NDA project brings access, awareness, hope

Established in 1913, The National Dental Association (NDA) promotes oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocating for the needs of and mentoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities. It views “access” as a matter of social justice. As both caregivers and citizens of the communities that they serve, NDA members are trusted and respected providers who have been at the forefront of treating those who have the least and need the most.

Dental care is medically necessary, yet millions of Americans lack access to care. Despite advances in health care and technology, glaring disparities exist in some population groups as classified by age, sex, income and race/ethnicity. To address these inequities, the NDA-HEALTH NOW™ (Health Equity. Access. Literacy. Technology. Hope. National Outreach on Wheels) project was formed. Goals are to increase access, eliminate disparities and improve health equity in underserved and vulnerable populations.

A grassroots, community-based program, NDA-HEALTH NOW replicates and takes to scale key features of the Deamonte Driver Dental Project (DDDP), the award-winning regional children’s program launched in 2008 for Prince Georges County, Md.

The program serves children, adults and the elderly. In addition to dental care, it offers medical and vision services. The Project promotes inter-professional health teams working with emerging workforce models to increase access and improve “total health” in America’s most vulnerable communities. Community programs are designed for use either with or without a mobile unit. Increasing awareness about the critical link between oral health and overall health is a key message.

A mixed-use mobile health unit (MHU) designed by ADI-Mobile Health is touring the country to raise funds and crusade for healthier communities. It is specially equipped to provide each patient with dental screenings and treatment, as well as with health screenings (blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol), immunizations and flu shots, and vision screenings. The unit, its design and exhibition at various conferences has been made possible through donations from ADI-Mobile Health, Henry Schein and the Greater New York Dental Meeting. Other sponsors and supporters include: the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Henry Schein Cares Foundation, Colgate, A-dec Inc., Philips Sonicare, Air Techniques Inc., the Aetna Foundation, the Links Foundation Inc., Crest Oral-B, Patterson Dental, Oral Health America and Sunstar.

Resources are also provided by academic partners and an expansive volunteer network of NDA members and community organizations. Programs are active in targeted communities in Chicago, Dallas, New York and New Orleans. Funds are being raised to operate and staff the MHUs to provide resources and services to underserved communities.

NDA President, Dr. Carrie Brown said, “We have launched a crusade for healthier communities that challenges the status quo. We will meet those in need where they are and support our providers, who have made a commitment to remain in communities where they are most needed. While we acknowledge and support health outreach efforts around the globe, we must remain firmly rooted in our conviction that humanitarianism starts at home.”

For more information and to donate, visit www.ndaonline.org/healthnow.

(Source: National Dental Association)
By Mark Duncan, DDS, FAGD, LVIF, DICOI, FICCMO, Clinical Director, LVI

As a patient, I expect the best care I can find. As a doctor, I want to deliver the best care possible. That takes us to the power of continuing education, and as doctors we are faced with many choices in continuing education.

As a way to introduce you to the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies, or LVI, I want to outline what LVI is about and what void it fills in your practice. The alumni who have completed programs at LVI were given an independent survey, and unlike the typical surveys, 99.7 percent said they love practicing dentistry, and of those surveyed, 92 percent said they enjoy their profession more since they started their training at LVI. That alone is reason enough to go to LVI and find out more.

‘Advanced Functional Dentistry: The Power of Physiologic-Based Occlusion’

While the programs at LVI cover the breadth of dentistry, the most powerful and life-changing program is generally reported as Core I, “Advanced Functional Dentistry: The Power of Physiologic-Based Occlusion.”

This program is a three-day course that is designed for doctors and their teams to learn together about the power of getting their patients’ physiology on their side. In this program, doctors can learn how to start the process of taking control of their practice and start to enjoy the full benefits of owning their practice and providing high-quality dentistry.

Whether he or she works in a solo practice or in a group setting, every doctor can start the process of creating comprehensive care experiences for his or her patients.

We will discuss why some cases that doctors are asked by their patients to do are actually dangerous cases to restore cosmetically. We will discover the developmental science behind how unattractive smiles evolve and what cases may need the help of auxiliary health care professionals to get the patient feeling better.

The impact of musculoskeletal signs and symptoms will be explored and how the supporting soft tissue is the most important diagnostic tool you have — not simply the gingiva, but the entire soft-tissue support of the structures not just in the mouth but also in the rest of the body.

Comprehensive care

A successful restorative practice doesn’t need to be built on insurance reimbursement schedules.

An independent business should stand not on the whims and distractions of a fee schedule but rather on the ideal benefits of comprehensive care balanced by the patients’ needs and desires. Dentistry is a challenging and thankless business, but it doesn’t have to be. Through complete and comprehensive diagnosis, there is an amazing world of thank-yous and hugs and tears that our patients bring to us, but only when we can change their lives. The Core I program at LVI is the first step on that journey.

