

The Future of Regenerative Dentistry: A Q&A with AAID Leaders

Smile, Veteran! A Call to Action: Restore Smiles, Honor Service

NSIDE

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF IMPLANT DENTISTRY



Table of Contents

- Editor's Notebook 4 8 President's Message 9 Executive Director's Message 11 Annual Business Meeting Minutes 13 Cover Story The Future of Regenerative Dentistry: A Q&A with AAID Leaders 17 Feature Story Smile, Veteran! A Call to Action: Restore Smiles, Honor Service 20 AAID 2024 Feature Story AAID's Ashley Robbins, CAE: A Leader on the International Stage 22 Legal Bite AAID and ABOI/ID Credentials Gaining Attention Across the Country
- 25 JOI Sampler

Academy News

- Remembering AAID Leaders 28
- 30 **New Members**
- Continuing Education Bite 34
- Ad Index 37



By Dennis Flanagan, DDS, MSc, FAAID, DABOI/ID, AAID Editor

EDITOR'SNOTEBOOK

The Role of Bone Graft Material in Bone Regeneration: Space Maintenance is the Foundation for Angiogenesis and Osteogenesis

Introduction

Bone grafting in oral surgery serves an important function in regenerative dentistry. The primary purpose of graft material is to create and maintain a space conducive to angiogenesis and subsequent osteogenesis. Additionally, an adequate scaffold, osteoconduction, can maintain volume and prevent soft tissue collapse. Natural bone regeneration could be significantly without these. This editorial explores the fundamental role of bone graft materials in maintaining space and fostering the conditions necessary for new bone formation.

The Concept of Space Maintenance

Space maintenance is the fundamental requirement for successful bone regeneration. There must be room for the ingrowth of vasculature before bone generation can occur. Whether in alveolar ridge augmentation, socket preservation, or sinus lifting, graft materials primarily act as placeholders that prevent fibrous tissue ingrowth while allowing angiogenic and osteogenic processes to occur.

Following tooth extraction or bone loss, the surrounding soft tissues tend to collapse onto the underlying bone. This leads to ridge resorption and loss of vertical and horizontal bone volume. This process is particularly problematic in implant dentistry, where adequate bone volume is necessary for primary implant stability and long-term success. Bone graft materials counteract this collapse and preserve the site for vascular infiltration and osteoblastic activity.

Angiogenesis: The Foundation of Bone Regeneration

Bone regeneration depends on healthy adjacent natural bone. This is inherently important for angiogenesis, the formation of new blood vessels from pre-existing vasculature. Blood supply is crucial for delivering oxygen, nutrients, and osteoblasts, which orchestrate the formation of new bone matrix. Without angiogenesis, bone graft materials would not integrate and not support host bone regeneration.

Bone graft materials facilitate angiogenesis by maintaining a porous, three-dimensional structure that allows for the incursion of capillaries and progenitor cells. Porous graft materials enable vascularization, creating a microenvironment for osteoblast recruitment and bone regeneration.

Osteogenesis and the Role of Scaffold Structure

Once a sufficient vascular network is established, osteogenesis occurs. Osteoblasts deposit new bone matrix onto the scaffold and gradually replace the graft material with native bone. Although some graft particulate may persist. The rate and quality of this process depend on the patient's physiological ability, the material's resorption characteristics, composition, and structural properties.

Bone grafts can be categorized into four primary types based on their origin and biological function:

- Autografts This is harvested from the patient's own bone. Autografts have osteogenic, osteoinductive, and osteoconductive properties but their availability is limited, and there is donor site morbidity.
- Allografts This material is derived from human cadaveric sources. Allografts have osteoconductive and possibly some osteoinductive properties. The harvested bone is processed to minimize immunogenicity and disease transmission.

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Melissa S. Actual Patient

Editor's Notebook

- Xenografts This material is sourced from animals (usually bovine).
 Xenografts provide a scaffold that supports bone regeneration but lacks osteogenic potential.
- Alloplasts Synthetic materials, such as hydroxyapatite and beta-tricalcium phosphate, act as osteoconductive frameworks that have variable resorption rates.

The ultimate selection of a graft material depends on the clinical situation, the need for site volume stability, and the appropriate resorption rate. Slowly resorbing materials, such as xenografts, provide prolonged space maintenance, whereas rapidly resorbing alloplasts may be more suitable in cases that require faster bone remodeling.

The Influence of Graft Material Properties on Space Maintenance

The effectiveness of a bone graft material in maintaining space is dictated by its physical and biological properties.

- Particle Size and Porosity: Smaller particles provide a greater surface area for cellular attachment but may compact under pressure and reduce space for angiogenesis. Larger particles may resist resorption and mechanical collapse but delay vascularization.
- Resorption Rate: A graft material must persist long enough to allow for vascular invasion and should not impede bone remodeling. Deproteinized bovine bone mineral (DBBM) can remain stable for extended periods. Calcium phosphate-based grafts degrade more quickly.
- Mechanical Resistance to Loading: In load-bearing areas, grafts should not deform under an occlusal load and thus collapse into an area of vascularization Thus, rigid resistance to a load must be implemented. A titanium mesh may be placed to prevent this.

• Biocompatibility: The graft material should not be immunogenic or induce inflammatory triggers that may cause osteogenesis to fail and result in fibrous encapsulation.

Clinical Applications and Challenges in Bone Grafting Socket Preservation

A common application of bone grafting is socket preservation. The alveolar ridge will undergo significant resorption if preservation treatment is not instituted. Loss of ridge volume can be minimized, and bone quality can be facilitated for future implant placement by placing socket graft material.

Ridge Augmentation

Dental implant sites may present with inadequate bone volume for appropriate implant osseous support. This may necessitate a ridge augmentation procedure. Placing graft materials with barrier membranes (such as collagen or PTFE membranes) can allow horizontal and vertical bone regeneration.

Sinus Augmentation

Sinus floor elevation surgery places graft material beneath the maxillary sinus lining to create space for new bone formation. The slow resorption rate of xenografts makes them suitable for sinus floor augmentation. The prolonged scaffold stability allows new bone formation. A flat sinus floor may create more distance for osteoblasts to migrate and this can prolong bone formation. Thus, the closer the medial and lateral sinus walls are the faster bone formation may occur.

Periodontal and Peri-Implant Defect Repair

In periodontal therapy, bone grafts are used to regenerate lost bone around teeth affected by periodontitis. Additionally, peri-implant defects may be repaired with space-maintained grafts that can revise osseointegration.

In spite of these applications there are unresolved issues including unpredictable

resorption rates, infection, and variability in patient healing responses. Research is continuing on bioactive modifications, growth factor incorporation, and new approaches for graft performance.

Future Directions in Bone Graft Materials

Bioengineered materials that not only maintain space but also actively promote angiogenesis and osteogenesis are being studied. Several emerging approaches include:

- Growth Factor-Enhanced Grafts: Incorporating bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) into graft material can enhance cellular recruitment.
- 3D-Printed Scaffolds: Computer-designed, patient-specific scaffolds with osteoconductive materials made to mimic osseous anatomy can facilitate healing.
- Stem Cell Therapy: Seeding graft materials with mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) to enhance osteogenic potential and accelerate healing.
- Nanotechnology: Engineering graft surfaces at the nanoscale can improve cellular bioactivity.

Conclusion

The primary function of bone graft materials in regeneration is to maintain space for angiogenesis and subsequent osteogenesis. Appropriate scaffolding and protection from soft tissue incursion that would impair vascular infiltration is important for the regenerative capacity of the patient's bone. The principles of space maintenance and graft selection are based on clinical needs. Advancements in biomaterials and tissue engineering continue to evolve and the future of bone regeneration promises to be more predictable and efficacious for regeneration.





