Q-Implant Marathon: hands-on courses for implant placement, sinus lifts, mono blocks, ridge splits and more

Continuing education in dental implantology has traditionally focused on theoretical aspects. However, since 2003, the Trinon Collegium Practicum (TCP) has organized practice-oriented dental implantology courses based on the model of surgeon training in European hospitals, enabling dentists to gain a firmer grasp of implantology procedures.

### Drawbacks of traditional implantology education

Conventionally, entering the field of implantology has proven difficult for many dentists. Typically, it is not a subject of university education with many universities and courses focusing largely on theoretical orientation.

Because of this, establishing oneself within this particular area of dental medicine can prove to be a time-consuming endeavor. Further complicating the matter is the issue that educational and training programs rarely present an opportunity for participants to work directly on patients. This, according to Dr. Alfredo Valencia, MD, DDS, scientific director, TCP, has led to implant education placing an increased emphasis on theoretical training. This theoretical emphasis ultimately results in a neglect of practical experience and, more importantly, a general lack of confidence in ability. Because of this, many inexperienced dentists develop a fear of complicated cases and, as a result, a limited learning curve.

### Learning by doing

As a result of the growing concern stemming from the lack of practical hands-on implantology courses, TCP teamed up with Dr. Valencia to develop the Q-Implant Marathon®. Started in 2003 in Santa Clara, Cuba, the course is designed to be purely hands-on with a real patient under direct supervision from internationally renowned surgeons.

Participants with a strong theoretical foundation in implantology spend five days assisting in and performing surgery. “Learning by doing is the most successful way to gain experience in implantology, and that is why we do it that way.” Valencia said.

### Focus on the United States

Today, the hand-on concept has been rolled out in three permanent locations worldwide with one in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and two courses in Asia. In the last 10 years, TCP has hosted more than 2,600 dentists in the Q-Implant Marathon, leading to the treatment of more than 15,000 patients and the placement of more than 40,000 implants.

The decision to conduct these hands-on courses in Santo Domingo is a direct result of the rising number of dental implantologists in the United States and its surrounding regions. Additionally, there is a growing number of patients in this region that demand a high level of care but lack access to adequate dental care. The course in Santo Domingo has been conducted more than 30 times.

### Contact information

The Q-Implant Marathon is conducted six to eight times a year in Dominican Republic, Cambodia and Laos. The next session in Dominican Republic will take place Dec. 2–6.

To find out more information about the Q-Implant Marathon, contact Dominika Zmelev at (877) 703-9002, email tz@implantologycourses.com or visit www.implantologycourses.com.

(Source: Trinon Collegium Practicum)