

Shepard DeLong, DMD

The Overview Effect

Artemis II recently circled the back side of the moon. A small blue, green, and white sphere floating in space appeared, our home. The crew experienced "The Overview Effect," struck with awe, wonder, connection, a feeling of how precious life is, and a desire to preserve the health and vitality of this small planet.

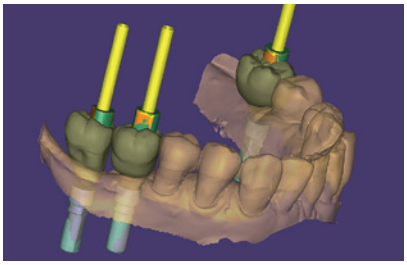
We must take a leap of faith and try promising solutions in dental medicine and ceramic implantology. A bold vision can cause a sea change, altering institutional and societal constraints that have kept human life limited to disease, managed by a broken healthcare system. The belief that wellness exists within has informed medicine from the start, however, we have the obligation to perform physical procedures, tooth by tooth. What a paradox. We listen to patient stories; the cost, hours, and pain, but also appreciation, hope and desire to be well. To heal the connection between systemic and dental health, we must use all technology available today, guided by the human heart.

Early adoption of ceramic implants lacked support, but evidence has shown favourable biological interaction and clinical success. Surgical technology has evolved. Static computer-aided guides to the X-guide, with a game-like workflow, and now robotics; add the operating microscope and surgery becomes ultra-precise, and ergonomic. Novel things happen when multiple apex tech-

CONTENT

03
editorial
Shepard DeLong

06
Robotic facilitation of ceramic implants in compromised alveolar ridges
Shepard DeLong



12
Immediate implantation with two-piece ceramic implants in the mandibular premolar region
Dr Nalat Wongwatjana



16
Multiple tooth extractions, immediate Z7 monoblock implants—a challenging case
Dr Enrique Reinprecht



20
A modern approach to implantology with the TBR Z1 hybrid implant
Dr Fabrice Baudot

▼

nologies merge. Like magic, previously unknown benefits appear. Something new is born when robotics are combined with the biocompatibility of ceramic implants.

Data shows that robotics improves surgeons' quality of life and length of career, decreasing institutional costs, procedure times and patient morbidity. To successfully treat the global population, we must follow other surgical specialties and push forward the parallel advancement of biomaterials, prosthetic design, robotics and dynamic navigation. Full-arch reconstruction is often the best treatment and is analogous to total joint arthroplasty, however most systems in dentistry are still titanium specific. The development of efficient, machine-assisted full arch solutions for zirconia implants may reduce costs and improve global oral and systemic health.

The biological dentistry and bio-hacking trends are making bloodwork standard practice. Vitamin D, HbA1c, CRP, LDL, cortisol levels, and other biomarkers help us understand real health and healing capacity. Platelet rich fibrin, nutrition, probiotics, hygiene protocols and complimentary therapies like hyperbaric oxygen, sauna, and red light, reduce inflammation, improve surgical outcomes, and more importantly, help patients maintain true health for life. Artificial intelligence can accelerate and correct this path using analytics, super cognition and predictive modeling, circumventing the traditional scientific method.

What is our highest aim? What lies beyond disease and surgery? We can share a new dream that short circuits perceived limits and make a quantum leap to a new reality. Artemis III is preparing for its next mission and there will be resistance, but it will launch. We must keep going. Let's shoot for the moon! If we fall short, at least we'll be amongst the stars.

Yours sincerely
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CONTENT

26
Advancing periodontal health together
Interview with Prof. Mia Rakić

28
Soft tissue first: Rethinking implant design
Interview with Dr med. dent. Holger Scholz



30
EACim 2026 highlights



32
Vienna emerged as a hub for the future of oral regeneration



36
1st ICBI Global Congress 2026

38
manufacturer news

42
events + imprint


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