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PRESIDENT'SMESSAGE

Find your AAID Value at the Local Level

By Dr. Matthew Young, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID

As your AAID President, I'm thrilled to invite you to elevate your implant dentistry skills by attending

one of three exceptional events being hosted by our Northeast, Central, and Southern Districts. Each of these offerings provides unique learning experiences designed to enhance your expertise and expand your professional network. Choose the meeting that best suits your interests and schedule:

 Northeast District Meeting: Innovating Implant Dentistry and Facial Esthetics – New York City, NY – May 3

For the first time in 20 years, the AAID is returning to the Big Apple! Join us in the vibrant NoHo neighborhood for a limited-attendance, one-day deep dive into the art of facial esthetics and its crucial connection to implant dentistry.

- Master Facial Esthetics: Explore techniques like PRF and Botox to achieve the perfect smile.
- Facial Harmony: Learn to balance dental implants with lips, eyes, and overall facial aesthetics.
- The Complete Picture: Understand the patient's emotional connection to their smile, encompassing face, lips, and teeth.
- Earn up to 7 CE Hours.

Space is limited, so register now to secure your spot: aaid.com/2025-northeast-district-meeting

- All-on-X with Digital Workflow: Live Surgery and Prosthodontics with ABOI/ID Diplomate Mentors, presented by Midwest Implant Institute and the AAID Central District – Columbus, OH – June 5-7
- Revolutionize your implant practice with this unparalleled **hands-on** learning experience.
- This intensive 3-day course will transform your skills and take your practice to the next level.
- Master Advanced Implantology: Learn from renowned expert Dr. Danny Domingue on surgical

planning, implant placement, and full-arch restoration.

- Perform LIVE All-on-X Surgery: Gain invaluable hands-on experience with immediate loading techniques under the guidance of ABOI/ID Diplomate mentors.
- Embrace the Digital Revolution: Discover how 3D printing and digital records can streamline your implant procedures and improve patient outcomes.
- Network with the Best: Connect with fellow professionals and learn from the brightest minds in implant dentistry.
- Earn up to 21 CE Hours.

Learn more and register: aaid.com/2025-centraldistrict-meeting

3. AAID Charity All-Star Course, presented by Wehrle Implant Immersion Course and the AAID Southern District – Puebla, Mexico – July 22-27

The AAID Southern District, in collaboration with the Wehrle Implant Immersion Course, invites you to an extraordinary hands-on implant course with live patients.

- Expert Mentorship: Learn from your favorite AAID educators in a 2:1 instructor-to-student ratio.
- Cutting-Edge Techniques: Benefit from Cory Glenn's surgical guides and Andy Burton's team's PRF and ePRF expertise.
- Charitable Impact: 100% of the proceeds will benefit the AAID Foundation and Casa del Sol orphanage in Puebla.
- Advance Your Skills and Give Back: Make significant strides in your implant journey while supporting a worthy cause.

This is a truly unique opportunity. Find out more and register: aaid.com/2025-southern-district-meeting

I encourage you to invest in your future and join us at one of these enriching District events.



By Carolina Hernandez, MBA, CAE, AAID Executive Director

EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR'SMESSAGE

Implant Institute Shines with Double Brandon Hall Group Award Win

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear AAID Members,

I am thrilled to share some exciting news that underscores the American Academy of Implant Dentistry's commitment to providing cutting-edge, high-quality implant education. Our very own e-learning platform, the AAID Implant Institute, has been recognized with not one, but *two* prestigious Brandon Hall Group HCM Excellence Awards in innovative Learning and Development. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the dedication of our members, staff, and the innovative approach we've taken to deliver exceptional online learning experiences for dental professionals.

As many of you know, the AAID has long been a leader in implant dentistry education. We understand the critical importance of continuous learning in this rapidly evolving field and are committed to providing resources that empower our members to stay at the forefront of advancements in implant techniques, technologies, and best practices. The Implant Institute was born from this commitment, designed in collaboration with Simply Innovative Consulting (SIC) to offer accessible, flexible, and engaging online learning opportunities that complement our in-person events and contribute to the overall advancement of the profession.

With this recognition, the AAID joins the ranks of other 2024 Brandon Hall Group HCM Excellence Award winners, including organizations such as Accenture, Adobe, Bayer, BMW, Capital One, Cisco Systems, Colgate-Palmolive, Dell Technologies, Deloitte LLP, Experian, Johnson & Johnson,



Jonathan Sprague, AAID's Director of Education and Credentialing, and Diane Gaa, CEO of Simply Innovative Consulting, accept the awards on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Liberty Mutual, Moderna, PepsiCo, Pfizer, Rakuten, Shell, Siemens, Unilever, United Airlines, Verizon, and Wells Fargo. Notably, the AAID was the only dental association to be recognized this year!

These two awards from the Brandon Hall Group, a leading independent research and analyst firm in the human capital management (HCM) space, validate our vision and the hard work that has gone into developing the Implant Institute. We received the following accolades:

- Silver Award in the Best Learning Strategy category for "Advancing Implant Dentistry Education"
- Silver Award for Best Learning Technology Implementation category for "Advancing the Implant Dentistry Learning Experience"

The Silver Award for Best Learning Strategy highlights the groundbreaking features and functionalities of the Implant Institute. We have incorporated innovative learning strategies, interactive elements, and multimedia content to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment. This includes high-quality videos, interactive simulations, case studies, and opportunities for collaboration and discussion with peers and faculty.

The Silver Award for Best Learning Technology Implementation recognizes the seamless integration and user-friendly design of the Implant Institute. We understand that your time is valuable, and we wanted to create a platform that is easy to navigate, intuitive to use, and accessible from various devices. The Implant Institute offers a streamlined learning experience, allowing you to quickly find the information you need, track your progress, and engage with the material in a way that suits your learning style.

These awards are not just a win for the AAID; they are a win for you, our members. The Implant Institute is a comprehensive learning ecosystem designed to support your professional development throughout your career.

Here are some key features and benefits designed to fuel your professional growth:

- Comprehensive Curriculum: The Institute offers a wide range of courses covering all aspects of implant dentistry, from basic principles to advanced techniques. The curriculum is continually updated to reflect the latest research, technologies, and best practices.
- Expert Faculty: Our courses are developed and taught by leading experts in the field of implant dentistry. You can learn from the best in the profession and benefit from their extensive knowledge and experience.
- Flexible Learning: The online format of the Implant Institute allows you to learn at your own pace and on your own schedule. You can access the courses anytime, anywhere, making it easy to fit your continuing education into your busy schedule.
- Interactive Learning: The Institute incorporates a variety of interactive elements, such as quizzes, simulations, and case

studies, to enhance your learning experience and help you apply your knowledge in a practical setting.

- Community Engagement: The Implant Institute provides opportunities for you to connect and collaborate with other members of the AAID. You can participate in online discussions, share your experiences, and learn from your peers.
- Continuing Education Credits: Many of the courses offered through the Implant Institute provide continuing education credits, helping you meet your professional development requirements.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and grateful for the recognition from the Brandon Hall Group. These awards from the Brandon Hall Group are a significant milestone for the AAID, but they are not the end of our journey. We are currently expanding its offerings to meet the evolving needs of our members incorporating new technologies and enhancing the overall learning experience.

Whether you are a seasoned implantologist looking to refine your techniques or a recent graduate seeking to build a strong foundation in implant dentistry, the Institute offers a wealth of resources to meet your specific needs. Visit aaid.com/aaid-implant-institute to learn more about the courses offered, access the platform, and discover how it can help you advance your education in implant dentistry.

We look forward to seeing you online!

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF IMPLANT DENTISTRY

Annual Business Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia | Saturday, November 16, 2024

President Ed Kusek called the 2024 Business meeting of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) to order on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

A quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order. Following is a summary of the activities, actions, and reports given at the meeting.

Dr. Kusek welcomed attendees and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President.

