Komet USA essay contest for dental students honors Women’s History Month

Focus on women who inspired and guided career choice

By Komet Staff

Komet USA is dedicated to excellence in the dental profession and believes it is important to acknowledge the influencers, mentors and educators who have inspired or guided dental careers. In recognition of March 2016’s Women’s History Month, Komet USA invites dental students to participate in an essay contest that highlights women’s contributions to the individual student’s career choice.

In this essay contest, Komet is asking dental students to think about a woman in history, in their families, in the field of dental education or in dental practice — past or present — who has inspired their pursuit of a career in dentistry.

Dental-school students are invited to compose and submit an essay of 500 to 1,000 words about how and why this woman influenced or contributed to their educational and career paths. Three prizes will be awarded for the competition, which will be judged by the Komet USA executive and marketing team.

The first-place winner will receive a one-year supply of Komet burs (value of up to $1,000). Second-place winner will receive a six-month supply of burs (value of up to $500), and the third-place winner will receive a three-month supply of burs (value of up to $250). The deadline for essay submissions is March 31. The three winners will be announced via Komet USA social media and will be contacted directly via e-mail or telephone on April 15.

All essay submissions should be in .doc or .rtf format and must be emailed to essay@kometusa.com by 11:59 p.m. (entrant’s local time) on March 31. All submissions must include the writer’s name, contact information and dental school.

About Komet USA

Currently celebrating more than 90 years of successful service in the dental industry, Komet describes itself as a recognized worldwide leader in the production of highly specialized, precise dental carbide burs, dental diamonds, finishers, polishers and a wide selection of other dental rotary instruments and accessories.

Komet operates in the United States under the name Komet USA. It sells direct to dental practitioners and dental laboratories, delivering orders quickly and efficiently from its factory, according to the company. The company’s U.S. headquarters is in Rock Hill, S.C.

For more information about Komet USA, you can telephone (888) 566–3887 or visit Komet online by going to www.kometusa.com.

Glidewell Laboratories and Misch International Implant Institute create educational partnership

Misch courses to use Hahn Tapered Implant exclusively

The Misch International Implant Institute and Glidewell Laboratories have established a partnership in continuing education that will introduce the Hahn™ Tapered Implant as the exclusive dental implant system used in the institute’s courses. As part of this collaboration, the Misch Institute will relocate its West Coast programs to the Glidewell International Technology Center in Newport Beach, Calif.

Since its inception in 1984, the Misch Institute has aimed to be at the leading edge of education in implant dentistry, training more than 10,000 dentists to surgically place implants. The institute was founded by Dr. Carl Misch, a practitioner and educator who authored the widely used textbook “Contemporary Implant Dentistry.” Offering a one-year continuum in implant education, the Misch Institute has strived to elevate the standard of care through its ground-breaking courses, which were the first to offer supervised, hands-on training outside of postgraduate specialty programs.

Hahn Tapered Implant a ‘great fit’

Glidewell Laboratories launched the Hahn Tapered Implant in 2015 in cooperation with clinician and innovator Dr. Jack Hahn, who oversaw the development of the new implant system. As recently noted by Dr. Misch, “the Hahn Tapered Implant is a great fit for the institute, as its design is based on Dr. Hahn’s
Creating smiles for Honduras

By Aspen Dental Staff

At Aspen Dental practices, we are bringing quality care to communities that need it most. From small towns to city suburbs, and everywhere in between. This past Nov. 5, Aspen Dental clinicians and seven team members traveled to Honduras to provide free dental care to more than 500 people in desperate need. Here is Dr. Arun Srinivasan’s account:

“We were, quite literally, on a mission, knowing only a small proportion of the population has access to health services, including dental care.

“Working out of makeshift ‘dental offices’ in Plan Grande, San Jose and Yoro – and with the help of our great partner, Honduras Hope – we treated Hondurans ranging in age from 5 to 75. It was heartbreaking to see the condition of the teeth and mouths that we saw, especially in the young people, but it was so rewarding to give many Hondurans at least a fighting chance for a healthier future.

