From strength to strength – Clinical Innovations Conference 2012

The ninth annual Clinical Innovations Conference has been hailed a ‘fantastic success’ from delegates and organisers alike. Dental Tribune was there...

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 last month 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.

As befits one of the leading aesthetic and restorative conferences held in the UK, delegates were able to expand and develop their understanding of ideas and techniques with help from some of the top names in the field. For the first time, the event included a London Deanery DFT Conference, running alongside the Clinical Innovations Conference, providing more variety and attracting a number of additional practitioners.

The event began on the Friday, with world-renowned Dr Nasser Barghi discussing ‘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 focused 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. In fact, the only truly objective test is an X-Ray. This is not however, a totally reliable tool, as its limitations can affect the results shown. If an X-Ray does not show a specific problem that does not necessarily mean there is nothing wrong – if a lesion for example is limited to cancellous bone, an X-Ray will not show it at all.

In effect, an X-Ray gives a ‘shadow’ of the tooth structure, so a 2nd and 3rd dimension is needed for an accurate diagnosis. The Limited Volume Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) gives this, and allows for a reliable and immediate diagnosis; preventing the possibility of working on the wrong tooth and causing more problems than existed originally.

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. He was quick to establish five main areas where problems arise:

- Support (resistance to movement away from the tissues)
- Stability (resistance to movement by horizontal forces)
- Appearance
- Miscellaneous
- Retention (resistance to movement away from the tissues)

To diagnose each, Dr McCord recommended a hands-on approach, tracing the dentures while in the patients’ mouths to find where problems could be occurring.

Dr McCord concluded his lecture with a few pointers to aid success with complete dentures. The first was that practitioners should ensure they use the suitable diagnostic treatment with confidence and competency. Patients’ expectations should also be kept realistic and the dentures should be age appropriate, helping them to look as natural as possible. Finally, good communication with the tech-

Visitors were able to expand and develop their understanding of ideas and techniques with help from some of the top names in the field.

Delegates and exhibitors mingle

Visitors receive their passes and day programmes

Innovation in practice
Dr Nasser Barghi presents his lecture

Dr Wyman Chan during his live demonstration

Of dentist-turned-magician Dr Raj Bajitan and fantastic company. As part of the evening, the brand new Clinical Innovations award was launched, designed to showcase the best, most innovative products currently on the market (see pages 485 about the award). Dinner was then followed by dancing and a fabulous party into the night.

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’. A very practical-based lecture, Dr Mizrahi looked at ways to make the preparation of teeth easier; from the use of loupes for better vision to the type of hand-piece used for prepping teeth. Various issues surrounding restorations were discussed; from dealing with microleakage to the problem of bonding to dentine.

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 Patient to the Latest in Technology’ and Dr Nasser Barghi spoke about ‘CADCAM 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 out, he emphasised the need to ensure patients are retained with smart recall processes and timesaving strategies for patients such as online appointment booking.

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.

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’.

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 periimplantitis and peri-mucositis will inevitably increase.

Dr Patel discussed the process of the inflammation and the reasons for it, looking at prosthesis 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 conference will be held 17-18th May 2013. See you there!
The first ever Clinical Innovations Award, a fantastic new prize designed to showcase the best, most innovative products on the market today, was held this year at the Clinical Innovations Conference Charity Ball.

The Clinical Innovations Conference, now in its ninth year, has become one of the leading conferences in aesthetic and restorative dentistry in the UK. The conference itself brings together top international thinkers who present the very latest developments in dentistry.

In keeping with the theme of the lectures, these conferences have become the backdrop for companies to expose the genius of their innovative products. Smile-on and the AOG invited the dental industry to nominate their most innovative product to be judged by a panel of experts.

There was a fantastic range of entries, some of which were described as "breathtakingly brilliant", others of which were defined as "superbly practical"; all were distinguished as having innovation at the heart of their solutions.

