

# On the road to success

In the second 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 2: April 21 & 22 2010

The educators on this module were Lawrence Chan and Graham James who, as a team, have placed and restored thousands of implants over the past 15 years. It is the combination of their academic knowledge and their wet-fingered record which gives their lectures accessibility to regular GDPs like us.

## Group discussions

The first part of the day was devoted to group discussion of our homework. Three delegates presented the groups' findings and the educators were duly impressed with our treatment planning for the example set. We felt quite relaxed about being chosen by the group to present our findings, largely because our group and course educators are so personable and approachable.

Lawrence and Graham's experience really showed as they introduced us to the Straumann family of implants in more detail.

It soon became clear that these bits of precision Meccano had a very simple logic, and it was great to be able to handle the different components and see how the implant, abutment and screw retention all fitted together. Our first practical session for this module involved taking an impression using both an open and closed tray technique on the demonstration models.

## Planning stage is critical

The afternoon session was devoted to understanding surgical guides and stents, and at all times it was emphasised how critical the planning stage is in the success of implant dentistry. Examples were given of implants which were incorrectly positioned outside of the prosthetic envelope. These implants were so far outside of any useful area that they faced being covered over and left as sleepers or even being 'explanted'.

We learnt the importance of preparing a vacuum formed stent

to give the precise point at which to begin preparation of the implant site. The other essential guide was a clear stent prepared over the diagnostic wax-up to help ensure the implant was placed within the prosthetic envelope.

## Interactive session

Day two saw some interactive and challenging lectures and the practical session allowed us to get our hands on the different abutments available to the technician and dentist. We were able to try the different abutments into the implant analogues and assess which abutment would provide the best solution for the final restoration. A fuller understanding of the SynOcta system and the 16 different abutment positions available using

an A or B system became much clearer when actually handling the components. Also, discussing the technician's role, in terms of choosing the abutments, made perfect sense and it was nice to see things from their perspective.

Finally we broke into three smaller groups, each facilitated by one of the course educators. We had each brought along a potential first case, which we shared with the group. Whilst everyone has different levels of skill in terms of photography, some have wet film, some digital, it was great to begin to discuss some real cases which could soon become our first ever implant patients.

Yet another packed couple of days at the ITI Education Centre! ■

*Reader enquiry: 73*

## 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.