“The children were so strong as most had never seen a dentist. A 7-year-old girl came to our clinic – alone. She needed to have extractions. She started crying inconsolably, not knowing what was ahead. I tried calming her down and suggested she sit off to the side for a few minutes. I fully expected her to leave, but she came back to our makeshift dental chair about 30 minutes later, tears still streaming down her face, and she let us do what we had to do. Unforgettable. Those kinds of stories repeated themselves every day.

“There was a boy, around 9 or 10, who lived in the mountain top village of San Jose. One of our hygienists did his cleaning and said the boy had carious lesions in his front teeth. She brought him over for fillings. Unfortunately, the cavity in one of his teeth was into the pulp. Once the boy realized he needed his front tooth pulled he started bawling. Our hygienist felt terrible, but she realized that it couldn’t have come at a better time because we were there to help, before an infection or pain set in, while he had access to dental care. The next day he was around the clinic and you could see in his face that he was so appreciative of our help. He gave our hygienist, Tiffany, a big hug. I don’t think she’ll ever forget it.

“A little girl in Yoro just loved hanging out in our dental office – this time it was a converted beauty salon. The team gave her a fun sticker and she never wanted to leave our side. We took pictures with her and she wanted to hold our phones so she could pretend to take more. She couldn’t get enough of us and hung out at the clinic for the two days we were there.

“One of our dental assistants said a young girl simply asked to hold her hand so she’d feel better during her treatment. Teaching the kids the correct way of brushing their teeth and the importance of oral health was such a rewarding experience. The children of Plan Grande were so excited to get toothpaste and toothbrushes. It was such a simple thing, but it meant so much to them.

“We overcame challenging working conditions – no running water, no electricity – long hours and a five-hour hike up a mountain. None of those challenges deterred us. We came to Honduras on a mission, with a job to do, and we achieved our goals. This mission strongly reinforced the overwhelming need for the care we provide. To restore a healthy smile and save a patient from pain is a reward you can’t describe. Whether we are traveling to a third-world country or working in our Aspen Dental practices in the United States, one thing is clear. We are always on a mission to give people a healthier mouth.”

Eight ways you can improve your leadership skills today

Being a good dentist doesn’t make you a good leader — skills do

Running a successful dental practice calls on not just your expertise in dentistry but also on your leadership abilities. Being an effective leader will help you focus your staff and your partners on creating and maintaining the kind of dental practice that you can be proud of.

The following eight areas of focus can help practice owners and other dental professionals develop and strengthen leadership skills.

1. Promote creativity. When employees are encouraged to express their creativity, they stretch their limits. Foster this by setting staff goals and supporting employees as they work toward those achievements.

2. Display your passion. If employees see that you care about your work and your practice, they’ll be more likely to care too.

3. Listen. If you don’t know what’s happening in your practice or among your workers, you can’t fix problems or address concerns. Ask questions, check in on staff members in different areas of your practice and find out what’s going on. The more you know, the better you’ll be able to reach your workers and address their needs.

4. Be honest. If things have gone wrong or are less than perfect in your practice, own up to it and look for ways to improve. Effective leaders don’t deny weaknesses and mistakes; they learn from them.

5. Communicate. People who work with you need to know what direction things are headed. Be sure employees are informed about changes and developments in the practice, particularly those that affect them.

6. Be a role model. If you’re asking people to work longer hours, don’t clock out early. If you want staff to abide by a new workflow practice, be sure you’re taking part.

7. Be positive. People will likely be more agreeable if they feel your guidance will lead to something good. Be confident about the direction your practice is taking.

8. Be open. Every day you have the opportunity to learn something new, either from your surroundings, what you read, what you observe or the people you work with. Being a leader means continuing to grow and change so you can take your practice with you on the journey.

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(Source: PNC Financial Services Group)
VOCO introduces new ISO-pak infection- and climate-control packaging

Air-tight, individually sealed foil saves time and money

By VOCO Staff

VOCO, a Germany-based global leader in the manufacturing of dental restorative materials, offers the next level of quality control with the introduction of its new ISO-pak packaging.

