



Toronto welcomes the world to look at the past, present and future.

PREVIEW

## Toronto Osseointegration Conference Revisited

8-10 May 2008 in Toronto/Canada,  
Metro Toronto Convention Center



Dr Anne Gussgard and  
Prof Asbjorn Jokstad

In 1982, the University of Toronto in Canada hosted a conference that caught the attention of dental academic communities across North America. It introduced North Americans to a new endosseous implant technology based on machined titanium. While relatively small, the conference is credited with catalyzing research and clinical activities and, arguably, the accelerated adoption of dental implants in North America. As a way of raising awareness of the University's remarkable contributions to the field of osseointegration since this event, the faculty decided to host another meeting to celebrate the anniversary of this ground-breaking conference.

On May 8-10, 2008, about 2,000 dental professionals from around the world are expected to arrive in Toronto for an opportunity to look back and, more importantly, look to the future of osseointegration. Straumann is proud to be a Platinum Sponsor of this unique conference.

Prof Asbjorn Jokstad, Chair of Prosthodontics at the University, was charged with leading the scientific dimensions, along with his wife, Dr Anne Gussgard, also a dentist and researcher. TARGET had a chance to sit with Drs Jokstad and Gussgard to speak with them about the conference.

**TARGET: What are the main themes of the Conference and what unique experiences can participants expect to take home from this event?**

Over 70 of the world's top experts, scientists and clinicians will address three simple questions in their lectures: What did the profession believe in 1982? What do we believe now and why? And where do we believe that osseointegration research and the practical applicability of oral implants will go in the next 5 to 25 years?

These three questions will be asked in the context of three main considerations in the treatment process: patient-centered consider-

ations (e.g. risk factors and healing predictability); the diagnostic, the pre-surgical, surgical, and restorative interventions; and finally the biomaterials that are used at every stage of treatment.

#### How will this meeting differ from the many implantology congresses around the world?

We are striving hard to ensure that this will not be just another meeting where the marketing forces will be in focus. It's an opportunity for us, as a field, to take a breath, take stock of what has been achieved over the years and to focus on what is emerging as new and innovative developments in the field of osseointegration.

What's more, we're delighted to have received overwhelming support from two of the biggest professional associations in North America: the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS). They have contributed with speakers and input on the program contents, and we are proud that they have agreed to be the scientific partners for our conference.

#### How many participants do you anticipate in Toronto?

As the program has developed and with the great support we have received from all quarters, it has mushroomed into a much bigger conference than originally planned and we currently aim for 2,000 participants. What also strikes us is that we have been able to assemble a really extraordinary

congregation of internationally renowned researchers, clinicians and speakers. And we are fairly certain that many of these international experts meet for the first time in the speaking sessions that we have put together.

#### So as we look to the future, what do you see in your crystal ball?

Guessing about the future of oral implants is challenging and risky because ongoing research rapidly changes directions. Of the many areas for research that I find exciting I will mention three that stand out as extremely promising for the future. The first is on understanding and improving the implant-bone interface by chemically modifying the titanium surface and/or by incorporating osseo-inductive substances in the surface. The second is the research on ceramic implants, which has been revived with the introduction of zirconium-oxide. Finally, the third research avenue is a corollary of the enormous

advances made in developing innovative recombinant-DNA techniques. Although their exact role in the healing process cascade is currently not fully understood, it is probable that these substances eventually will have an important therapeutic usefulness.

#### At the end, a personal question: How have you and your family enjoyed your first two years in Toronto?

The transition from Norway has been quite different for the two of us since one came from an academic environment and the other as a private practitioner. Toronto is a wonderful city for all who enjoy city culture. In one weekend alone, we can watch a Caribbean street festival and later go to an outdoor country music concert by the lake and afterwards decide perhaps to visit a wine and cheese exhibition.

#### Thank you both, and we'll see you in Toronto!

### Conference Overview

<b>Straumann Symposium:</b>	May 8, 2008; from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm								
<b>Main Conference Program:</b>	May 9 – 10, 2008								
<b>Exhibition dates:</b>	May 9 – 10, 2008								
<b>Venue:</b>	Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto/Canada								
<b>Admission fees for the conference:</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Dentist or Researcher</td> <td>CAD 895*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other dental personnel</td> <td>CAD 495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full Time Student</td> <td>CAD 450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guest</td> <td>CAD 325</td> </tr> </table>	Dentist or Researcher	CAD 895*	Other dental personnel	CAD 495	Full Time Student	CAD 450	Guest	CAD 325
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<b>Information &amp; Registration:</b>	<p><a href="http://www.torontoimplantconference.ca">www.torontoimplantconference.ca</a>  E-mail: <a href="mailto:dentistry.continuinged@utoronto.ca">dentistry.continuinged@utoronto.ca</a>  Phone: +1 416 979 4902  Fax: +1 416 979 4941</p>								

\*CAD = Canadian Dollars