Caplanis describes his experiences with the sinus graft procedure

Dr. Nick Caplanis, DMD, MS, and president of the Western District AAID spoke with Implant Tribune at the Western District’s April conference in Newport Beach, CA. The symposium’s theme was “Going Live! Focus on the Sinus.”

IT: Please tell us a little about yourself, and tell us when and why you decided to focus on sinus lifts for this conference.

CAPLANIS: I’m a board-certified Periodontist. My educational training began in New Jersey at UMDNJ, where I graduated in 1991. I was initially exposed to implant dentistry as a senior dental student by attending the year-long AAID-sponsored Maxi-Course in Oral Implantology, directed by Dr. Norman Cranin. Dr. Cranin was, and still is, very influential in my life, and with his guidance, I decided at that point to make implant dentistry my career. So I decided to attend a formal residency program in implantology, which brought me out to California from New Jersey, to Loma Linda University to train with the late Dr. Robert James, one of this country’s early pioneers in implantology. Loma Linda University has a very unique three-year residency and Masters Degree program, which offers training in both the prosthetic and surgical aspects of dental implantology. My Masters thesis was directed by Dr. Ulf Wikesjo, who at that time was the director of the Post-Graduate Program in Periodontology. Following completion of the three-year Implantology program and Masters Degree, I was granted a faculty appointment at Loma Linda and then given a special opportunity to pursue a graduate residency program in Periodontics. We fast forward now, ten years later, when I became president of the AAID Western District. And now, it’s my turn to put on a continuing education meeting. Along with our district board members, Drs. Jaime Lozada, Jay Elliot, Duane Starr, Steve Holbrook, Phil Kroll, and Mike Potts, we decided to hold a meeting on Sinus Grafting. We felt that this would be a great educational experience for the members of our Academy, and as a periodontist, I also saw the need to put on a program like this for periodontists, many of whom are still not performing sinus graft procedures. A program like this would also fall within the American Academy of Periodontology’s 20/20 vision guidelines.

IT: Was it worthwhile to organize this conference? How was the response from the dental community?

CAPLANIS: We began organizing “Going Live! Focus on the Sinus” approximately one year ago.

ITI World Symposium draws record attendance

By John Hoffman, News Editor, Dental Tribune

The International Team for Implantology (ITI) World Symposium at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City April 26-28 was a resounding success drawing a record 3,000 attendees. ITI will hold its next world symposium in Switzerland in 2010. The previous symposium, in Munich in 2005, had 2,600 attendees.

Building on its theme, “Reality and Myth in Clinical Implant Dentistry,” the symposium featured nine sessions and more than 80 presentations aimed at keeping dentists up to date with the latest technologies and clinical procedures in implant dentistry and related topics.

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Embezzlement a major threat to dentists

By John Hoffman, News Editor, Dental Tribune

Embezzlement is a massive problem plaguing an overwhelming majority of dental offices in the U.S., according to a nationwide survey by The Wealth Dentist. The web-based dental marketing and practice management resource company found that 59 percent of dentists have been hit by office theft, and of the remaining 41 percent, many believe they have been victimized but they lack the evidence to prove it.

The Wealthy Dentist cites a recent incident in Olympia, Washington, in which a former dental office bookkeeper and her husband stole $19 million over seven years. The victimized dental practice was not insured against theft and expects to recover only a fraction of what was taken.

Although dentists often catch embezzlement before it gets large, The Wealth Dentist cites many horror stories. "Our office manager would take cash payments and keep the money. She got away with about $10,000," a dentist in Utah reported.

A dentist in Massachusetts noted that the front desk was giving receipts for less than the amount paid by patients, and a dentist in Tennessee reported that an office manager was holding back insurance and patient checks and depositing them in place of cash payments.

Many dentists report having tooth-whitening supplies stolen, and many dentists complain of being hurt emotionally when trusted friends steal from them.

Zimmer Socket Repair Membrane now available

Zimmer Dental is pleased to announce an extension of its regenerative product line with the introduction of the Zimmer Socket Repair Membrane.

The new Zimmer Socket Repair Membrane is designed to assist wound healing in alveolar facial plate repair and residual ridge preservation following atraumatic, flapless single-root tooth extractions.

The Membrane provides a time-saving, predictable product and a simple, proven technique delivering confidence into the hands of clinicians. It is initially launching only in the United States, but will be made available in Canada shortly and in Europe later in the year.

Well-suited for the general practitioner and specialist alike, the Zimmer Socket Repair Membrane is made of Type I Collagen, which is among the most important stress-carrying protein structures in the body. The pre-cut shape of the membrane fits the majority of single root sockets without the need for trimming, thereby saving the clinician time and limiting waste.

The procedure for the Zimmer Socket Repair Membrane utilizes a flapless, step-by-step technique, leaving the soft tissue intact and preserving its natural architecture and vascularity. These are qualities important for esthetics and healing and help to maximize patient comfort after tooth extraction.

The Zimmer Socket Repair Membrane and technique guide provide a time-saving solution to assist wound healing in alveolar facial plate repair following tooth extractions and offers a simple alternative to a common clinical need.

Contact a Zimmer Dental Sales Consultant or Customer Service at (800) 854-7019, for outside the U.S., (780) 929-4500, or visit the Web site at www.zimmerdental.com for more information.

ITI World Symposium draws record attendance

The ITI is an independent, academic, non-profit organization founded in 1980. It started with 12 members and has grown to 4,000 fellows and members across 20 national sections.

ITI supports scientific projects proposed by both ITI members and non-members. It is the largest non-governmental organization to provide research grants for implant dentistry and related tissue regeneration, having awarded more than $24 million since 1988.

Through its scholarship program, ITI helps dentists specialize in implant dentistry. Every year, ITI awards 15 to 20 scholarships of $50,000 and each ITI center selected also receives $10,000. To date, 107 young dentists have benefited from an ITI scholarship. Straumann is ITI’s industrial partner and helps finance ITI’s research, development and educational projects.