Below are the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees:

2023-2024 Officers:

- President-Elect: Matthew Young
- Vice President: Donald Provenzale
- Treasurer: Bill Anderson
- Secretary: Mario Silvestri
- Immediate Past President: Shane Samy

2023-2024 Trustees:

- Central District: Joseph Bedich, Michael Fioritto
- Northeast District: Larry Nalitt, Craig Aronson
- Southern District: Danny Domingue, Walter Chitwood
- Western District: Andy Burton, Keith Long

Staff support to the Board:

- Executive Director: Carolina Hernandez
- Chief Financial Officer: Jamey Richardson

Attendees were asked to have a moment of reflection for those who have passed away since the 2023 Annual Business Meeting:

General Members

Dr. William Callaway from Bogart, Georgia Dr. Jeffrey Lee from Tustin, California

Retired Member

Dr. Stuart Orton-Jones from Harpole-Northampton, United Kingdom

Fellow Members

Dr. John Argeros from Peabody, Massachusetts Dr. Raul Mena from Plantation, Florida Dr. Louis Rigali from Holyoke, Massachusetts

2024 Annual Report: A Transformative Year: Reflecting on the AAID Presidency

In 2024, Dr. Kusek reflects on a year filled with accomplishments, meaningful connections, and advancements for the Academy. Dr. Kusek expressed deep gratitude for the relationships he has built over the years, including with mentors, colleagues, the new leaders who will shape the future of the AAID.

Throughout the year, Dr. Kusek prioritized fostering a stronger sense of community, enhancing member value, and advancing education in implant dentistry. Key achievements during his presidency include:

- Recording video messages to engage members and strengthen AAID's sense of community.
- Personally welcoming new members and energizing committees by introducing fresh talent and perspectives.
- Expanding implant education through the launch of an award-winning eLearning platform and new courses, such as *Soft Tissue Dental Implants* by Michael Sonick.
- Providing support for the Jacksonville University residency program with a significant grant to secure its future.
- Strengthening partnerships with organizations including ALD, AACD, ADSA, and AGD.
- Realigning *AAID News* to focus on member activities and achievements.

Dr. Kusek emphasized the importance of the relationships formed during this time whether through MaxiCourses, study groups, or committee work—and encouraged newly credentialed members to remain engaged with their peers as future leaders of the Academy.

Dr. Kusek also expressed heartfelt appreciation to his family, staff, and the AAID Headquarters team for their ongoing support during such a busy and impactful year.

Dr. Kusek issued a challenge to all AAID members—new and credentialed

alike—to continue learning, striving for excellence, and volunteering to ensure the AAID remains a leader in implant education.

"Together, we can elevate the quality of implant dentistry and make a lasting impact on our patients," Dr. Kusek shared. "It has been an honor to serve as president of this incredible organization."

Nominating Committee Report: Dr. Shane Samy, Chair, advised the Nominating Committee met by video conference July 10, 2024 and has submitted the following Slate of Officers for the 2024-2025 Leadership year:

- President Matt Young (automatic from President-Elect)
- President Elect Don Provenzale
- Vice President Bill Anderson
- Treasurer Mario Silvestri
- Secretary Daniel Domingue

Dr. Samy announced that the Nominating Committee prepared its report and, in keeping with the AAID Bylaws, shared it with the voting members. No additional nominations were made by petition for any of the offices; therefore, the slate was elected by acclamation.

Introduction of 2024 Honored Fellows:

After reviewing the selection criteria for Honored Fellows, Dr. Bill Holden introduced the following members of the 2024 Class of Honored Fellows:

- Dr. Trinh Lee from Mountain View, California
- Dr. Suhail Mati from West Bloomfield, Michigan
- Dr. John Beckwith from Hillsborough, New Jersey

Report of the Treasurer: Dr. Bill

Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report, highlighting a year of financial growth and responsible management for the AAID. He extended gratitude to the Finance Committee and CFO Jamey Richardson for their contributions. Key financial highlights for 2024 included:

- **Revenue Growth:** Total operating revenues through September surpassed \$1.8 million, marking a \$150,000 increase over the prior year. Membership dues grew by \$40,000, and exam revenue rose by nearly \$70,000.
- Expense Management: Expenses remained 4% below the previous year, with total spending projected to finish \$500,000 under budget. However, ongoing legal fees related to a First Amendment lawsuit are expected to add \$500,000 in costs.
- Year-End Projections: Solid investment returns and disciplined spending are forecasted to result in a surplus exceeding \$750,000. Total assets have increased by 6% to nearly \$14 million, while net assets grew 5% to over \$12.4 million.

Looking ahead to 2025, Dr. Anderson outlined a projected 24% increase in revenue, driven by membership growth, sponsorship, and advertising. Expenses are expected to rise by 14%, primarily due to higher publication costs, annual meeting expenses, and ongoing legal fees. While the operational budget projects a deficit, average investment returns are expected to yield a positive net income.

Dr. Anderson concluded by emphasizing AAID's solid financial foundation and strong reserves, which position the Academy for continued success and growth.

"It has been my privilege to serve as your Treasurer this year," Dr. Anderson remarked, underscoring the importance of member engagement and support in achieving these milestones.

AAID Specialty Recognition Update:

Protecting Members' Rights Presented by Dr. Don Provenzale, Chair

Dr. Don Provenzale provided an update on the AAID's ongoing efforts to protect members' rights to advertise their earned credentials. The Legal Oversight Committee (LOC) remains committed to defending AAID- and ABOI/IDcredentialed members' ability to advertise their credentials and expertise in implant dentistry.

Currently, the AAID is engaged in litigation with the South Dakota Dental Board after the board enacted a regulation preventing credentialed members from advertising their bona fide qualifications. By challenging this rule, AAID sets a strong precedent for other states considering similar restrictions.

In Ohio, years of litigation have led to progress, with the state dental board nearing adoption of new regulations recognizing ABOI Diplomates as specialists. However, objections from special interest groups have stalled the process. Meetings over the next few months aim to reach a resolution, and the AAID is prepared to pursue legal action if necessary.

Dr. Provenzale emphasized that the importance of AAID credentials extends beyond U.S. borders, holding significant recognition globally.

To support members further, the LOC recommended—and the AAID Board approved—one hour of private legal consultation for credentialed members at no cost. Members can contact AAID headquarters to access this service on legal topics impacting their practices.

Dr. Provenzale concluded by thanking members for their vigilance and continued support, underscoring the AAID's dedication to protecting their professional rights and advancing implant dentistry.

Report of ABOI/ID: 2024 marked a significant year for the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry (ABOI/ID) under the leadership of Dr. Bart Silverman.

Key updates included improvements to the examination process. The written exam (Part I), overseen by Dr. Lion Berzin and his committee, underwent a thorough review and revision to maintain quality and relevance. The oral exam (Part II) returned to a live format in 2024, held in St. Louis, with 45 candidates and resulting in 34 new Diplomates. This successful format will continue in 2025 in Scottsdale, AZ.

A major policy change was implemented for 2025: candidates must now pass Part I before taking Part II, aligning ABOI/ ID's process with other medical board credentialing standards to ensure well-prepared Diplomates.

The ABOI Board Review Course remained popular, offering a virtual program for implant dentists to stay current with advancements in the field. This program will continue in 2025, with more information available at aboi.org

Dr. Silverman expressed pride in the year's achievements and looks forward to continued success and growth for the ABOI/ID.

AAID Foundation Report: Supporting Innovation, Veterans, and Education Presented by Dr. Daniel Domingue, Foundation Chair

Dr. Daniel Domingue delivered the AAID Foundation Report, celebrating a successful year of fundraising, grants, and impactful programs.

The 2024 Annual Conference featured the Board Challenge and Silent Auction, both of which brought excitement and competition. The Board Challenge raised \$31,500 through a friendly contest between the AAID Board of Trustees and the AAID Foundation Board of Directors. Congratulations to this year's winners, it's the Foundation Board's first win.

The Silent Auction, supported by 18 donors, showcased 77 items including dental materials, educational experiences, and unique trips tailored to member interests.

The Foundation awarded four grants this year to support research in implant dentistry. Additionally, the Smile, Veteran! Program made a significant impact, helping provide implant treatment to five veterans. Through this initiative, five AAID members volunteered their time to deliver full-mouth restorations, with the program covering additional costs for veteran care. Dr. Domingue encouraged members to consider participating by nominating veterans for treatment.

