Breastfeeding moms need milk
Nursing mothers need healthy amounts of calcium or run the risk of bone loss around their teeth and gums.

A-dec brings color to dental office
The dental equipment manufacturer is becoming broader, with offerings designed to serve dentists as their needs become more sophisticated.

Mark your calendar
Check out this list of important upcoming events and meetings for the dental implant community in 2007.

Turn chaos into cash
Use these helpful management tips to shift the general atmosphere of your dental office from pressured to productive.

A-dec brings color to dental office
The dental equipment manufacturer is becoming broader, with offerings designed to serve dentists as their needs become more sophisticated.

Academy of Osseointegration bucks tradition at annual meeting in San Antonio

By Sierra Rendon, Managing Editor, Implant Tribune

The Academy of Osseointegration’s 22nd annual meeting, held March 8-10, was an historic one.

In his Opening Remarks address, AO President Edward B. Sevetz Jr., DMD, explained the many reasons this meeting stood apart from the rest.

First, Sevetz said, there was the location: San Antonio, Texas. It was the first time AO had ever met at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, just minutes from the historic site of the Alamo and the famous Riverwalk.

Then, there was the exhibit hall, which boasted of the highest number of corporate partners and exhibitors that any AO meeting had ever had.

There was also the State of the Science of Implant Dentistry Consensus Conference, which explained the results of a several-year-long project headed by Drs. Vince Iacono and David Cochran. During that conference, attendees had the opportunity to vote for treatment plans on wireless keypads for innovative audience participation.

The SSID was established to answer specific questions about the field and posted for consideration by a select group of 140 distinguished clinicians, scientists and academicians.

Those questions were:
• “What is the effect on outcomes of time-to-loading of a fixed or removable prosthesis placed on implant(s)?”

CHICAGO — Smoking can harm the integrity of dental implants and cause them to fail more so than in a non-smoker, according to a new study that appeared in the February issue of the Journal of Periodontology (JOP).

Researchers from University of Murcia in Spain investigated if smoking impacts the ability of a dental implant to succeed. They found that smoking is a risk factor with regard to tooth loss and dental implant failure.

“People who smoke are at a greater risk of infection following surgery, and may heal more slowly,” said Dr. Arturo Sanchez Perez, Department of Periodontology at the University of Murcia. “When an implant is placed in a smoker, it is more likely to fail. This means a patient’s smile may be negatively affected, and the potential for more bone loss in the areas surrounding the gums and teeth.”

Smoking negatively affects blood flow to the bone and tissues surrounding the gums and teeth, which impairs bone healing.

Implants fail because of a failure to integrate with the surrounding bone tissues. The study followed 66 patients over 5 years, who received 165 implants. They found that 15.8 percent of implants failed in smokers, versus 1.4 percent of implants in non-smokers.
Virtual classroom: Personal, mobile and flexible learning

By Sascha A. Jovanovic, Editor-in-Chief, Implant Tribune

In today’s increasingly complex and evolving dental world, dental professionals must be innovative, knowledgeable and globally up to date in both concepts and practice. Advanced dental education programs provide GPs and specialists with concepts, solutions and procedures to drive their practice and turn today’s clinical solutions into satisfied patients and beautiful smiles. But travel inconveniences, costs, overbusy practitioners and the arrival of new and reliable IT technology have changed the world of dental education.

It is this transformation that prompted an update of classic CE programs using new media like DVD, e-learning and Internet video streaming. It has already in short time proved to be educational and fun especially for the so-called “digital natives”—those dentists who have grown up with the digital world and are at ease with modern communications technology.

Online learning is not the same as on-campus or in-room learning: it needs a different mode of interaction between students and educators. First, the viewer has to accept that the virtual world has limited face-to-face interaction and that commitment and discipline are needed by doing it in your own time. But one of the advantages of the online teaching modules are its obvious convenience and cost effectiveness and a potential, higher participation of the students in discussion. Another part of what enhances the online experience is the richness of the technology itself and its ability to be live, flexible, on-demand and interactive. Programs are presented via a range of media including email, audio, video and interactive all of which can be added by the educators and the students.

“Clinical practice along with the online learning makes it incredibly interesting and fascinating (instead of traditional lectures in class), said Dr. Kate Chiewcharnvalijkit from Bangkok, who used a combination of online and traditional learning to complete a master program in implant dentistry. ’I get more enthusiastic once I know that other dentists from countries around the world are in the same audience with me. It’s fun and a good experience. In the same classes, I was a young dentist and knew the older dentists the IT systems. In turn, they shared their valuable clinical experiences. This is what I call the highway of knowledge.’

e-Learning through PC or DVD player mixed with face-to-face sessions during conferences or hands-on workshops is in step with modern professional development and redefines the future of CE in dentistry. Modules where the dentists study the basic or advanced theories of the topic in advance, increases the learning outcome and is more engaging for all involved. Basically, dental education is trying to become more efficient and make better use of educators and clinicians time and enhance the learning experience.

Enjoy this month the exciting new world of Blended Learning!