For use with all of VOCO’s composites (Grandio, GrandioSO, x-tra fil) and VOCO’s new nano-ORMOCER Admira Fusion, the new ISO-pak comes as an air-tight, individually sealed foil that includes the product name, expiration date, shade, cure time, storage information and lot number imprinted on each individual unit.

The ISO-pak will maximize the infection control efforts of each office, saving the offices time and money by making the disinfection of each single unit dose capsule obsolete.

An added ISO-pak benefit is humidity control. All encapsulated composites and ORMOCERS on the market have the tendency to get stickier with increased levels of humidity or stiffer in low humidity levels. The new ISO-pak is an air-tight packaging solution that will provide the clinician the same consistency of VOCO restoratives for each use, whether they are located in the dry winter arctic air of Canada or in the moist humid air in the tropics of Florida.

VOCO’s new ISO-pak offers added value to its customers without any additional costs passed on. According to the company, VOCO is proud to continue to be an industry leader and innovator when it comes to product solutions and product value — as experienced by both dentists and their patients.

For more information on VOCO’s new ISO-pak packaging and VOCO products, you can visit the VOCO websites at www.voco.com and www.vocoamerica.com. Additionally, you can earn C.E. credit online through www.vocolearning.com. Contact VOCO America at (888) 658-2584 or infousa@voco.com.

40-plus years of clinical experience” Hahn taught courses during the formative years of the Misch Institute and, as part of this collaboration, will return as an institute faculty member.

Ideal for hands-on workshops and live surgical demonstrations, the Glidewell International Technology Center is a welcome addition to the Misch Institute’s programs in Michigan and Florida. “I am very excited about the partnership with Glidewell Laboratories,” Misch said. “Jim Glidewell’s vision and passion for education is closely aligned with the Misch Institute and our entire faculty, and his state-of-the-art education facility is the perfect West Coast venue for our courses.”

Glidewell Laboratories, which has made teaching general dentists to place implants a cornerstone of its continuing education efforts, is equally enthused with the partnership. “The Misch Institute is the premier implant training program in the world today,” said Dave Casper, president of Prismatik Dentalcraft, the manufacturing division of Glidewell Laboratories that produces the Hahn Tapered Implant. “Its science-based approach, complemented by a curriculum that continues to build on each attendee’s experience, is exactly the right model for doctors who want to get started placing implants today.”

The Hahn Tapered Implant was developed by Hahn to simplify treatment and make implant therapy accessible to as many dentists as possible. With its blend of time-tested features and contemporary design, the implant system provides a comprehensive treatment solution for all clinical indications and a streamlined surgical protocol, according to the company.

Misch International Implant Institute
For more information on Misch International Implant Institute course offerings, visit www.misch.com or call (248) 642-3199.

Additional information on the Hahn Tapered Implant can be found by visiting www.hahnimplant.com or calling (800) 407-3379.

Glidewell Laboratories
Glidewell Laboratories is a privately owned corporation that has more than 45 years of history as a provider of high-quality restorations and implant solutions to dental practitioners nationwide, according to the company.

To view its large selection of clinical videos, C.E. courses, and products and services, visit the Glidewell Laboratories website, www.glidewelldental.com.

(Source: Glidewell Laboratories)
A UCLA research team has found a combination of proteins that could significantly improve clinical bone restoration. The findings may be a big step toward developing effective therapeutic treatments for bone skeletal defects, bone loss and osteoporosis.

The study, led by Dr. Kang Ting, professor and chair of the section of orthodontics at the UCLA School of Dentistry; Dr. Chia Soo, professor of plastic surgery and vice chair for research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and Dr. Aaron James, a fellow in surgical pathology, ran as the lead article in the February print edition of the American Journal of Pathology.

Current treatments for bone skeletal defects utilize bone morphogenetic protein-2, or BMP2, an FDA-approved bone-healing protein. But the high concentrations needed to induce human bone formation may have serious side effects, including life-threatening cervical swelling and abnormal and inconsistent bone growth.

The same research team has conducted other studies on bone growth, including one that utilized a protein called NELL-1, which successfully increased bone formation and stimulated key factors for bone growth in multiple preclinical models.

