It has been decades since root-form titanium implants were first introduced, and specialists and generalists now find themselves faced with unique problems in caring for patients who have had implants for 20 to 30 years. Because any problems are rare, most of the science and literature available today doesn’t effectively address how to diagnose, treat and prevent these issues.

The theme of the Academy of Osseointegration (AO) 29th Annual Meeting, “Real Problems, Real Solutions,” grew from that challenge, said Stephen L. Wheeler, DDS, president of the AO. The meeting, which takes place March 6-8, in Seattle, will focus on evaluating those concerns while also providing timely information on the most important research and innovations in the field.

“The Scientific Program Planning Committee has assembled another impressive lineup of speakers to share their experience and expertise in the diagnosis, treatment and use of the latest techniques and technologies to correct these problems and prevent future complications,” Wheeler said.

Implants that last a lifetime

The AO — which has more than 6,000 members from 70 countries — is a nexus where specialists and generalists come together to advance the vision of implant dentistry by sharing best practices and coordinating optimal patient care. The meeting’s programming reflects that guiding principle.

“The AO provides the valuable tools and qualifications needed to succeed with implant dentistry,” Wheeler said. “The ‘Real Problems, Real Solutions’ theme of this year’s meeting is critically important to all dental implant practitioners — whether a specialist or general dentist, and whether they are actively placing and/or restoring dental implants or just getting started.”

As implant dentistry has become a standard of care today, he said, all professionals in the field will have to be able to competently address any issues that present to their practices, and treat or refer them as necessary.

This year’s Scientific Program Chair Lyndon F. Cooper, DDS, PhD, said: “We are putting the focus on how to make implants last a lifetime. Think of it like the maintenance you do to keep a car running well. Even the most expensive car needs an oil change, a tune-up and new tires.”

Something for every attendee

Each year, the AO Annual Meeting continues the tradition of promoting professional excellence and fellowship, with AO members and nonmembers coming together to take part in educational symposia, networking and social events. This meeting offers something for every attendee interested in gaining cutting-edge, evidence-based insights and continuing education from the world’s most noted researchers and clinicians in the field.

In addition, the exhibit hall — which is open all three days of the meeting — features one of the largest collections of leading manufacturers and suppliers of dental products in the field.

On March 6, immediately following the opening symposium, a welcome reception will take place in the exhibit hall; and on March 7, a special new product showcase will feature the latest innovations and technologies.

Meeting highlights include:

Thursday, March 6

• Corporate forum: This always popular session highlights the latest innovations from a collection of the industry’s leading corporations.
• Opening symposium: This symposium on “Strategies to Address Implant Retreatment — Dealing With the 25-Year-Old Implant” will include presentations that address the unique circumstances surrounding retreatting implants several years after initial placement. Topics will include crestal bone loss around titanium implants, peri-implantitis, the nature of complications and failures pertaining specifically to mature implants, and oth-
American Academy of Implant Dentistry elects its new president and officers

The American Academy of Implant Dentistry elected John C. Minichetti, DMD, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Englewood, N.J., as president at its recently concluded 62nd annual meeting.

Elected to serve as president-elect was John Da Silva, DMD, MPH, ScM, AFAAID, of Boston. The newly elected vice president is Richard Mercuro, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Lincroft, N.J. Shankar Iyer, DDS, MDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Elizabeth, N.J., was elected treasurer and the newly elected secretary is David G. Hochberg, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Atlanta.

Members of the AAID Board of Trustees include:
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Established in 1951, the AAID is the only dental implant organization that offers credentials recognized by federal and state courts as bona fide.

It’s membership, which exceeds 4,600, includes general dentists, oral surgeons, periodontists and prosthodontists from across the United States and in 40 other countries.

For more information about the AAID and its credentialed members, visit the American Academy of Implant Dentistry’s website at www.aaid.com or call the AAID at (312) 335-5550 or (877) 335-AAID (2243).