New endo program is established at University of Tennessee

DENTSPLY Tulsa Dental Specialties, a manufacturer and marketer of products for endodontics (ProTaper NEXT, WaveOne, GuttaCore, ProUltra) recently made a significant donation to help establish the University of Tennessee’s new Advanced Specialty Education Program in Endodontics. The university used the funds to purchase endodontic equipment featuring the latest technology that is housed in a newly renovated, state-of-the-art teaching facility located on the university’s Health Science Center campus in Memphis, Tenn. The new clinic is named after the company in honor of its contribution.

"Ultimately, we are driving better dentistry practices by helping to fund endodontic programs like the one at the University of Tennessee," said John Voskuil, vice president and general manager of DENTSPLY Tulsa Dental Specialties. "Offering an enhanced education to these students provides health benefits to the entire community because they train on the latest equipment and technologies."

Previously, UTHSC College of Dentistry students had to leave the state to receive endodontic training. The addition of the Advanced Specialty Education Program in Endodontics was a long-time goal at the College of Dentistry and a demonstration of its commitment to giving patients in the community more options when a higher level of endodontic care is necessary. With the new clinic, students are immersed in a total digital operatory with custom endodontic carts, digital radiography, cone-beam tomography, practice management software and microscopes connected to high-definition plasma screens. Faculty are able to monitor treatment rendered by residents in HD video, as all microscopes can be displayed to the remote endodontic conference room.

"We would not have been able to launch this program without the support and collaboration of partners like DENTSPLY," said Adam Lloyd, BDS, MS, chair of the department of endodontics at the College of Dentistry. "As a teaching program for the endodontic specialty, our goal is to provide a clinical setting that comes as close to a real-life practice as possible. DENTSPLY is a recognized leader in endodontic best practices and our partnership with them is a tremendous asset in training our residents using the best available technology."

University of Tennessee officials and representatives from DENTSPLY unveiled the new facility by holding a ribbon cutting and community open house on Sept. 6.