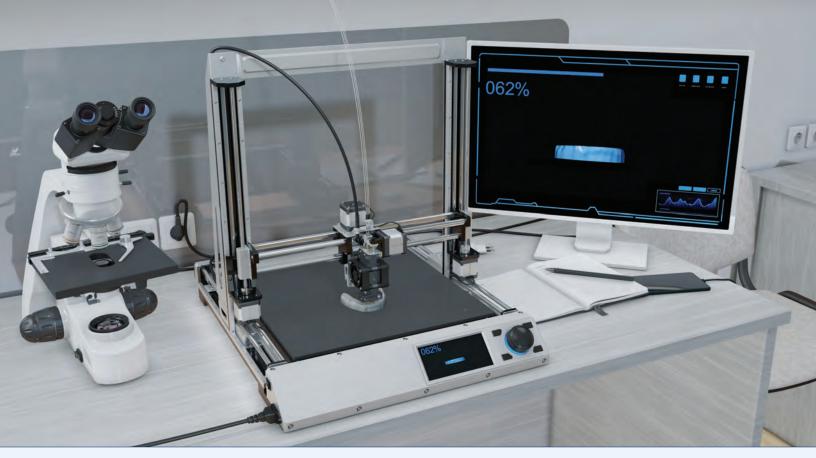
Dr. Domingue also announced an update to the Buhite Scholarship, with a new application launched on November 1.

The Foundation recognized Dr. Frank LaMar as this year's recipient of the prestigious Isiah Lew Memorial Research Award for his outstanding contributions to implant dentistry.

Dr. Domingue concluded by expressing gratitude for the ongoing support of AAID members, donors, and partners, whose contributions continue to advance implant research, education, and life-changing treatment for veterans.

Dr. Kusek invited everyone to attend the AAID's 74th Annual Conference November 12-15 in Phoenix, AZ.

The Future of Regenerative Dentistry: **A Q&A with AAID Leaders**



AAID News spoke with Dr. Suheil Michael Boutros and Dr. Matthew Young to provide our audience with the latest updates in regenerative dentistry.

Dr. Boutros practices at Periodontal Specialists of Grand Blanc, Clarkston & Flint in Grand Blanc, Michigan. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and a Diplomate and Past President of the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry; a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology; a Fellow and Diplomate of the Academy of Osseointegration; and President of the Michigan Periodontal Association. He also serves as a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Young is the President of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. He is an AAID Fellow and a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology and. He is the Past President of the San Francisco Dental Society and currently practices in San Francisco.

General Trends and Innovations

AAID News: What are the most significant advancements in regenerative dentistry in recent years?

Matt Young: In dentistry, we are constantly changing, evolving, and developing new techniques and procedures that benefit both our practices and our patients. Continuing education is critical. With implant surgery and restoration, staying current with the latest advances is essential.

Suheil Boutros: The most significant developments include the application of biomaterials such as allografts, xenografts, and resorbable membranes, as well as growth factors. The use of 3D imaging allows for 3D printing, enabling the creation of custom-milled allografts or xenografts for complex cases.

AAID News: How have materials and techniques evolved to improve patient outcomes in bone grafting and regeneration?

Suheil Boutros: Over the past 25 years, the predictability of various biomaterials, including allografts and xenografts, has made guided bone regeneration less invasive and more predictable. This provides patients with more treatment options for bone deficiencies and allows for more predictable implants for long-term success.

AAID News: What role do growth factors and biologics play in enhancing bone and tissue regeneration?

Suheil Boutros: Advancements in biologics and growth factors, such as bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) and the use of patient's own blood concentrates, lead to more predictable outcomes, especially in complex soft and hard tissue defects.

COVER STORY

AAID News: How do you see 3D printing and digital technology impacting regenerative procedures?

Suheil Boutros: The recent evolution of 3D scanning and printing has significantly advanced bone regeneration. A printed model of the bony defect can be used to custom-mill allogenic or xenograft blocks. 3D scanning can also be used to fabricate custom titanium meshes for precise vertical and horizontal ridge augmentation.

AAID News: Are there any emerging trends or technologies you believe will shape the future of regenerative dentistry?

Suheil Boutros: 3D printing will continue to evolve, leading to more predictable regenerative outcomes. The use of biologics and BMPs will increase, with more options becoming available for less invasive and more predictable regeneration.

Clinical Applications and Success Rates

AAID News: What are the key factors that determine the success of bone grafting procedures?

Matt Young: Proper case management is crucial in implant surgery. Often, this involves managing the case from the extraction level. Proper extraction management, bone grafting, and protocol adherence are essential for control. For dentists starting their careers, focusing on extractions, bone grafts, and ridge development is the best place to begin.

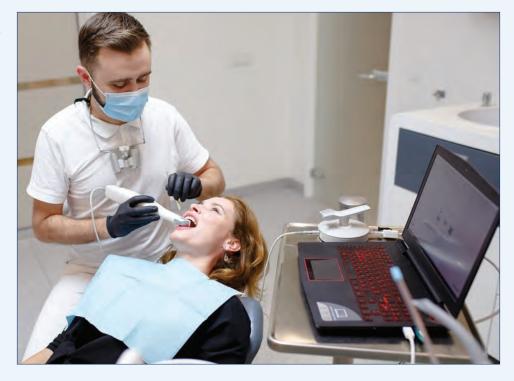
Suheil Boutros: Case selection, patient systemic health, and smoking are key factors. Clinical experience and appropriate training are also critical for successful regenerative procedures.

AAID News: How do you approach case selection for guided bone regeneration (GBR) to maximize success?

Matt Young: Managing the extraction socket with an extraction and bone graft is vital. This regenerates bone, simplifies implant procedures, and maximizes keratinized tissue around implants.

Suheil Boutros: CBCT is essential before GBR. Patient medical history and systemic comorbidities, such as uncontrolled diabetes and autoimmune diseases, significantly impact GBR success. The selection of biomaterials and surgical techniques is crucial.

AAID News: What challenges do clinicians commonly face when performing regenerative procedures?



Suheil Boutros: Poor case selection, lack of diagnostic criteria, and incorrect selection of surgical techniques and biomaterials can lead to unsuccessful outcomes.

AAID News: How do you assess and manage complications associated with bone regeneration treatments?

Suheil Boutros: To manage GBR complications, determine the cause. If poor surgical techniques are the issue, further training and hands-on courses are necessary. If the outcome is questionable, consider different biologics and, in some cases, a second procedure.

AAID News: Can you share any success stories or particularly challenging cases that highlight the potential of regenerative techniques?

Suheil Boutros: Case selection is critical. A predictable GBR case involves a young, healthy patient with a traumatic sport injury resulting in a mild to moderate bony defect. A challenging case involves older patients with medical comorbidities and limited access, such as vertical ridge augmentation in the posterior mandible.

Materials and Techniques

AAID News: What are the latest developments in grafting materials, and how do they compare in terms of efficacy and safety?

Suheil Boutros: Biomaterials have become more predictable, with numerous research publications supporting the efficacy and

safety of various grafting materials, from allografts to xenografts.

AAID News: How do you decide between autografts, allografts, xenografts, and synthetic materials for different cases?

Suheil Boutros: Autogenous grafts remain the gold standard for complex cases requiring vertical and horizontal ridge augmentation. Allografts are well-documented for bone regeneration, offering the benefit of avoiding harvesting from another site. Xenografts are also well-documented, particularly for cases where less resorption is desired, such as maxillary sinus augmentation.

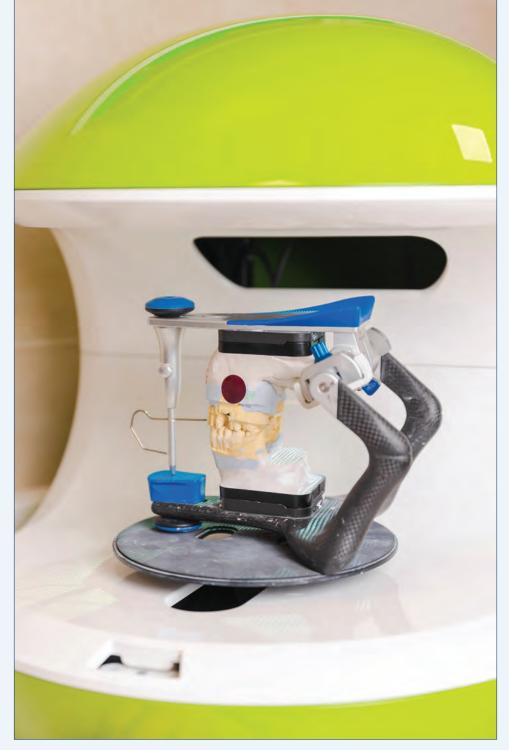
AAID News: What advancements in membrane technology are improving guided bone regeneration outcomes?