That’s why when you call, we will answer the phone, “LVI, where lives are changing daily!”
Rhein’83 introduces OT CAP TECNO line

Expanded technical options available for extra coronal solutions and bar connections

Rhein’83, a world-leading company producing precision attachments on removable prosthesis, recently introduced the new “OT CAP TECNO” line, launched during the IDS Expo in Germany.

According to the company, this innovative solution completes the well-known OT CAP line, which today represent the No. 1 spherical attachments used in the market.

With the new line, additional technical options are offered to the dentists and dental technicians focusing on extra coronal solutions and bar connections.

Another interesting application the company is seeing is use of the technology in combination with a CAD/CAM application, enabling use of the the Tecno attachment in combined prosthesis.

Two different diameters are available: micro, which is 1.8 mm, and normo, which is 2.5 mm.

The titanium sphere is supported by a special TiN coating, which enables it to reach a 1600 Vickers hardness, thus avoiding wearing over time.

According to the company the new technology offers a number of advantages, including:

- Multiple technical applications
- CAD/CAM precision
- Different diameters available
- TiN coating
- Different elastic cap connections

For more information on the OT CAP TECNO line, you can contact Rhein’83 by email at info@rhein83usa.it or by telephone at (877) 778-8383.

You can visit the company online at www.rhein83usa.com to learn more about all Rhein’83 products and services.

(Source: Rhein’83)

Double your benefits with better mixing

Many dental products are used only once, including mixing tips used to prepare cements, impression materials and temporary crown-and-bridge (C&B) material. Following application, the mixer and any material left inside is discarded. To help dentists work more efficiently and sustainably, Switzerland’s Sulzer Mixpac has enhanced its tried-and-tested mixers. The new T-MIXER™ is significantly shorter, so material can be mixed even more quickly.

For example, the new blue model saves about 0.4 ml of material per C&B application compared with its predecessor. If a dentist performs an average of four C&B sessions per day, this adds up to 360 ml of savings every year, which is equivalent to seven 50 ml C&B cartridges. Assuming average costs of $100 per temporary C&B material cartridge, the new T-MIXER helps cut annual material costs by approximately $700. And the mixing result is even better.

A T-MIXER’s endorsement by The Dental Advisor1 affirms its clinical evaluation. This product enables dentists to not only improve the health and well-being of their patients, but also make their business more efficient, according to the company.

Learn more about Sulzer’s T-MIXER product family from your specialty retailers and by viewing a short film at bit.ly/T-Mixer.

(Source: Sulzer Mixpac)

Reference

1. The Dental Advisor, published by Dental Consultants Inc., clinical evaluations of products.
Your dentistry story starts with the patients

What draws people to the profession? For many, it’s the chance to transform lives

There are many reasons to choose a profession in dentistry. For these dentists, it was the chance to transform the lives of patients. Here are a few of their stories.

Dr. Owczarzak
Dr. Owczarzak has 27 years of experience under his belt. With two offices and nine children, he has a lot to juggle. But because of the support he receives from his staff, family and others, Owczarzak is able to manage it all and focus on what matters most to him: his patients.

There’s one patient Owczarzak will never forget — a 21-year-old addict who was suffering from what is known as “meth mouth.”

“He was missing 32 teeth,” recalls Owczarzak. This kid had just gone through rehab and was still grappling with recovery. Not long after Owczarzak fit him with a beautiful new pair of dentures, the patient was eating steak, dating a new girlfriend and enjoying life again. Owczarzak gave the young man a new smile — and with it, a new sense of self-esteem.

Dr. Dickinson
Dr. Dickinson, a dentist in Florida, also recalled a favorite patient experience. One day, Dickinson had a gentleman in his 70s come to see him for a third opinion. After getting to know the patient, Dickinson realized he was looking for more than another opinion. New to the community, the gentleman was yearning for a deeper connection with the people taking care of him. Dickinson made a special effort to develop a relationship with him, earn his trust and make him feel more comfortable.

Finally, the man agreed to the care plan and loved his results. The patient became a regular at the office, bringing by fresh homemade cookies and chatting with the staff. Everyone loved his presence. Then one day, he brought along four friends who were eager to meet Dickinson. Now, the five of them always come in together for check-ups.

“It’s like a giant community event,” said Dickinson. His assistant agreed, adding, “That’s when you know you’re really making a difference. His whole community, his whole world — he was so comfortable here he invited his whole world to us. And they felt that too.”

Dickinson knows how important it is to engage sincerely and openly with patients. “If you take the time to find out what’s behind their motivations and fears — and sometimes it only takes a couple of minutes — you’ll learn what you need to know to connect with that patient.”

Dickinson offers this tip to live by: “We have two ears and one mouth, so when you’re in front of a patient you should be listening twice as much as you’re talking.”

Dr. Lauderdale
Dr. Lauderdale, a practice owner in Georgia, advises dentists to always be aware of where patients are coming from. Once, she had a patient come in with teeth that were hurting severely. Unfortunately, that patient was denied financing and was unable to afford the cost of getting even a single tooth extracted.

