

On the road to success

In the fourth of a six-part series, **DR HANNAH CLARK** and **DR COLIN POCOCK** discuss their experiences as they attend the *ITI Pathway 2010 – Foundation in Implant Dentistry with Concomitant Mentoring course...*

Module 4: June 16 & 17 2010

Professor Frauke Mueller, a world-renowned implantologist, presented the first day's lectures and practical sessions, delivering really inspiring case studies which looked at our aging population and how implants can really change lives and improve their quality of life. Looking at resorption patterns after tooth loss, we became familiar with the Cawood and Howell classification. We learnt that the placement of a couple of implants in the lower anterior ridge could help stabilise a denture, making a huge change to the patient's diet and general wellbeing.

In the afternoon, we finished off with a great, hands-on practical session using the different implant components for retaining a lower overdenture; learning how to assemble, fit and replace

rubber retention rings. The chairside procedures are more straightforward than for implant retained crowns or bridges and we had a go at the intra-oral procedure for fitting Locator attachments into an overdenture. As this is all done chairside, the patient, who had their implants placed just six to eight weeks earlier, walks out of the door with an instant 'fixed' lower denture. Since it is predicted that most children born since 2000 will celebrate their 100th birthdays, and already over 20 per cent of the UK population is aged over 60, we should have plenty of opportunities to use these techniques.

On day two we were all delighted to have the President-elect of the European Association of Osseointegration, Paul Stone, lecture. Paul was very direct and clear about where he expected

us to be, both academically and clinically, before we commenced implant dentistry.

We reviewed the local anatomy and looked at the statistics again, and whilst patient factors and implant system factors undoubtedly have an impact on success, it really is what we learn and how we apply it that are going to be the crucial factors. We examined the process of implant placement once more and looked at how critical it is to avoid placing the implant either too coronally or too far apically.

All this led up to the afternoon practical session where we finally got to use the full surgical kit. Straumann had set up teeth with

silicone pink gingivae in clear acrylic models. We selected a site in the maxillary second premolar region and performed the surgical placement in a step-by-step method. Reluctantly we handed in our models with the healing cap and sutures in place. This was our favourite part of the course so far.

Back in practice, we had our first meeting with our mentor, Anthony Summerwill, and had a CT scan and patient booked in for surgery. We were really going to place an implant, and despite some initial nerves, we relished the opportunity this course offered! ■

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About the Authors

Dr Hannah Clark BDS (Ncle) 1993. Hannah has worked full-time in general dental practice gaining an insight into what patients are looking for in modern dental care. She has undergone further training and is certified in wrinkle softening techniques, including the use of botulinum toxin and dermal fillers.



Dr Colin I. R. Pocock BDS (Sheff) 1998. Colin has recently completed Paul Tipton's Certificate course in Aesthetic Dentistry at the St Ann's Dental Education Centre, Manchester. During 2008, Colin completed advanced cosmetic dentistry training with Dr Larry Rosenthal from the USA.