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 retreatuating implants several years after initial placement. The AO Meeting information

• What: Academy of Osseointegration 29th Annual Meeting
• Theme: ‘Real Problems, Real Solutions’
• When: March 6–8
• Where: Seattle
• To view program and register online: www.osseo.org

Retreatment — Dealing With the 25-Year-Old Implant” will include presentations that address the unique circumstances surrounding retreatuating 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 other...
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 Mercurio, 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 AAI D Board of Trustees include:
- Nicholas Caplanis, DMD, MS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Mission Viejo, Calif (immediate past president)
- Francis DuCain, DMD, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Stuart, Fla. (past presidents’ representative)
- Adam Foleck, DMD, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Norfolk, Va.
- David Girner, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Iowa Falls, Iowa
- Steven Hewett, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Winter Haven, Fla.
- Steve Holbrook, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Albuquerque, N.M.
- Christopher Hughes, DMD, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Herrin, Ill.
- Brian J. Jackson, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Utica, N.Y.
- William Liang, DMD, FAAID, DABOI/ID, of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada

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

Its 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) 335-1550 or (877) 335-AAID (2243).

Corrections

Implant Tribune strives to maintain the utmost accuracy in its news and clinical reports. If you find a factual error or content that requires clarification, please report the details to Managing Editor Sierra Rendon at s.rendon@dental-tribune.com.

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Dr. Gerald Niznick announces retirement, Stratton appointed president

By Implant Direct staff

Gerald A. Niznick DMD, MSD, president and founder of Implant Direct, recently announced his retirement. Niznick is succeeded by Tom Stratton as president of Implant Direct.

Niznick has a 32-year successful history in the dental implant industry. He started his first implant venture with Core-Vent Corporation in 1982, which, after a change in go-to-market strategy, became Paragon Implant Company. Paragon was later sold to what is now Zimmer Dental. He started Implant Direct in 2004 and created a new implant “value segment,” which generated a substantial and permanent positive change in the industry. In late 2010, Sybron International (now part of the KaVo Kerr Group) acquired a majority stake in Implant Direct. Under Niznick’s leadership, Implant Direct has nearly doubled its sales in the last three years and launched many new products that have significantly increased the predictability and affordability of dental implant procedures.

Implant Direct in 2013 is the fastest growing major implant company in the industry, according to the company. Niznick will remain a significant part of Implant Direct as a shareholder, board member and as a consultant for product development and marketing.

“On behalf of the board and the management team at Implant Direct, I want to congratulate Dr. Niznick on the wonderful, exciting company he has built and the dedicated, skilled team he has assembled. Implant Direct has become an incredibly successful part of the KaVo Kerr Group of Danaher under Dr. Niznick’s leadership, and we believe the company is well-positioned to continue that success as Tom Stratton takes the helm,” said Henk van Duijnhoven, chairman of the board of managers, Implant Direct, and senior vice president, KaVo Kerr Group.

Stratton joined Implant Direct in January 2013 as the executive vice president, global sales and business development, and under his leadership, the business accelerated in North America and globally to high teens growth and captured significant market share. He has more than 20 years of dental industry experience, and prior to Implant Direct, he was the president of DEKA Laser Technologies, Inc.

Earlier in his career, Stratton was the general manager at DENTSPLY Implants (formerly DENTSPLY Friadent CeraMed) and vice president of global sales and marketing at Zimmer Dental (formerly Sulzer Dental). He received his bachelor’s degree in public relations from the University of St. Thomas.

About Implant Direct

Implant Direct, one of the fastest growing major dental implant companies, offers a broad range of surgical, prosthetic and regenerative solutions. Founded by implantology pioneer Dr. Gerald Niznick and a member of the KaVo Kerr Group, Implant Direct continues a rich tradition of innovation. The company asserts it provides high-quality products with simplified procedures at value-added prices in more than 40 countries worldwide.
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er high-interest talks by thought leaders in the field.
• **Poster session**

**Friday, March 7**

• **Scientific/educational sessions:** Friday’s program includes concurrent surgical and restorative tracks, limited attendance lectures (be sure to register early!), sessions on innovative treatment approaches and clinical innovations, and oral abstract research presentations and a poster session.

• **International symposium:** For the first time this year, the AO will host an international symposium dedicated to a single country. Highly regarded dental implant thought leaders from Japan will address a wide variety of topics, with simultaneous Japanese to English translation.

• **President’s Reception:** All attendees are invited to the President’s Reception at Seattle’s Museum of Flight on Friday evening.

**Saturday, March 8**

• **Problem solvers and innovators:** These sessions take a close look at common practice challenges and innovative solutions.

• **Allied staff and laboratory technician programs:** These all-day programs address clinical and practice management advancements and concerns of the implant coordinating teams and laboratory technicians. Support teams also have access to the exhibit hall.

• **Lunch and learn sessions:** These sessions offer an opportunity to interact in small groups with leading experts in the field.

• **Closing symposium:** In this symposium focusing on “Our Better Future,” experts will present current and advancing technology in managing teeth and implants, including advances in biotechnology, digital dentistry and materials selection and prosthetic design.

Once again this year, attendees will be able to download a free mobile app from the AO website at www.osseo.org that will include a complete listing of events and speakers and will allow them to organize a custom meeting itinerary and access related social media.

Wheeler is looking forward to the momentum that will be created by the annual meeting. He said: “This dynamic community will continue to work together to discover advancements that will carry us forward into the future, giving us the ability to provide more successful dental implant treatment and improve patient care.”

**EAO certifications go to gIDE graduates**

*By gIDE staff*

In late 2013, the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO) held its annual scientific congress in Dublin, Ireland.

EAO President, Pascal Valentini, presented certificates in implant-based therapy to qualifying applicants of the EAO Certification Program during the award ceremony.

Only three candidates received the prestigious implant certification, two of which were graduates of the gIDE Master Clinician Program in Implant Dentistry.

For more information regarding gIDE’s Master Clinician Program in Implant Dentistry, please visit www.gidedental.com or e-mail info@gidedental.com.

**gIDE graduates**

Silvio Meloni from Sardinia (third to the left) and Helge Oyre from Norway (third to the right) as well as the third EAO candidate stand here with EAO president Pascal Valentini (middle), past presidents’ David Harris (first to the right) and Sascha Jovanovic (second to the right), and EAO board member Prof. Schliephake (first to the left).