Suheil Boutros: Barrier membranes enhance bone grafting outcomes.Crosslinked collagen resorbable membranes eliminate the need for re-entry procedures, while non-resorbable membranes provide space maintenance, crucial for GBR.

AAID News: Are there specific biomaterials or growth factors you find particularly promising for accelerating healing?

Suheil Boutros: Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) and platelet-rich plasma (PRP) significantly benefit regenerative medicine by accelerating and enhancing hard and soft tissue healing.

AAID News: What role does platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) play in current regenerative protocols?



Suheil Boutros: PRF is well-documented in regeneration. It can be mixed with particulate allograft, creating "sticky bone" for easier handling and application.

Patient Considerations and Education

AAID News: How do you educate patients about the benefits and risks of regenerative procedures?

Suheil Boutros: We educate patients by reviewing research and literature demonstrating that long-term implant success relies on good bone quantity and quality. We provide literature explaining the benefits of GBR, which also minimizes complication risks.

AAID News: What factors should patients consider when deciding on regenerative treatment options?

Suheil Boutros: Patients should consider the biologics used, ensuring they are documented and supported by evidence-based research. Different materials and their advantages should be discussed before treatment.

AAID News: Are there any misconceptions about regenerative dentistry that you often encounter?

Suheil Boutros: High expectations from both clinicians and patients can be a misconception. In complex cases, outcomes may not meet expectations, which should be addressed before treatment.

AAID News: How do you manage patient expectations regarding healing time and results?

Suheil Boutros: GBR is generally predictable with proper case selection. If outcomes are unexpected, patients should be informed that a second procedure might be necessary. If GBR fails, alternative treatments, such as short implants, should be considered.

AAID News: What post-operative care strategies do you recommend to optimize healing and integration?

Suheil Boutros: Post-operative protocols should include prophylactic antibiotics, detailed dietary instructions, and post-surgical care explanations.

Regulatory and Cost Considerations

AAID News: How do regulatory requirements impact the adoption of new regenerative materials and technologies?

Suheil Boutros: Regulatory requirements are crucial for ensuring the safety and efficacy of biomaterials and new technologies, such as 3D printing of allografts.

AAID News: What cost challenges do patients and practitioners face with these advanced treatments?

Suheil Boutros: Cost is a challenge. Explaining the importance of good bone quantity and quality for long-term implant success helps patients understand the value of bone grafting.

AAID News: Are insurance companies beginning to recognize and cover more regenerative procedures?

Suheil Boutros: Most insurance companies recognize and cover GBR with appropriate documentation, including CBCT scans and clinical pictures.

AAID News: How can clinicians balance cost-effectiveness with the desire to use cutting-edge regenerative techniques?

Suheil Boutros: Cutting-edge, well-documented techniques should be the focus, not cost-effectiveness.

AAID News: What advice would you give to younger dentists interested in incorporating regenerative procedures into their practice?

Suheil Boutros: Take extra training and learn about different techniques and materials.



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SMILE, VETERANI GALLE

A Call to Action: Restore Smiles, Honor Service

Interview by Lauren Ambrus, AAIDF Executive Secretary, edited by Katie Przychodzen, AAID Marketing & Communications Manager

For many veterans, the sacrifices made during their service extend beyond the battlefield. Often, access to comprehensive dental care is limited during service and even after, leaving veterans struggling with dental issues that impact their confidence, health, and overall quality of life. The AAID-credentialed dentists of the *Smile*, Veteran![™] program are working to change that, one smile at a time.

The *Smile*, Veteran! charitable program, a vital initiative of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry Foundation (AAIDF), aims to bridge the gap and provide veterans with the life-changing benefits of implant dentistry. But to continue this important work, we need your help.

This article highlights the powerful impact of the *Smile*, Veteran! program through the inspiring story of R'Nita, a veteran whose life has been profoundly transformed by the program and the skilled care of an







AAID-credentialed dentist. R'Nita's journey underscores the urgent need for more AAID members to step forward and volunteer their expertise to this worthy cause.

> R'Nita's experience with dental care has been a lifelong struggle. From childhood experiences lacking access to basic dental hygiene, to the limitations of







military dental coverage, and the financial hurdles of pursuing implant solutions, her story resonates with many veterans. "My parents, before I was even born, had had all of their teeth removed and had denture plates," R'Nita shared. "So my experience with dental care and dental hygiene has been a real struggle my whole entire life." Even after military orthodontics and oral surgery, the results were temporary and ultimately unsatisfactory. The search for a permanent solution, for a dentist who could truly address her needs, was a long and arduous one.

R'Nita's quest for dental implants was fraught with obstacles. Cost, lack of insurance coverage, and the discouraging experiences with dentists who lacked the necessary expertise or a comprehensive treatment approach left her feeling disheartened. "I kept always, my first guestion to the dentist when I got a new dentist was, how can I go about getting implants? And the answer was always, That's really, really expensive. You want to keep your teeth as long as you can." she explained. Finally, after years of searching, she found Dr. Edward Kusek, an AAIDcredentialed dentist, and discovered the Smile, Veteran! program.

Dr. Kusek's office provided a stark contrast to R'Nita's previous experiences. "Walking into his office from the very first... everything was so professional," she recalled. "They knew exactly what needed to be done, put me right into a road path for oral surgery, and for the implants. They didn't waste any time... Just let's start this." For R'Nita, this was a turning point. She finally had a treatment plan, a skilled and compassionate dentist, and the support of the *Smile*, Veteran! program.

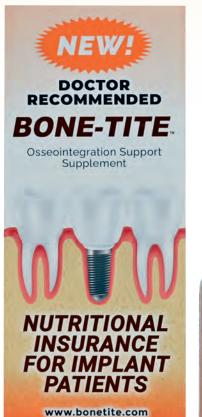
R'Nita's experience highlights the profound impact of the Smile, Veteran! program. It's not just about restoring smiles; it's about restoring confidence, improving health, and honoring the service of our veterans. The impact of the program on R'Nita's life has been immense. "Number one," she shared. "I feel so much less self-conscious about smiling." Beyond the aesthetic improvements, she also highlighted the functional benefits. "I'm able to... eat a sandwich with a tomato in it and not come out with tomato all over myself because I can actually bite down..." Simple pleasures, often taken for granted, are now a reality thanks to the program. The ability to eat comfortably and confidently, to smile without reservation, are transformative changes that many veterans, like R'Nita, deserve.

But the *Smile*, Veteran! program relies on the generosity and commitment of AAID-credentialed dentists. These skilled professionals are the backbone of the program, donating their time and expertise to provide life-changing care to veterans. As Andy Ray Burton, DMD, FAAID, DABOI/ID, AAID Western District Trustee, so eloquently stated, "This program is about AAID doctors improving quality of life for veterans. They don't get the care they deserve after their service to our country. *Smile*, Veteran! doctors help rehabilitate veterans so they can interact with their families and communities again." This is a call to action for AAID members. We urge you to consider joining the ranks of dedicated dentists who are making a real difference in the lives of our veterans. By volunteering your time and skills to the *Smile*, Veteran! program, you can provide a veteran with a renewed sense of self-confidence, improved oral health, and a brighter future. You can help them rediscover the joy of smiling, the pleasure of eating without pain, and the ability to engage fully with their families and communities.

R'Nita's story is a testament to the power of the *Smile*, Veteran! program and the dedication of AAID-credentialed dentists. It is a story of hope, resilience, and transformation. It is a story that should inspire each of us to ask: How can I make a difference? How can I help a veteran reclaim their smile and their life? The answer is simple: Volunteer with the *Smile*, Veteran! program. Your expertise, compassion, and commitment can transform lives, one smile at a time.