In the new study, the team paired the NELL-1 protein, which Ting discovered, with BMP2. They found that the combination of the two proteins increased bone formation while inhibiting the formation of fat cells — a negative side effect of BMP2, which encourages stem cells to form both bone and fat cells. By contrast, NELL-1 encourages stem cells to form bone cells instead of fat cells. Used together, the two proteins stimulate bone production more dramatically than either does alone.

“Before this study, large bone defects in patients were difficult to treat with BMP2 or other existing products available to surgeons,” Ting said. “The combination of NELL-1 and BMP2 resulted in improved safety and efficacy of bone regeneration in animal models — and may, one day, offer patients significantly better bone healing.”

The study showed that NELL-1 works by activating the cellular signaling pathway that regulates whether a stem cell differentiates into a bone cell or a fat cell. It also showed that BMP2 can induce non-bone cells to form bone, with the potential risk for ectopic bone growth — bone formation in undesirable locations.

The two proteins complement each other in that BMP2 helps to turn non-bone cells into bone-forming cells, and NELL-1 then increases the bone-forming ability of bone cells. “In contrast to BMP2, the
A new generation of core buildup material

Fluoride-containing Visalys Core dual-curing composite is for fabrication of radiopaque core buildups, core fillings and cementing root posts

Visalys® Core, the new product from Kettenbach LP (www.kettenbachusa.com), represents the next generation of core buildup materials, according to the company. The most recent addition to the Visalys family is a dual-curing core buildup material with unique Active-Connect Technology (ACT) to ensure a reliable bond with all common adhesives — without an additional activator. The product was unveiled at the 2015 International Dental Show (IDS) in Germany.

Visalys Core is the first core buildup material from Kettenbach. The fluoride-containing, dual-curing composite was developed for the fabrication of radiopaque core buildups and core fillings and for cementing root posts.

According to the company, the Active-Connect Technology, unique in the market, enables the material to bond actively with all common light-curing and dual-curing, single-step and multipaste adhesives, without an additional activator. The advantage for users is that it enables them to use the bonding agent they are used to — whether it is light-curing or dual-curing — or a single- or multi-bottle system.

Firm foundation: Stable and precise

According to the company, the technology simply provides a firm foundation — stable and precise. The company reports that Visalys Core ensures easy and reliable handling with “excellent positional stability.” At the same time, it exhibits good flowability and low extrusion force. The compressive strength results in a stable monoblock and a secure bond.

Optional light-curing allows the procedure to be continued immediately. Reliable self-curing provides for dependable strength even on the cavity floor and in root canals. Excellent polishing characteristics ensure precise preparation, even without light-curing, the smear layer is minimal. The product is also free of Bisphenol A and its derivatives.

Visalys Core is available in dentin and white shades in a 5 ml double syringe and in a 25 ml cartridge.

For detailed information about Visalys Core, visit the Kettenbach website at www.kettenbachusa.com.

About Kettenbach

Kettenbach (Huntington Beach, Calif) is the exclusive U.S. distributor for Kettenbach GmbH & Co. KG (Eschenburg, Germany). Founded by August Kettenbach in 1944, Kettenbach GmbH was created for the development and marketing of medical and dental products.

Today, the company is one of the leading international producers of dental impression materials and is also known in other surgical areas of medicine. Brands include Panasil VPS Impression Material, Identium VSS® Impression Material, Futar Bite Material, Silginat Alternative Alginate, Visalys Temp Material, Mucopren Resilient Liner and Visalys Veneers.

For more information about Kettenbach LP products, you can call (877) 531-2123 or visit www.kettenbachusa.com.

(Source: Kettenbach)

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novel ability of NELL-1 to stimulate bone growth and repress the formation of fat may highlight new treatment approaches for osteoporosis and other therapies for bone loss,” Soo said.

Previous and present studies demonstrate a strong rationale for combining NELL-1 with BMP2 to significantly improve the safety and efficacy of current bone regeneration options. The combination of NELL-1 and BMP2 may be particularly valuable for healing local bone defects in people who have osteoporosis or for those taking medications, such as steroids, that can inhibit bone growth.

