CIC 2010 – meeting of minds

The Clinical Innovations Conference held this year at the Royal College of Physicians was hailed a great success, with leading minds in aesthetic and restorative dentistry taking to the stage to share their expertise with enthusiastic clinicians at all stages in their careers. The two-day event, organised by dental education provider Smile-on, the AOG and in association with The Dental Directory, lived up to its reputation as being one of the most inspiring and informative conferences in the dental calendar. The event enjoyed a very high turn out with lecture theatres bursting at the seams for some of the most popular talks.

Dr Julian Webber began the conference with a lecture entitled Management of Endodontic Success, during which his passion for endodontics clearly shone through. “I love endo, that’s all I do,” he proclaimed. Making use of recent case studies, Dr Webber detailed the factors influencing re-treatment decisions, actively involving the audience in the discussion with a generous dose of humour. He highlighted the importance of re-treatment before the placement of a restoration and discussed re-treatment procedures. Delegates also learned how to cost re-treatment, when to refer cases on and indications for surgical treatment. Broken instruments are every endodontist’s nightmare, so Dr Webber proposed a successful strategy for the removal of these ‘separated’ instruments, along with tips on effective root canal repair and apical closure.

After a break for coffee and further discussion, delegates had their pick of three very different lectures. Specialist in oral surgery, Dr Naresh K Sharma, spoke on the subject of Aesthetic Implant Dentistry and the reconstruction of deficient ridges as well as atrophic jaws. He went on to talk about his work at The Chikrakoot Project, where he provides surgical dental care to villagers in the area free of charge. His moving and inspiring lecture demonstrated how this work has transformed the lives of many, and explained how dental professionals could volunteer their skills to such a worthy cause.

Dr Wyman Chan presented another very popular lecture on the latest scientific advances in teeth whitening processes. During the event he demonstrated his legendary zero sensitivity techniques on a volunteer and illustrated how to use a ‘crystal-eye spectrophotometer’ to record shades of the teeth in bleaching. He also revealed how to use a standard compact digital camera to take good quality clinical photographs. At the same time, Dr. Ian Thompson spoke about the benefits of bioactive glass for improved oral hygiene treatment.

After a buffet lunch, delegates were treated to a full programme of lectures from the likes of Dr Basil Mizrahi, Mr Jonathan A Britto, Dr Joe Omar, Dr Peter Galgut and Dr Seema Sharma. Dr Mizrahi presented his lecture on long-lasting, attractive restorations to a full lecture theatre, detailing how best to achieve marginal fit and the keys to successful provisional restorations. He spoke in great detail on tissue health, the importance of understanding tooth morphology, and how to take quality impressions, among other topics, making use of video footage to illustrate his points.

Dr Omar presented a lively, hands-on seminar on how to deal with medical emergencies using Resus-Ann dummies and automated external defibrillators (AED). Dr Britto explored issues surrounding our society’s obsession with aesthetic perfection and the dentist’s role in providing patients with an ethical, honest service. Dr Galgut, winner of the Dental Awards 2010 Dentist of the Year award, gave an insightful presentation on how to manage and treat peridontal disease, and their clinical implications. Finally, Dr Sharma rounded off the day with a motivating talk on her journey to success and the satisfaction she gained from setting up her own charitable foundation.

Alongside the various lectures and seminars, a limited number of exhibitors were on hand to discuss their services with attendees. The manageable size of the exhibition hall enabled delegates to visit each stand in their own time without having to rush, and the prestigious venue and five star service offered at the Royal College of Physicians ensured that the conference went without a hitch.

Having worked so hard during the day, delegates let their hair down at an elaborate charity ball held at the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square. The theme of the evening was The State of the Nation. Raj Rayan addressed the party on what he thought the future holds for post-election Britain in the dental profession. Partygoers were also treated to a fantastic performance from singing dentist Andrew Bain. Exhibitors and clinicians alike danced the night away into the small hours ahead of the second day of the busy conference.

Delegates commented on how well organised and informative the Clinical Innovations Conference had been. A testament to the hard work and dedication of the conference’s organisers – Smile-on, provider of accredited healthcare education, and the AOG. Both organisations share a common goal; to raise clinical standards in the dental practice and to improve the treatment the patient receives. This year’s Clinical Innovations Conference certainly helped achieve just that.