The judging panel consisted of a number of esteemed dental professionals, as well as members of a number of key journal editorial boards. As the award ceremony got underway, the judges were keen to comment on the variety and excellence of all the products short-listed, which had given the panel "great admiration" for all the companies involved. With such a strong short-list, picking a final three was tough, and the judges were particularly interested to examine innovation for dentistry as a profession – not just in the product itself.

With such a strong line-up of potential winners, the winner of the inaugural Clinical Innovations Award really had to stand out above the rest and after much careful deliberation, Dean of the London Deanery Mrs Elizabeth Jones announced the winners.

The winner was the Morita Veraviewepocs 3D R100 X-Ray machine and according to the judges it was a cut above the rest:

"This is an amazing development. No one thought anyone could achieve it. The field of vision in the right trough providing accurate information has been almost impossible with rotational devices. This is a technological breakthrough of increasing an 80mm diameter cylindrical field of vision to 100mm triangulated field of vision – to simulate the shape of the triangulated mandible, now includes the missing anatomy without exposing other tissue. This improves accurate detailing and will enhance patient safety when diagnosis and treatment planning is undertaken."

Launched in March 2012 the Veraviewepocs 3D R100 is the latest model in the Veraviewepocs 3D series of combination panoramic, cephal & cone beam CT devices. It re-defines the concept of 3D imaging with a unique Reuleaux Triangular FOV which more accurately matches the shape of the patients’ jaw. The R100 FOV in-
cludes relevant anatomy that would be imaged with a 100mm circular diameter cross section but excludes irrelevant tissues outside the jawline. Not only was this previously considered impossible to achieve anything other than a circular cross section, in this by achieving this, the X-ray dose to the patient is comparatively lower by around 15 per cent. With such powerful implications for enhanced patient safety, the R100 is the serving winner of the first ever Clinical Innovations Award.

The highly commended award went to W&H with its entry the Proface light probe. Despite all the years of research in the field, detecting caries remains difficult. Where previous caries detection devices have generally been chemical based leaving stains, the Proface light probe was commended for its innovative approach that, while not perfect, provides the right approach to evidence in knowing when to stop treating.

This new innovation allows direct visual identification of the caries-infected areas, thereby enabling selective treatment during caries excavation due to the ease of detecting the caries. Proface enables simple identification of the extent of a carious lesion allowing the clinician to ensure that subsequent excavation is minimally invasive and leaves healthy tooth structure intact. It also allows the clinician the confidence of knowing that they have eradicated the entire caries.

The commended award went to NSK S-MAX PICO HANDPIECE. In the modern era of micro cutting and magnification, this handpiece reduces the size of its head to allow wider visibility and better access to the posterior regions of the mouth where mouth opening is restricted, or in children and patients where mouth opening is limited. This handpiece has the smallest neck and head size yet developed in dentistry and the NSK’s S-Max pico ultramini turbine has been specifically developed for minimally invasive (MI) procedures. The technical specification of this handpiece’s cutting ability for such a small head is impressive. This is minimalistic functional art in action.

Finalists for the award were:
- The Carestream CS7600, the world’s first Intelligent Image Plate System
- COMPONER from Coltène/Whaledent, Direct Composite Shells that represent a completely new class of veneers
- Tri Plaque ID Gel from GC UK, a gel that allows you and your patient to identify areas of plaque in three easy steps
- Propoints from Smart Seal, the only obturation product to use hydrophilic polymers which absorb water and expand laterally within the root canal, creating a 3D mechanical seal
- TEPE Angle from TePe, designed to provide improved access and cleaning. A TePe Angle clip strip also offers a novel way of displaying the entire range in dental practices
- The Nano Water Flosser with the Plaque from Waterpik, which has been described as the “pinnacle of modern Water Flosser technology.”
- A piezo scaler developed by Tgons W&H that provides the patient with temperature-controlled irrigant spray thus avoiding irritation, even for sensitive teeth

Smile-on and the AOG would like to congratulate all the winners of the Clinical Innovations Award, and would like to thank everyone who helped make the Clinical Innovations Conference such a resounding success.