“Dr. Ting and his research team have made a very valuable discovery for the field of bone regeneration,” said Dr. No-Hee Park, dean of the UCLA School of Dentistry. “The researchers’ findings have potential to help millions who suffer from osteoporosis and other bone defects.”

NELL-1 is also currently in development as a single therapy for systemic treatment of osteoporosis. NELL-1, when given systemically, does not appear to induce ectopic bone. In contrast, because of its known capacity to induce unwanted bone, BMP2 may not be as appropriate for systemic administration.

The study’s other authors are Jia Shen, Dr. Aaron James, Dr. Xinli Zhang, Dr. Janette Zara, Greg Asatryan, Michael Chiang, Min Lee, Alan Nguyen, Kevin Lee, Ronald Su, Dr. Sohrab Tetrads, Kevork Khadarian and Shen Pang, all of UCLA.

The study was supported in part by a California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Early Translational II Research Award (TB2-01821), National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research grants (R21 DE077711, R01 DE06607 and R01 AR063999-01A1), a UC Discovery Grant (07-10677) and a Broad Stem Cell Research Center Innovation Award.

Several of the study authors, including Xinli Zhang, Ting and Soo, are inventors on NELL-1-related patents and are founders and/or board members of Bone Biologics Corporation, which sublicenses NELL-1 patents from the UC Regents. The regents also hold equity in the company.

(Source: UCLA)
In 23 cases, 27 authors cover techno-clinical aspects of the fixed removable prosthesis

Book is dedicated to the removable prosthesis that’s ‘Made in Italy’

The industry’s first book dedicated to combined restorations and removable prostheses was released in October. Its title: “Techno-clinical aspects of fixed removable prosthesis.”

The book helps illustrate how the combined prosthesis now offers the edentulous or partially edentulous patient comfort that was unthinkable a few years ago. The combined prosthesis is a valuable solution but only if done by experts in the field of clinical dentistry working with dental technicians with in-depth knowledge of clinical anatomy, occlusion, gnathology and dental materials. The idea for the book came from a desire to provide guidelines to all those who want to learn this branch of dentistry and who want to deepen their knowledge of techniques and protocols. To create the book, a team of dentists and dental technicians skilled in multiple solutions and techniques were invited to contribute. The result is a resource previously unavailable in a single text.

The book involved 27 authors and 23 cases. The introduction was written by three professors from three Italian universities: Siena, Milan and Turin. The book is intended to be read by an international audience; it has been written in Italian, English and Spanish.

The authors are Prof. Andrea Borracchini, University of Siena; Dr. Alessio Casucci and Prof. Gianfranco Gassino, University of Turin; Dr. Massimo Pasi, University of Milan; Dr. Luca Ortensi, Dr. Caterina Perra, Dr. Ugo Torquati Gritti, Dr. Daniele Vrespa, Dr. Gabriele Rosano, Dr. Riccardo Stefani, Dr. Gerardo Schiatti, Dr. Mauro Colombo, Dr. Umberto Ferrone, Dr. Eugenio Guidetti, Dr. Marco Montanari, Dr. Massimo Pedrinazzi, Dr. Alessandro Iorio Siciliano, D.T. Luca Buggiero, D.T. Giuliano Bonato, D.T. Armando Buongiovanni, D.T. Carlo Borromeo, D.T. Vittorio Capezzuto, D.T. Salvatore Chimenz, D.T. Rodolfo Colognesi, D.T. Davide Nadalini, D.T. Marco Ortensi and D.T. Giancarlo Riva.

To learn more, visit www.rhein83.com or send an email to marketing@rhein83.it or telephone 39 (335) 784-0719.

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To learn more about Rhein83 in the United States, contact the company at info@rhein83usa.it or (877) 778-8383. You can visit the company online at www.rhein83usa.com to learn more about all of its products and services.

(Source: Rhein’83)
LVI Core I three-day course enables dentist and team to learn together

By Mark Duncan, DDS, FAGD, LVIF, DICOI, FICCM
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.

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!”

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