Are you an AAID-credentialed dentist? Join the *Smile*, Veteran! program and help us restore smiles and honor service. Contact Lauren Ambrus, AAID Foundation Executive Secretary, at lauren@aaid.com to learn more about how you can make a difference. Don't just save teeth; transform lives. Become a part of the *Smile*, Veteran! family today.

LEADING IMPLANTOLOGIST ADVOCATES FOR NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT IN IMPLANT PATIENTS



Teeth in a Day[™] Innovator, Dr. Thomas J. Balshi

Addresses the Nutritional Requirements of Implant Patients

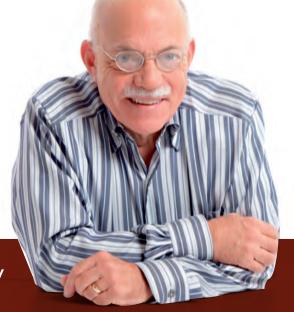
- ✓ Patient subclinical nutritional deficiencies are very common.
- Poor nutrition has proven to be a significant risk factor for increasing the likelihood of implant failure.
- Nutritional factors and deficiencies can adversely affect implant surgery and patient rehabilitation.



- Supplementing with vitamins, minerals and other nutrients may be useful and even necessary for implant patients before and after implant placement.
- Dental implants and implant-supported prostheses are viable treatment options for all patients when nutritional factors are considered.
- A strong patient nutritional profile can enhance healing, osseointegration, and overall implant success before and after a dental implant procedure.

When a regimen is started prior to an implant procedure, I believe BONE-TITE enhances osseointegration strength, even on the day implants are placed, which is a great asset for immediate loading with the Teeth in a Day™ protocol and continued use following the procedure helps supports implant success.

Thomas J. Balshi, DDS, PhD, FACP, A leading implantologist and BONE-TITE advocate



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AAID's Ashley Robbins, CAE:

A Leader on the International Stage



In the world of professional credentials, DDS, MD, and RN are instantly recognizable. But what about CAE? For association management professionals, the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation is a mark of distinction, signifying expertise and leadership. It's the equivalent of a DDS or DMD for association executives, demonstrating dedicated study, rigorous practice, and success on a comprehensive examination covering a broad spectrum of association management principles. Earning the CAE signifies a high level of professionalism and builds trust within the association community.

Enter Ashley Robbins, CAE, the AAID's dynamic Membership Director. Professionals like Ashley are crucial to the success of complex organizations like the AAID. They possess a deep understanding of the multifaceted nature of associations, including finance, law, accounting, communications, marketing, and education.

Since joining the AAID three years ago, Ashley has been a driving force behind the organization's membership strategies. Her leadership has been instrumental in strengthening renewal and retention efforts, providing data-driven reports to the Board of Trustees, and developing innovative outreach programs to attract and engage new members. Her CAE credential equips her to tackle any challenge the AAID faces.

"A Certified Association Executive truly understands association management and, most importantly, what association members are all about," says Robbins. Her professionalism, combined with more than 16 years of domestic and international experience in non-profits, makes her an ideal leader for the AAID.





Ashley's career journey began in the U.S. health care management industry with the Chicago Medical Society, where she served as the Membership Outreach and Government Affairs Coordinator. "Having just returned from Europe, I wanted to focus on the American healthcare system and find a way to make a difference from within," she explains.

From there, she transitioned to the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), where she quickly rose through the ranks, ultimately serving as interim executive director. Her expertise in association management was invaluable in guiding IALD's strategic direction for global operations across Europe, Japan, Australia, the UK, and the USA, aligning goals and tactics for both the IALD and the IALD Education Trust.



As the AAID continues to grow, Ashley's global experience in healthcare systems will be a tremendous asset in advancing our reach in the field of implant dentistry.

Get to Know Ashley Robbins:

- Holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Science from Ball State University, Muncie, IN.
- Enjoys golf, biking, tennis, and gardening.
- Proud mother of a 12-year-old son.
- Has worked in London, Dublin, and Melbourne.
- Began her association career at the Chicago Medical Society.



By Max G. Moses, JD, CPA, MBA

LEGALBITE

AAID and ABOI/ID Credentials Gaining Attention Across the Country

(as of February 27, 2025)

Credentials earned through the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) and the American Board of Oral Implantology/ Implant Dentistry (ABOI/ID) are getting attention from individual states as well as from the public at large.

The Find an Implant Dentist tool on AAID's consumer-facing website – aaid-implant. org – was utilized by four times the number of people in 2024 versus 2023; more than 72,000 searches were performed during 2024 compared to about 18,000 in 2023.

Moreover, during the second half of calendar year 2024, 67% more dentists' profiles were viewed compared to the same period in 2023.

In addition to visiting a credentialed member's website or calling the member's office directly, visitors can complete an online contact form to get more information on a specific credentialed member. That contact form is sent by aaid-implant.org to the dentist's office for personalized followup with the interested patient. Adding this contact form to your website and asking patients if they saw your profile on aaid-implant.org to your own tracking system will allow you to identify those patients who found your through the AAID.

The consumer information site is just one of the reasons that attention to AAID and ABOI/ID credentials is heating up in several states.

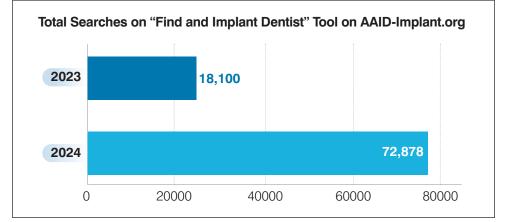
Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry reviewed and discussed proposed revisions to its specialty advertising regulations. The Board voted to adopt the proposed revisions regarding advertising specialties as suggested by the AAID.

The regulations are proceeding through the state's formal rulemaking process. AAID's proposed revisions, which were accepted by the Board, are still on the path to becoming the new advertising rules.

Ohio

The Ohio Dental Board called two meetings of stakeholders. The first of



these meetings was held in December and featured representatives from the Ohio Dental Association and the AAID, including oral surgeons, pediatric dentists, endodontists, and dental anesthesiologists. At a follow up meeting in mid-January, the Ohio Dental Board reviewed written documents submitted by stakeholders.

It is anticipated the Board will release its new proposed specialty advertising rule later this year.

South Dakota

The AAID is receiving a great deal of attention in South Dakota. Despite

presenting the Dental Board with AAID's recommendations, the Board decided to adopt regulations that only recognize as specialties those that have a two-year, CODA-approved post-graduate education program.

In order to protect the commercial free speech interests of its members, the AAID filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of this new advertising regulation.

The litigation is ongoing and the AAID, through legal counsel, is aggressively litigating to fight for your right to advertise as a specialist.

Wisconsin

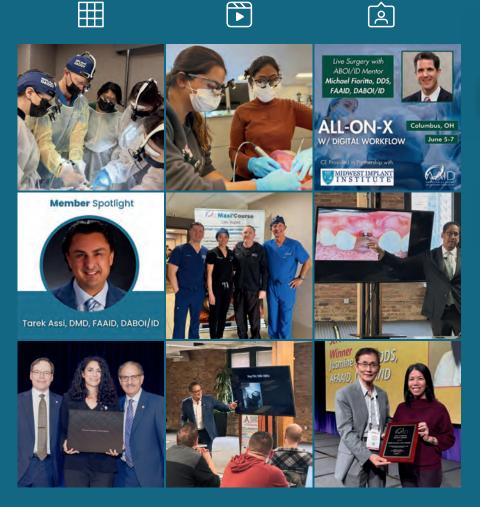
We understand Wisconsin is considering revisions to its advertising regulations. The AAID is closely monitoring the situation and is prepared to work cooperatively with the Board to revise its regulations in a way that protects your right to advertise your credentials.

Finally, attention comes in many ways – sometimes it is through the courtroom and other times it's through activities of the various dental boards. If you become aware of activity at your state dental board, please notify the AAID. You may contact us at max@aaid.com.

JOIN US ON INSTAGRAM!

