The International Congress of Oral Implantologists’ (ICOI) annual Winter Symposium will take place at the five-star Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas from Feb. 10-12. Dr. Michael Pikos is the scientific chair for this symposium, which will feature three days of dental implant continuing education. The 2011 ICOI winter meeting will focus on esthetic zone reconstruction including complications, innovations, use of CBCT and BioActive modifiers.

Attendees will be exposed to a skilled group of experienced private practice and academic-based clinicians who will share their respective wealth of knowledge in a friendly and scientific environment. The general session will be preceded by several pre-symposium workshops on Thursday morning, Feb. 10.

The line-up of the four-hour pre-symposium workshops will feature the following:

- Dr. Daniel McEowen will present a course on the “Benefits of 3D CBCT Imaging Systems,” sponsored by PreXion.
- Dr. Nicolas Elian’s course, sponsored by ACE, will focus on “The All New ‘Secure’ Dental implant System.”
- Dr. Hom-Lay Wang will focus on “Extraction Socket Management for Daily Practice,” sponsored by Osteogenics Biomedical.
- Dr. Carl Misch will discuss a treatment plan sequence to decrease the risk of biomechanical overload in his presentation of “Key Implant Position and Number.” His course is sponsored by the Misch International Implant Institute.
- Dr. Dwayne Karateew’s course will highlight “The Ankylos Implant and the Tissue Care Concept: The Foundation of Hard- and Soft-Tissue Preservation and Esthetics.” The course is sponsored by Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties.
- Intra-Lock will sponsor Dr. Joseph Chουkroun’s hands-on workshop, which will feature PRF membranes and autogenous matrices.
- Dr. Ziv Mazor will address bone augmentation in his course, “Current and Future Trends in Maxillary Sinus Augmentation.” His course is sponsored by MIS.

Following these pre-symposium workshops, the general session is planned as such:

**Thursday, Feb. 10:**

**Afternoon Session**

Cone Beam CT / BioActive Modifiers

**February event to focus on esthetic zone reconstruction**

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**Intro to CBCT**

Especially as it pertains to prevention of failures in oral implantology

By Dov M. Almog, DMD

Introraoral and panoramic imaging are not three-dimensional, and clinicians can obtain only vague measurements from them due to magnification changes as a result of positioning.

They are not efficient for viewing certain pathologies and, because of the limitations, cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) 3-D imaging technologies started to evolve. CBCT 3-D captures a volume of data and, through a reconstruction process, it delivers images that do not contain magnification, distortion and/or overlap of anatomy.

In recent years, CBCT 3-D started to make big inroads into every discipline in our dental profession, expanding the horizons of clinical dental practice by adding a third dimension to craniofacial treatment planning.

CBCT uses advanced 3-D technology to provide the most complete anatomical information on a patient’s mouth, face and jaws areas, leading to enhanced treatment planning and predictable treatment outcomes.

According to dental practitioners using this technology, it makes us more efficient. Essentially, this was a paradigm shift where measurements and anatomical relationships are precise and provide practitioners clear insight into the patient’s anatomical relationships.

As far as oral implantology, according to Kalorama Information (www.kaloramainformation.com/pub/1099233.html), it is estimated...
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that growth in implant-based dental reconstruction products will outstrip all other areas in dentistry.

The traditional method of replacing a tooth with a dental bridge has been shown to be problematic, and more permanent solutions are badly needed.

With a rapidly aging population trend in the developed world and the resulting enormous unmet need for teeth replacement, a large number of companies see the opportunity to move into these sophisticated dental techniques.

And indeed, as some have predicted, the growth in dental implant-based procedures increased considerably in recent years.

As a result, there has been a rapid increase in the number of practitioners involved in implant placement, including specialists and generalists, with different levels of expertise. At the same time, we are witnessing a diversity of unusual complications associated with these procedures.

A literature and web search revealed several published reports of such complications, which include: implant fractures (Fig. 1); impingement on adjacent teeth (Fig. 2); perforating the lingual undercut (Fig. 3); sinus perforations (Fig. 4); and displaced implants into the maxillary sinus (Fig. 5), to name a few.

The clinical management associated with some of these complications is difficult at times and considered very invasive.

Therefore, while the quantitative relationship between successful outcomes in dental implant treatment and CBCT-based dental imaging is unknown and awaits discovery through large prospective clinical trials, I strongly believe that using CBCT- and 3-D-based dental imaging is becoming a reliable procedure from a precautionary standpoint based on a series of recent preliminary clinical studies and case reports.

The author strongly believes that by taking a CBCT- 3-D-based study prior to placing dental implants, many of the above mentioned complications can be circumvented.

Dr. Dov Almog is a prosthodontist representing more than 30 years of diversified professional experience in clinical, academic and research environments. His publications include articles on cone beam CT, dental implants, carotid artery calcifications and practice management, to name a few. In 2003, in acknowledgment for his research on incidental findings of carotid artery calcifications on panoramic radiographs, Almog received the Arthur H. Wuehrmann Award by the American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology. Currently, Almog is serving as the chief of the dental service for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at the VA New Jersey Health Care System.

Dr. Almog's presentation, "Introduction to Cone Beam CT (CBCT), Especially as it Pertains to Prevention of Failures in Oral Implantology," from this year's DTSC Symposium at the GNYDM will be available for viewing online at www.DTStudyClub.com.