The morning started out with two pre-recorded surgical procedures performed at Loma Linda University, from which all of the day’s surgeries were located.

The first pre-recorded procedure demonstrated surgical application of recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein (rhBMP-2) for sinus grafting. Successful repair of a sinus membrane perforation was also demonstrated during this first clinical procedure. The second pre-recorded surgery showed successful implant placement within the BMP-2 graft complex following six months of healing and revealed graft consistency and success.

Next came two live surgeries broadcast side-by-side on a mega-screen with Dr. Don Clem moderating. The first was “Radical Vertical Bone Augmentation” with Surgeon Istvan Urban, DMD, MD. Broadcast via the Internet, the live surgery demonstrated techniques to achieve successful vertical bone augmentation. With the use of e-PTFE membranes in combination with particulate grafts and soft tissue grafts, Dr. Urban demonstrated how to predictably regenerate extremely challenging vertical defects using relatively conservative procedures and minimize complications.

Simultaneously, Alan Herford, DDS, MD, showcased “RhBMP in Implant Dentistry.” Herford said surgical procedures for the treatment of mandibular continuity defects, pre-prosthetic atrophic alveolar ridge deficiencies, trauma and maxillary clefts have demonstrated extraordinary osseous regeneration induced by rhBMP-2. The application of rhBMP-2 was presented in the live case.

As the two surgeries drew near to an end, audience members were offered the opportunity to present questions that the moderator would ask the two surgeons. About a dozen questions from the audience were asked, creating an even higher level of audience participation from the standing-room only group.

The final live surgery by Joseph Y.K. Kan, DDS, MS, a professor at Loma Linda University, focused on “Surgical Biotype Transformation During Immediate Implant Placement in the Esthetic Zone: You Be the Judge.”

The session began with an explanation of the patient’s history and video from surgical preparation earlier in the day for the implant placement. During this surgery, the audience again was asked to submit any questions for Kan via the moderator, which many participants did, and, later in the session, the audience “voted” through audience response keypads on the question Kan asked regarding the techniques shown in the surgery.

The question was: “How many of you believe this (tissue graft) technique is able to enhance the periodontal biotype and improve implant esthetics?” (To many people’s delight, the theme from “Jeopardy” played in the background during the 30 seconds the audience was given to answer the question.)

The vote showed a 95 percent agreement with the technique Kan demonstrated.

The moderator joked Kan should run for president with numbers that good.

Friday’s afternoon sessions also used the audience response keypads during controversial topics such as mini implants and platform switching.

A sampling of other lectures that took place throughout the weekend includes:

• “Computer Aided Technology for Implant Prosthodontics” by Scott D. Ganz, DMD.
• “Can Dentists Feel How Much Torque They Are Exerting on Implant Components?” by Bill Holden, BSc, DDS.
• “The Zygomatic Implant. A Graftless Solution for the Edentulous Patient” by Edmund Bedrossian, DDS.
• “Loading Protocols for Grafted Bone: Immediate, Early and Delayed” by Craig M. Mach, DDS, MDS.