After learning of the patient’s abuse, trouble with family and denial of Medicaid, Lauderdale was determined to find a way to help. After discussing the situation with her office manager, she decided to perform the extractions at no cost. The patient was extremely grateful — she was no longer in pain and was happy to have her smile back.

In Lauderdale’s words: “The main thing is to listen more than you talk. Listen closely enough and you’ll know exactly what you need to do.”

What’s your story?
Dentists all have one common goal: providing the best care for their patients. And to accomplish that, it’s important to take the time to get to know those patients.

So what’s your favorite patient story? Visit www.facebook.com/aspendentaljobs and tell us how you’ve helped to transform someone’s life.

Fore more information
To learn more about Aspen Dental and how it might work for you, you can visit www.aspendentaljobs.com.

(Source: Aspen Dental)
‘Small’ innovations from Designs for Vision

Often, smaller is a big improvement. Designs for Vision Inc. has introduced two small innovations: the Micro 3.5EF Scopes and the ULTRA Mini 2.5x Telescopes. These new optical systems are designed to be lighter and more comfortable for all-day use.

The Micro 3.5EF Scopes use a revolutionary optical design that reduces the weight of the prismatic telescope by 40 percent, while providing an expanded-field, full-oral-cavity view at 3.5x magnification, according to the company. The Micro 3.5EF Scopes are also 50 percent smaller and easier to view around peripherally than other expanded-field loupes. The Micro 3.5EF Scopes are custom manufactured to each person, and the focal length is matched to the individual’s ideal working distance.

“We listened to dentists who wanted the field of view of an expanded-field 3.5x telescope, but were concerned about wearing them all day because of the size and weight,” said Designs for Vision President Richard Feinbloom. “Designs for Vision was started by my father, Dr. William Feinbloom, as an optical company in 1961 to design innovative head-borne optical devices, and the new Micro 3.5EF Scopes continue that tradition of optical innovation.”

The 2.5x ULTRA Mini Telescopes weigh as little as 34 grams (1.2 ounces) and are 40 percent smaller, thus allowing for easier peripheral vision.

“The ULTRA Mini Telescopes, like our world-renowned dental telescopes, provide 2.5x magnification that is fully customized to the individual user, providing ergonomic advantages to our customers,” Feinbloom said. "Designs for Vision matches the focal length of each telescope to the ideal working distance of our customers. This way the depth of focus surrounds the individual’s ideal working distance, instead of adapting to a pre-set focal length. We have been working with dentists and hygienists who require true 2.5x magnification, but desire a lighter, smaller device for all-day use.”

Designs for Vision wanted to design and engineer a full-feature system that offered all of the features customers expect from its products. The ULTRA Mini Telescopes can be built into any of the company’s frames — including its popular Nike® Skylon Ace sport frame — and are fully customized to each customer. “The lens system uses the same precision-coated optics as our traditional magnification systems,” Feinbloom said. “We can also accommodate eyeglass prescriptions into the ULTRA Mini Telescopes.”

Combining the Micro 3.5EF Scopes or 2.5x ULTRA Mini Telescopes with either the LED DayLite® ULTRA Mini or NanoLite™ headlights provides contrast and further enhances visibility. Designs for Vision’s combos are a fraction of the weight of some light/loupe combo systems on the market, according to the company.

Designs for Vision, which invented “Through-the-Lens” technology, is a small company that has been privately held since its founding in 1961. You can “See the Visible Difference®” of Designs for Vision yourself by taking the company’s “45-Day Challenge,” which lets you compare any Designs for Vision product for 45 days risk free.

(Source: Designs for Vision)
Extraction instruments combine ergonomics, Scandinavian design

LM Dental’s LM models feature nonslip ErgoTouch handles

By LM Dental Staff

LM Dental’s LM extraction instruments uniquely combine ergonomics, Scandinavian design and functionality for atraumatic tooth extraction. They feature comfortable, nonslip ErgoTouch handles and are well-balanced and lightweight.

LM-LiftOut instruments are designed to perform typical extractions atraumatically, an important consideration that enables rapid healing and future implant placement.

The tip of the instrument is introduced into the periodontal space and slowly advances toward the apex of the root while moving gently back and forth.

LM-TwistOut instruments are indicated for tooth extraction in situations where strong force or torque must be applied, and LM-SlimLift instruments are created for the most atraumatic extractions. Because of their slim tips, the instruments fit in extremely narrow spaces and are ideal for implant preparations.

LM extraction instruments are supplied in a convenient cassette that protects both the instrument and the handler during the maintenance cycle. The cassette keeps instruments from puncturing the sterilization pouch, and the cassette can be color-coded.

The blades, hand-finished and made from LM-DuraGradeMAX supersteel, stay sharp and are long-lasting when properly used and maintained.