

# The inventor of the Bicon system has passed away

## *Thomas Driskell, 1928—2021*



**Thomas David Driskell** passed away on 15 July 2021. During his lifetime, he has helped the invention of countless innovative medical devices and products, including the implant system established by the company Bicon, as well as the synthetic bone grafting material SynthoGraft.

Tom was an entrepreneur and inventor, who profoundly influenced many fields, including aviation, lighting, medicine, and dentistry. He had the primary role in the design and development of the FAA-standard VASI system (Visual Approach Slope Indicator), which is still used in airports around the world. He developed high-output lamps employing tungsten, tantalum carbide, halogen, and xenon, that were used to light many structures including the Empire State Building, Guggenheim Museum and the Panama Canal.

He designed and constructed the first heart-lung machine in Central Ohio, which was used to treat over 600 patients. He designed and produced the first free-standing dental implants (now known as Bicon implants),

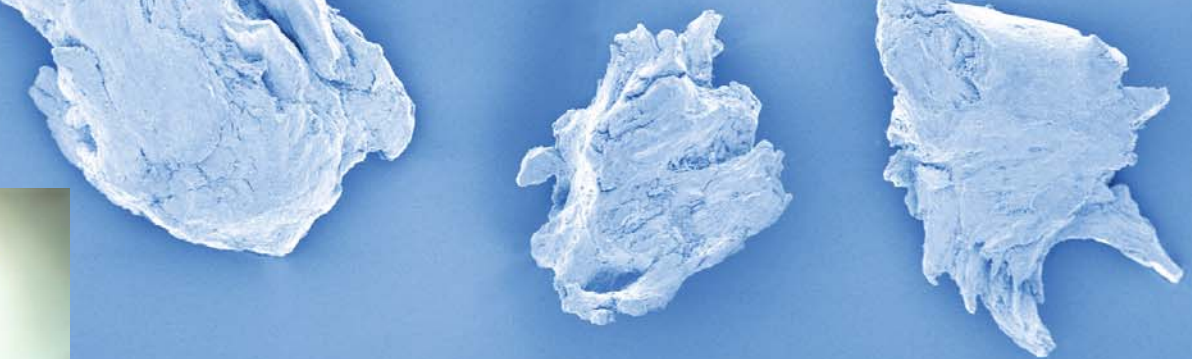
as well as a synthetic bone grafting material, SynthoGraft. Additionally, he published the first paper on zirconia, which is a widely used dental material. Tom received two coveted I-R 100 awards (known as the “Oscars of invention” or “the Nobel Prize for technology”), one for SynthoGraft in 1982 and one for the development of an infant respirator in 1973.

Tom was born 18 August 1928 in Columbus, Ohio, to Thomas Edgar Driskell and Eleanor Kauffman Driskell.

Tom was an avid sportsman, friend, and supportive mentor, who used his intellectual gifts to improve our world.

Tom shall be missed!

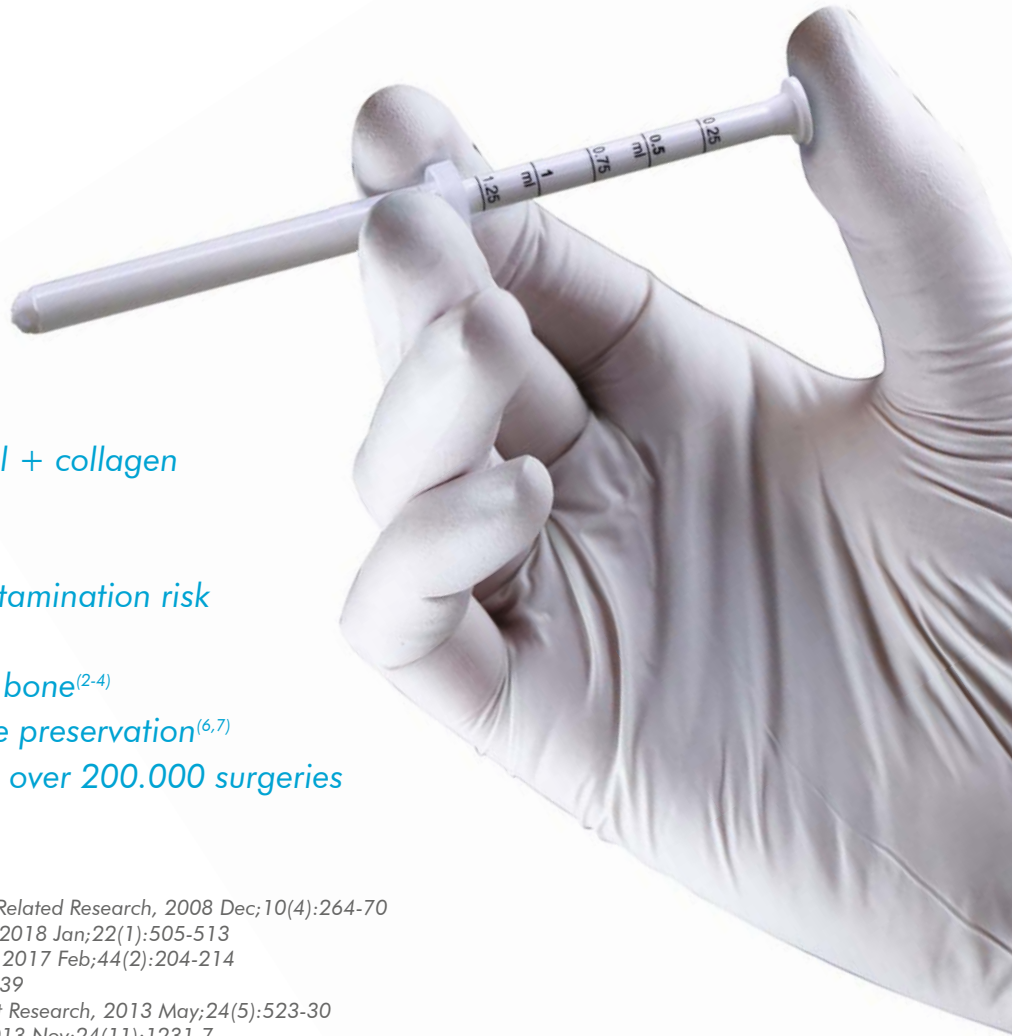
*Source: Bicon Dental Implants*



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