

# 55<sup>th</sup> Annual **Scientific Meeting** American Academy of Implant Dentistry

## Dental implants increasingly are becoming the preferred option vs. bridgework and dentures

The main topic of the 55<sup>th</sup> American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) was "Achieve the Ultimate Makeover with Implant Dentistry." It was held Oct. 25-29 in Chicago. Some 1,500 implant dentists and staff members attended, amongst them the board of the German Society of Dental Implantologie (DGZI). Below are news highlights from selected plenary talks and other sessions.

Established in 1951, AAID is the oldest implant organization in the world and the only one offering implant credentials protected by federal court decisions. Its membership exceeds 3,200 and includes general dentists, oral surgeons, periodontists and prosthodontists from the United States and 40 other countries.

### AAID News Highlights

#### *Get the picture for implant precision*

Advanced, highly precise computer-guided dental implant surgery has made the procedure faster, highly predictable and long-lasting with a success rate of 97 percent, according to several presenters at the AAID Annual Scientific Meeting.

At a news briefing on site, AAID President Kim Gowey, DDS reported that 3-D imaging is changing the practice of implant dentistry and helping many patients regain a healthy and confident smile, as well as improve oral function and overall quality of life.

"With state-of-the-art digital imaging, we can analyze the anatomy of the patient's jaw without surgery, which saves time and money and shortens implant recovery time," Gowey said. "It's like having the patient's jaw on the computer screen and helps make implants the most predictable procedure in dentistry today. Unlike dentures and bridgework, titanium implants are stable, long-lasting and as close as we can get to restoring natural roots in the jaw."

Gowey said life-like 3-D images enable the dentist to assess bone density and locate nerves, blood ves-

sels and sinuses before surgery, thereby eliminating uncertainty about which spots in the jawbone are the right sites for implant placement. "The precision of the CT scan and implant surgical planning software give the dentist a vivid map of the patient's mouth to pinpoint potential problems and plan the entire implant procedure in advance," Gowey explained.

He added that the superb clarity of the image allows precise insertion of the implant through the gum tissue with limited need to make surgical incisions in the tissue. This promotes faster healing because gum tissue is preserved. Once the implants are secured, prosthetic teeth are attached. For some, the entire procedure may take no more than an hour for implant surgery.

"Implants are a win-win for patients and dentists," said Gowey. "Implants do not decay or involve root canals. Further, they are 97 percent successful, which significantly exceeds the success rates of three-unit bridges or dentures, which require filing down or removing adjacent healthy teeth."

#### *Implants' success superior to high risk periodontal surgery*

Jaime L Lozada, DDS of Loma Linda University, one of the nation's leading implant dentistry centers, told AAID attendees that technology advances, such as cone beam CT imaging, have made the surgical procedure more precise and successful. As a result, implants have become a preferred alternative to high-risk periodontal surgery.

Nonetheless some patients will choose periodontal procedures in an attempt to save their natural teeth.

According to Lozada, in some cases that decision could mean prolonged, multiple procedures that may or may not prevent tooth loss. "How much periodontal treatment is enough? High-risk endodontic procedures have questionable value because the outcome predictability is better with implants," said