AO Annual Meeting features global presentations

Event includes a special Focus on China Symposium

By AO Staff

The Academy of Osseointegration Annual Meeting brings together clinicians from around the world in one location to share advancements and best practices in implant dentistry. This year, the meeting included a special Focus on China Symposium where four speakers from different regions of China presented their clinical experiences on a range of topics.

“China is booming, not only economically, but in the medical and dental field as well. Everyone knows it’s a big population, which means a large patient pool to support the study of new techniques and procedures to advance evidence-based dentistry,” said Dr. Chao Ji from China, currently a periodontics resident in Maryland, who helped to translate the symposium from English to Mandarin for attendees who were listening via headset.

Dr. Dehua Li moderated the sessions on Friday and presented his own experience. He was grateful for the opportunity to share what he and his colleagues are doing in implant dentistry.

“Implant dentistry is getting more dynamic in China and is growing fast,” he said. “We have had many chances to improve our techniques. It’s a good opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to our international colleagues.”

The symposium featured four presentations. The first presentation covered research from the past decade on immediate loading of zygomatic implants and the long-term results after lateral sinus floor elevation. The remaining presentations featured techniques ranging from treating adult ectodermal dysplasia patients with atrophied jaws to the lateral mini-window approach for modified sinus floor elevation to treating patients with untreated periodontitis.

The AO Meeting provided an opportunity for people from all around the world to learn more about Chinese implant techniques and advancements.

“Speakers from China presented throughout the main program on the methods and procedures being used in China, one of the world’s fastest-growing dental implant markets,” said Dr. Peter Moy, 2016 AO Annual Meeting Program chairman. “This was an excellent way to represent China to AO’s global membership.”

AO’s Young Clinicians mingle at Café Sevilla

By AO Staff

The Young Clinicians Committee (YCC) hosted a reception at Café Sevilla as part of the Academy of Osseointegration’s 31st Annual Meeting.

Dr. Lauren Brownfield, chair of the YCC, explained the idea behind the reception was to give the youngest clinicians in the academy a chance to interact with people their own age who face similar issues and to create new relationships.

Dr. Tabitha Chen from San Francisco shared a sentiment expressed by a number of other clinicians: “It’s hard because when you are in private practice, which I am, it feels very isolating. You don’t get to talk to your peers.”

“At a function like this, you can talk to people that graduated around the same time who are going through the same thing as you … trying to get their feet wet and trying to establish themselves in the community,” Chen explained. “It’s very comforting to know you are in the same type of situation as a lot of other people.”

Dr. Nathan O’Connor is a young clinician from Yakima, Wash., who said he came to the meeting to improve his diagnostic and treatment skills, adding that the global emphasis has helped him mature as a clinician by providing different points of view.

“I liked the presentation by Dr. Frank Spears. You get a sense for times when you do treat with implants and times when you don’t. You get a broad perspective in an organization that draws people from all over the world,” O’Connor said. The committee was established in 2010 to bring together the knowledge of experienced clinicians and the enthusiasm of young members to raise awareness of the academy and promote research and education. To learn more about becoming a member of the YCC, email academy@osseo.org.
AO opening symposium focuses on risk vs. reward

By AO Staff

To kick off the opening symposium at the Academy of Osseointegration’s 41st Annual Meeting, AO President Dr Russell Nishimura welcomed attendees from more than 50 countries and announced that more than 800 new members had joined the academy. Presenters from around the world then took an objective look at the pros and cons of various treatment decisions clinicians choose from every day.

Dr. Frank Spear delivered the keynote address, “Globalization of Training, Education, and Comprehensive Collaborative Treatment Planning in Implant Dentistry: Understanding the Risks and Rewards.” After consulting for 30 years, Spear believes technique is one thing but perspective is another, and clinicians should consider what’s ahead for patients in their life when placing implants.

Dr. Reed Rayher, an oral surgeon from San Francisco, came to the AO meeting to stay current on implant developments. One of his key takeaways from Spear’s presentation was that sometimes less is more. “He breaks down difficult concepts that always confused you throughout your dental career and education and made them a lot simpler. He helps you understand a concept you never could understand,” Rayher said. “He’s very good at making complicated things simple.”

Dr. Takis Megas, a periodontist from Amherst, Mass., also attended the opening symposium. As a supporter of the team approach to implant dentistry, he came to the AO Meeting to learn more about the other specialties. He attended Dr. Henning-Schliephake’s session about the risks and rewards of grafting with growth factors/biologics. “It gives me a chance to learn more about the entire restorative industrial complex. I know the surgical side, the AO Meeting allows me to gain insight on the restorative side,” Megas said.

Dr. Liqun Wu, a general dentist from China, was excited to attend Dr Franck Renouard’s full-house presentation on the risks and rewards of not grafting. Renouard’s presentation addressed the reliability of the short implant option, the factors to consider when weighing the associated therapeutic options and emphasized that the simplest procedure should always be the first choice. With the influx of patients in China, being up to date on these issues are of critical importance to Wu.

“In my country, implant patients are rising by 30 percent every year,” Wu said. The AO Annual Meeting strives to create a meeting that allows collaboration with the best and brightest clinicians from around the world. Attendees agree that the meeting is a great way for clinicians to stay current on implant dentistry’s best practices.

AO announces 2016 Annual Meeting Research Award Winners

By AO Staff

Hundreds of clinicians, researchers, residents and their faculty presented original research at the Academy of Osseointegration (AO) Annual Meeting. Six researchers were recognized by a committee of their peers to receive top honors for their outstanding contributions to the field of implant dentistry.

Here is a complete list of awards and honorees:

• Best Oral Clinical Presentation: “Efﬁcacy of Socket Grafting for Alveolar Ridge Preservation: A Randomized Clinical Trial,” by Gustavo Avila-Oritz, DDS, MS, PhD. “I am still on a cloud since I found out about the award for the Best Oral Clinical Presentation. This is such a great honor for me,” said Avila-Oritz, an associate professor in the department of periodontics at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. “This recognition is the culmination of a very intense team effort conducted at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Our findings are very relevant for the understanding of the fate of the alveolar ridge following tooth loss or extraction.”

• Best Oral Clinical Presentation: “Dramatic Improvement in Bone Quality at Osteotomy Sites by Short-Term Administration of Osteoporosis Medication,” by Junno Yamashita, DDS, PhD. “I am very glad to receive this prestigious award,” said Yamashita, a professor at Fukuoka Dental College, Japan. “I believe our finding brings us one step closer to developing a predictable treatment method to grow bone.”


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