@theimplantdentists

Stay up-to-date on our latest implant dentistry events, share your wins, and connect with fellow gamechangers in the field!





AAID CHARITY ALL-STAR COURSE



Hands-On Live Implant Training

WEHRLE IMPLANT

Join the Southern District of the AAID for an exclusive live patient implant course led by top educators you know and trust. With a 2:1 instructor ratio, you'll receive personalized, over-the-shoulder guidance to master advanced implant techniques with confidence.



Enhanced Learning Experience

Take your skills even further with expert support: Cory Glenn will produce guides for select cases, while Andy Burton's team will create PRF and ePRF, providing the ultimate hands-on training environment.



Train for a Cause

All proceeds from this course will benefit the Southern District of the AAID, the AAID Foundation, and the Casa del Sol orphanage in Puebla. Instructors are donating their time-giving you a rare opportunity to advance your skills while making a meaningful impact.

JULY 22-27,2025 **True Immersion Course, From 7 AM - 10 PM** Werhle Implant Immersion Clinic, Puebla, Mexico

Attendance will be limited to 20 participants to maximize your learning experience. The spots are sure to fill up quickly, so make your reservation for the live implant course of the year.

To apply by phone call Tammy (817) 992-9225



INSTRUCTORS







Frank





Walter



lasmine Sung

Christian Raiiv Hart Pate

Danny Domingue

Andy

Brandon Mario Silvestri Allison









Wehrle Implant Immersion Course Is designated as an Approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Denlistry. The formal continuing education programs of this program provia are accepted by ADD for Fellowship, Mastership, and membership maintenance credit. Approval does not Imply acceptance by a state or provincial board of denlistry or ADD endonement. The current term of approval extends from 11/J/2024 to 12/3J/2026. Provider ID# 361540

ADA CERP Continuing Education Recognition Program

Ultra Modern Dertal Group is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education, ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. PROVIDER: Wehrle implant immersion Course – Carlos Cayetano Espinoza – Carlowic@gmail.com

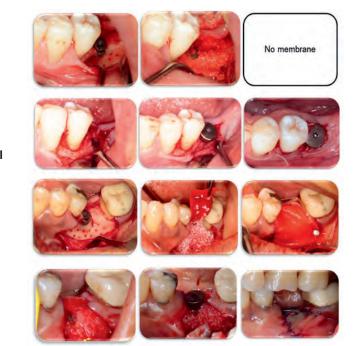


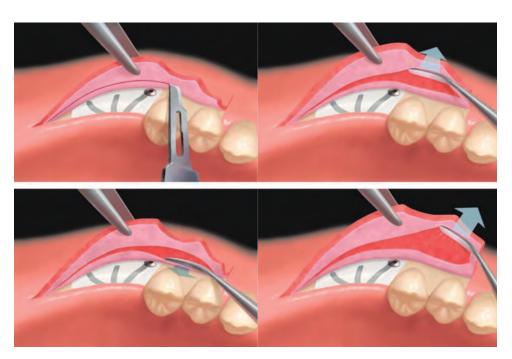
JOISAMPLER

CLINICAL CASE REPORT

Repairing Dehiscence Defects at Implant Sites using β-Tricalcium Phosphate/Calcium Sulfate Versus Xenograft Combined With Membrane: A Randomized Clinical Trial

This study compares β -tricalcium phosphate/ calcium sulfate with deproteinized bovine bone mineral and a collagen membrane (DBBM/CM) to repair bone defects at implant sites over 6 months.





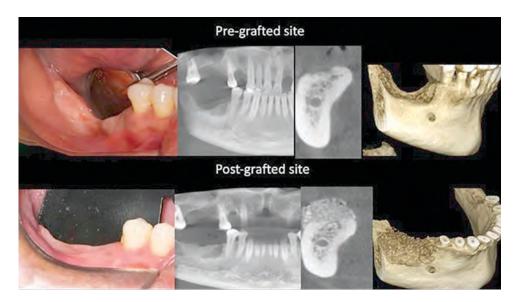
CLINICAL CASE REPORT

Modified Periosteal Releasing Incision (MPRI) for Primary Closure: Visualization of the Mental Nerve

Read about an updated surgical technique that provides an alternative approach to traditional techniques, ensuring patient safety and improving surgical outcomes.



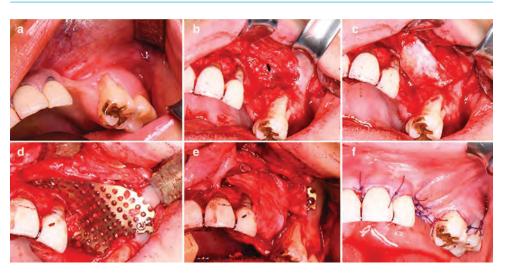
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CLINICAL CASE REPORT

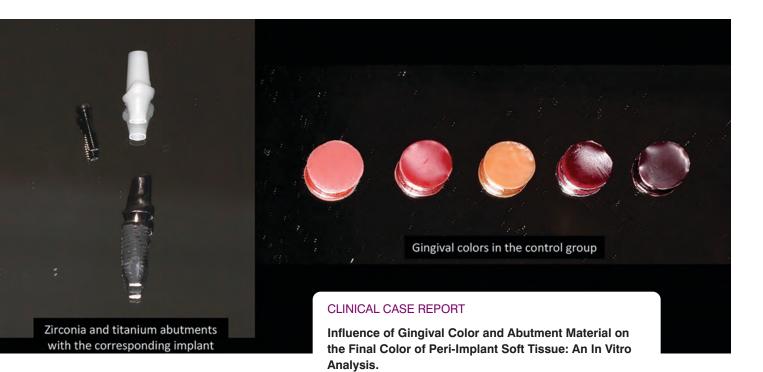
Vertical Ridge Augmentation Using Deproteinized Bovine Bone Material Without Covering with a Membrane: A Tunnel Pouch Technique- 4-Year Follow-up – A Pilot Clinical Study

This case reports shares findings of a clinical trial that evaluated the effect of particulate deproteinized bovine bone graft mixed with blood used as a vertical ridge augmentation material without covering with any form of collagen membrane in a tunnel pouch technique, resulting in sufficient bone formation to allow placement of dental implants with maintenance of the newly formed bone after final restoration.



Successful Secondary Reconstruction and Dental Rehabilitation for a Maxillary Bone Defect With Discontinuity After Partial Maxillectomy: A Case Report

This case report describes a 23-year-old female patient who underwent secondary reconstruction for a bone defect caused by a partial maxillectomy to remove an ameloblastoma that had invaded the maxillary sinus.

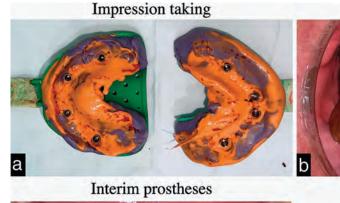


This study investigated the influence of different gingival colors and abutment materials on the final color of periimplant soft tissue. Both gingival color and abutment material were found to be effective on the final color of peri-implant soft tissue. However, further clinical research is required to confirm these findings.

CLINICAL CASE REPORT

Full-Arch Implant-Supported Rehabilitation Using Reverse Scan Technique: A Case Report

This case report describes successful use of the reverse scan technique in a 72-year-old male patient who desired to restore his teeth in both jaws. The treatment plan involved extracting these teeth, placing 4 implants in the maxilla and mandible, and fitting an interim immediate loading prosthesis.









patient's smiling



Michael LeRoy Potts.

(April 15, 1950 – January 6, 2025)

Dr. Michael Potts was an AAID member for more than 40 years. Dr. Potts became an AAID Associate Fellow in 1983, a Fellow in 1988, and an ABOI Diplomate in 1991. He was recognized as an AAID Honored Fellow for his accomplishments in the field of implant dentistry in 2007. A great supporter of the AAID Foundation (AAIDF), Dr. Potts served in various roles on the AAIDF Board from 2013 through 2023.

