to optimise aesthetic results. The talk also covered many of the different implant systems available, and covered topics such as what system to use, where and why, as well as an investigation of the different indications for immediate implant loading.

_Evolution of the smile_

With such an exciting world-class lineup of lecturers from some truly outstanding speakers, delegates left the BACD’s 9th Annual Conference feeling re-invigorated, re-energised and re-educated with current ideologies and techniques from the leaders of the dental profession. Not only this, but delegates were also treated to a range of exciting social events, designed to bring members together and forge new relationships that will last for many years to come. With such an outstanding conference held in Manchester in 2012, members are already looking forward to the next event!

_The BACD’s 10th Annual Conference “The Evolution of the Smile” will take place 7-9 November 2013 at The Hilton London Metropole Hotel. For more information, and for all the latest news, visit www.bacd.com. For further information about the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, call 0207 612 4166, fax 0207 182 7123, email suzy@bacd.com, or visit www.bacd.com. Images courtesy of REDAKIO.com. Photography and Video Productions._