

Toronto Osseointegration Conference Revisited

The idea of commemorating that it had been 25 years ago since professor emeritus George Zarb organized the 1982 Toronto Osseointegration Conference came around in the fall of 2006. Large conferences usually require years of planning so it was a proud moment when on May 7th, 2008 we welcomed 1,050 participants from 38 countries to the Toronto

Osseointegration Conference Revisited. They came to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre to listen to 70 of the world's foremost experts on osseointegration and dental implant research answer questions about where dental implant practice and research came from, where we are

today and where we seem to be heading. The Faculty was represented with seven speakers: Drs. James Anderson; John Davies; Asbjorn Jokstad, Robert Pilliar, George Sándor, Barry Sessle and Howard Tenenbaum.

The opening ceremony in the John Bassett Theatre set the tone for a perfect arrangement over the next two days. Opening addresses were made by the University of Toronto Chancellor, The Honorable David R. Petersen and the Ambassador of Sweden to Canada, Her Excellency Mrs. Ingrid Iremark. More opening remarks were made by the representatives of the scientific partners of the conference, which was the American Association of Oral and



Maxillofacial surgeons, the American College of Prosthodontists and the American Academy of Periodontology.

The speakers were divided into 24 theme sessions and had been teamed in trios according to their content expertise. The main themes reflected the significant developments in current and future application of implants to support intra- and extra-oral prostheses. Sessions focused on the treatment planning phase, i.e., the total treatment planning strategy, the surgery planning strategy and the restorative planning strategy; on patient-centred considerations, e.g., risk factors, healing predictability and probabilistic considerations of possible outcomes of the interventions; on interventions, i.e., the pre-surgical, the surgical, and the

restorative interventions and on biomaterials, i.e., for site optimizing, the actual implant and abutment materials, and ultimately for the different components of the supra-construction. Two more sessions focused on technology assessment and on educational requirements.

The 2008 Toronto Osseointegration Conference Revisited would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support from the industry and mainly from the two platinum sponsors, Nobel Biocare and Straumann, and our gold sponsor, Astra Tech. Moreover, several key people invested a vast amount of their time and effort to see this conference through under the directorship of Dr. Anne Gussgard. The 24 moderators were all amongst the Faculty of Dentistry teaching staff, while a number of postgraduate residents and undergraduate students very kindly volunteered to provide assistance during the event.

The proceedings from the Toronto Osseointegration Conference Revisited will be published under the title "Osseointegration on Dental Implants" by Wiley Blackwell due to be released in December 2008. It will be a privilege and honour to share the scientific knowledge presented during this conference to dentists and researchers throughout the world.

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