"Dr. Potts was one of the greatest leaders we have ever had in the American Academy of Implant Dentistry," said Dr. Matthew Young, current AAID President. "He led by example and showed us all how to be a professional in implant dentistry and for our patients." Dr. Potts touched countless lives. not only through his meticulous care, but through the laughter and warmth he shared with every patient and colleague who entered his practice. A proud graduate of Loma Linda University, Dr. Potts dedicated more than 15 years to teaching dental implant techniques. He courageously agreed to serve as the plaintiff on behalf of the AAID in California to challenge restrictions on advertising AAID and ABOI credentials. Dr. Potts' groundbreaking contributions earned him the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the AAID Western District in 2022, celebrating his role in advancing the field with unmatched artistry and vision.

Dr. Potts is survived by his devoted wife, Susie, and their two sons, Zachary and Derek, who both proudly continue the Potts family tradition in dentistry.

Dr. David Michael (Joe) Vassos _

(February 18, 1939 – January 13, 2025)

We honor the memory of Dr. David Michael (Joe) Vassos, who passed away peacefully on January 13, 2025, surrounded by his devoted wife, Darlene, and family. Joe was larger than life and made a lasting impact on countless individuals over his lifetime.

Dr. Vassos was born in Melville, Saskatchewan, on February 18, 1939. He earned his degree in dentistry from the University of Alberta in 1963 and began practicing in the profession he loved, continuing until his retirement in May 2019. Many AAID members will remember Dr. Vassos as an entertainer and stand-up comedian.

He was a worldrenowned speaker in the implant dentistry field and was invited to lecture and teach other dentists around the world. Dr. Vassos was a high achiever and expected nothing but the best from himself. He certainly accomplished that in his practice and will leaves behind a legacy in the dental field. "Joe Vassos was a great mentor and a fierce leader in the field of oral implantology," said Karima Bapoo-Mohamed. "He has left an indelible mark on so many peers and patients alike. I continue to see some of his implant patients in my practice and they are all so beyond grateful for getting their smiles back. He will be missed dearly."

Remembering AAID Leaders

Dr. Oscar Hilt Tatum, Jr., an esteemed American dentist, passed away on February 17, 2025. He is most notably recognized as the pioneering clinician who performed the first sinus lift procedure. Dr. Tatum was widely regarded as one of the world's most skilled dental implant surgeons, celebrated for his exceptional surgical expertise and innovative conceptual contributions.

For more than six decades, Dr. Tatum generously shared his time and knowledge, significantly advancing the field of implant dentistry. His groundbreaking research, innovative techniques, and dedication profoundly enriched the lives of countless patients and fellow dentists. His passion for the field was evident from his early years; in 1955, while a student at Emory Dental School, he attended the first dental implant program offered in a dental school. Throughout his career, Dr. Tatum remained committed to his goal: "To bring the compromised dental patient back to normal comfort, function, and esthetic dental health."

Following Dr. Tatum's passing, AAID staff spoke with Dr. Duke Heller, a close friend. When asked what he would say to Dr. Tatum if given one last opportunity, Dr. Heller expressed, "Thanks again, Hilt, for allowing thousands of dentists and me to learn from your mind. In my heart, I know God created Hilt Tatum, a genius in our time, for 'such a time as this.' God gave Hilt a talent he didn't give other people. He loved to teach, he loved to share his knowledge, and he loved to serve the AAID and ABOI."

Oscar Hilt Tatum, Jr (April 22, 1934 – February 17, 2025)

Describing Dr. Tatum in three words, Dr. Heller offered, "Determined, Dedicated, and Devoted to his profession."

Dr. Tatum held several university faculty appointments in the United States and served on the faculty of Lille University School of Medicine in France for 25 years. He also served as President of both the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) and the American Board of Oral Implantology (ABOI). In his leadership roles, Dr. Tatum mentored numerous dentists worldwide. His global impact is deeply felt.

On June 16, 2003, French President Jacques Chirac awarded Dr. Tatum the French Legion of Honour in Paris, France. Subsequently, Dr. Tatum established a training course in Birmingham, England, where he instructed many dentists in bone expansion, implant placement, and sinus grafting techniques. Dr. Tatum continued his dedicated work well into his eighth decade.



The AAID is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined between July 25, 2024 and February 15, 2025. The list is organized by state, with the new member's city included. International members are listed by country and province (if applicable). If you joined the AAID recently and your name does not appear below, it will be listed in the next issue of *AAID News*.

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA

UNITED STATES

Alabama Jeremy McDoniell, Fairhope

Arizona

Manuel Bedoya, Tuscon Michael Korn, Scottsdale Frevent Millet, Peoria Gene Peterson, Chandler Lakin Radeka, Tucson

Arkansas

Sindi Vishaj, Maumelle

California

Tanvir Sigh, Tracy Ambika Arun, Dublin Hocine Benbella, Elk Grove Ahd Berkdar, Aliso Viejo Gagandeep Bhullar, Merced Gerald Bittner, San Jose Bruce Bosler, Vacaville Varo Boyer, West Hills Hyunsik Byeon, Chino Hills Hoon "Alex" Chang, Orange Shannika Dao, Redding Arryan Emamian, El Dorado Hills Vineet Ganagdharan, Modesto Narayan Joshi, Clovis Venkateswarlu Kadiveti, Pleasanton Zarjan Khan, Lodi Nadir Khattab, Redlands Disha Kheni, Folsom Gina Khouri, Westminster Tan Khuu, Lake Forest Renuka Kucherlapati, Monterey Puneet Kumar, Lathrop Paulina Labuz, Marina del Rey Marie Joy Lazaro, National City Anh Le, Whittier Alina Lu, Folsom Rob Lytle, San Marino Neeraja Mayalagu, Fremont Kamran Pakdamanian, Corona Srijana Pokhrel, Burlingame Ava Pournejad, Irvine Sukhmandeep Randhawa, Bakersfield

Marina Salib, Stevenson Ranch Giuseppe Salvi, Menlo Park Salem Sayegh, Glendora Maninder Singh, Bakersfield Shaun Soliman, Redondo Beach Greg Tashdjian, La Crescenta Sweta Saji Thomas, Natomas Anna Uppal, Folsom Chandana Vundavalli, Pleasanton Miyoung Yoon, La Crescenta Mena Youssef, Fresno Chenglong Zhao, Riverside Elizabeth Zikry, Redondo Beach

Colorado

Caleb Moore, Denver

Connecticut

Thomas Contreras, Groton Adnan Idlibi, Terryville Tamreen Iqbal, Norwalk Yuvika Kumar, Manchester Blake Ma, Manchester Dayna Patel, Trumbull

District of Columbia

Albert Coombs, Washington Mark Tromblay, Washington

Florida

Ajlal Ahmed, Orlando Danyal Ahmed, Orlando Malek Chahada, Winter Garden Christian Davila, Tampa Yunior Diaz Sablon, Cape Coral Surna Hakimian, Winter Springs John Hastings, Niceville Dixie Jernigan, Venice Brian Knapp, Tallahassee Gaurang Nanavati, Lutz Monica Polakhare, Casseberry Gretel Rubio Rios, Spring Hill Camden Smith, Jacksonville Amanda Socarras, Miami Lakes

Georgia

Mitesh Brahmbhatt, Valdosta Bryant Choe, Buford A Currie, Brookhaven

Steve Drescher, Atlanta Kyle Emer, Kennesaw Daniel Fuentes, Atlanta Shiven Gandhi, Atlanta Javier Johnson, Stockbridge Rasha Juma, Johns Creek Maria Kwak Myung, Suwanee Fabio Massaroto, Sandy Springs Ryan Nguyen, Lawrenceville Frank Nia, Atlanta Scott Park, Fayetteville Jean-Max Pierre, Convers Jeffrey Rausch, Appling Michael Smith, Alpharetta Peter Yoon, Grovetown Xiaodan Zhang, Suwanee

Hawaii

David Miyasaki, Honolulu Garret Uehara, Honolulu Jill Uehara, Honolulu Jessica Vo, Honolulu

Idaho

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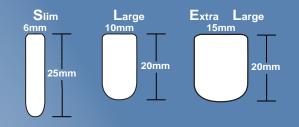


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