In the third year of its Pros in the Profession awards program, Crest + Oral-B has recognized four registered dental hygienists who demonstrate excellent patient care, a passion for the profession and a dedication to learning.

The awards acknowledge the pivotal role these hygienists play in their patients’ lives — and their unwavering personal commitment to promoting good oral health in their communities.

“We have seen extraordinary entries over the past several years, which is why we must continue to honor those hygienists whose passion shine through in their everyday work,” said John Scarchilli, global scientific communications director, Procter & Gamble Oral Care. “These individuals dedicate countless hours to furthering the oral health cause, so we are pleased to be able to applaud them publicly.”

The winners in this third year of the award are Michelle Vacha, Heather Steich, Mallory Edmondson and Amy Kinnamon. While earning the honor in her own unique way, each winner shares the same devotion to promoting and participating in good oral care for patients. More about the winners:

Michelle Vacha, RDH, BS, received her degrees from Northern Arizona University and has been practicing in Colorado Springs, Colo., for the past 24 years. “I am so honored to be receiving this award,” said Vacha about being named a winner for year three. “I am hoping the attention from it will bring awareness to the public and other hygienists who care for older adults. Through my work, I help seniors deal with specific health factors they face due to lack of dental support. We want to ensure that all of the good work that has been done to maintain oral health throughout life is also preserved once insurance is no longer available through retirement or fixed income.”

Heather Steich, RDH, received her degree at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, and has been practicing in San Francisco for the past five years. “I will be taking my second oral health service/mission trip to Honduras this year,” said Steich about winning $1,000. “Last year I used my own funds for the trip, but this year I plan on using the award toward the expenses of the trip. In effect, the award will be going back to the community I love to serve.”

Mallory Edmondson, RDH, BS, received her BSDH from Indiana University South Bend and is currently at the University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene for her MSDH. She has been practicing in Merrillville, Ind., for the past two years. “My favorite aspect of dental hygiene is the limitless opportunities available within the profession,” said Edmondson about being an RDH. “We are educators, managers, practitioners and much more. Hygienists are able to adapt to any given situation and apply their knowledge and skill sets far beyond the dental chair.”

Amy Kinnamon, RDH, received her degree from Shawnee State University and has been practicing in Athens, Ohio, for the past 17 years. “Last year I was invited to the U.S National Oral Health Alliance because of my research concerning ways to increase compliance in dental care amongst Appalachian children. This year, I have the honor of giving a continuing education course concerning my research at Ohio’s dental hygiene total development weekend. This has been a career goal of mine since returning to my hometown in Appalachia almost 20 years ago.”

About Pros in the Profession
Crest + Oral-B has rewarded the four RDH winners with:

• An all-expense paid trip to visit the Procter & Gamble German Innovation Center at Kronberg, Germany
• A $5000 monetary prize
• A recognition plaque
• Recognition in dental periodicals and announcements on Crest + Oral-B for Dental Professionals Facebook page and www.dentalcare.com.

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ORAL-B® POWER:
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Help Improve Compliance
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• Triple Pressure Control helps patients who are overaggressive while brushing

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To learn more, visit dentalcare.com, call 1.800.543.2577, or contact your Crest • Oral-B representative.

*vs. regular manual toothbrush.

References:
Digital workflow used with BioTemps provisionalization

By Tarun Agarwal, DDS, PA

Today’s digital impression technology enables dentists to create a virtual, computer-generated replica of the hard and soft tissues in the mouth quickly and accurately using their choice of optical scanning device. As an ardent supporter of digital impressions, I make every attempt to digitize our restorative workflow. There are numerous benefits to a digital impression:

- **Efficiency:** A digital impression takes less time than a traditional impression.
- **Quicker turnaround time:** Clinicians often forget or fail to realize the true value of this. Getting restorations back faster is better for the patient, the practice and the overall case outcome.
- **Cost savings:** Have you ever calculated the cost of taking a traditional impression for a final restoration? If you add up what your office spends on impression materials, chair time and case shipping fees, you will be amazed at how much is spent on traditional methods.

Case presentation

The female in this case has been a patient in our practice for nearly eight years. She has worn a porcelain-fused-to-metal bridge from tooth #5 to #12 replacing missing teeth #7 to #10. She is not terribly unhappy with the look and feel of the bridge, but the bridge has been no stranger to the big issue facing PFM restorations: chipping of porcelain from the metal substructure. During the past eight years, we have patched various corners and lingual surfaces. Recently, the patient agreed to replace her long-span PFM bridge with an implant-supported bridge (Glidewell Laboratories, Newport Beach, Calif.) was the quick and easy answer.

Traditionally, BioTempes are made prior to preparation and relined chairside. In this case, I wanted to have the BioTempes made to fit the final preparations of the abutment teeth, which would later be converted to individual restorations. As an advocate of digital impressions, I chose to follow a digital workflow.

The provisional BioTempes bridge offers these important advantages in this case:

1) **Trial smile:** Patients get a "trial" of the new contours. Any modifications to length or contour can be made chairside, avoiding costly remakes and unhappy patients.
2) **Long-term durability:** Because of the complexity of this case, full treatment will take well over 12 months. An acrylic provisional fabricated chairside simply won't hold up this long.
3) **Removability:** For implant surgery, the specialist will need the ability to remove and re-cement the provisional with relative ease.
4) **Adjustability:** The necks of teeth #7 to #10 will need to be adjusted after surgery to remove any pressure to the surgical sites. BioTemps are easily adjusted.
5) **Surgical assistance:** The contours and esthetics of the BioTempes will serve as a "guide" to the surgeon for grafting and placement of the implants.

As this case illustrates, digital impressions are not just limited to final restorations, and certainly not just to single units. It’s time for you to take a closer look at digital restorative technologies and see how they can benefit your practice and your patients.

**About the author**

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