Is the rapid growth of implant dentistry outpacing efforts of dental researchers to generate compelling scientific evidence to advance the specialty?

At the 56th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) from Nov. 7-11, about 1,000 of the nation’s leading dental implantologists expressed strong support for AAID’s efforts to encourage its members to practice evidenced-based implant dentistry.

The event, held at the Rio Suites Hotel in Las Vegas, attracted 2,016 attendees, which was a record for the AAID. Some of the countries represented were Japan, Korea, India, Italy, France, Mexico and Canada.

What advances have you seen in implant dentistry?

The advent of implants into dentistry 47 years ago has been the singular most important advancement in my career. There isn’t anything close other than, maybe, the air rotor, which was introduced in the late 1950s. It has changed almost every treatment plan and diagnosis for anyone who is missing from one tooth to all of their teeth and on into other things such as cleft palates, automobile accidents or congenital defects. Anyone with any treatment need I just mentioned has had a major change in the past 40 years. As a result, many dentists have incorporated implants into their practices on a routine basis and others are still reticent.