On 8 October, 1971 John Lennon released his megahit single "Imagine". The incredible lyrics prompted the listener to imagine a world at peace without divisiveness and barriers, and to consider the possibility of living a life of a brotherhood of man. Without any doubt, everything good that happens in the world on the 8 October – happens in Liverpool! It is fair to say that the high-light in Liverpool on the 8 October 2015 and the main event in the world, was arguably the launch of the first ICE clinic in Rodney Street and, the introduction of ICE Foundation Course for GDPs in Implant Dentistry.

The Implant Centres of Excellence or ICE, is the brainchild of three of the UK’s most experienced implant educators and clinicians; Prof Cemal Ucer, Simon Wright and David Speechley. ICE consists of three separate groups: regional ICE clinics to provide clinical treatment and support to referring practitioners; the ICE Association (ICEa) providing peer interaction and support; and the back bone of the organisation, the Institute (ICEi) providing structured, accredited clinical training and education to team members at all levels. At the backbone of ICEs is the newly launched member school which will provide systematic patient-centred supervised clinical training at ICE central hub and regional clinics.

The philosophy of ICE is to provide local support and teamwork through a structured continuum of education and training for those seeking to develop clinical skills in this field from treatment planning to restorative and surgical aspects of implant dentistry.

Collaborative professional development and training (CPDT) is a revolutionary approach to CPD training and education in implant dentistry. ICE provides local support, interaction and education needed to get involved. It does this through a structured learning programme and partnership in learning, that 60 Liverpool practitioners were represented, with more than 70 clinicians attending ICE launch event and ICEa Foundation course for GDPs, all eager to find out how ICE can help them and their patients.

The event started with a Champagne reception and trade fair. Sponsors Straumann, Geistlich and Astra explained how using well resourced, evidence-based products is essential to predictable long-term aesthetic success – a fundamental concept to ICE philosophy.

This was the first in a series of four lectures that will cover the essentials of implantology. With this knowledge the team may then go on to the ICE Restorative series in which they will be provided with the skillset and support to begin to restore implants in their own practices progressing from straightforward to advanced cases with safety and confidence.

The support comes from ICEa through a mobile app/interface. This offers treatment guidelines, protocols, discussion forums, instant access to a range of experts, and discount schemes with industrial partners. ICEa provides complimentary restorative kits, instruments, patient literature and consent forms as well as regular regional treatment planning study club meetings.

ICE provides excellent clinical facilities and access to best implant systems including Straumann and Astra/Dentsply and for the educational body (ICEi) provides the platform for collaborative teaching and learning to benefit all concerned. Participants are encouraged to pursue a structured continuum of education and training from restoring few implants to postgraduate programmes such as Msc in implant dentistry.

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