Breastfeeding moms need milk: Nursing mothers need healthy amounts of calcium or run the risk of bone loss around their teeth and gums.

Mark your calendar: Check out this list of important upcoming events and meetings for the dental implant community in 2007.

Turn chaos into cash: Use these helpful management tips to shift the general atmosphere of your dental office from pressured to productive.

A-dec brings color to dental office: The dental equipment manufacturer is becoming broader, with offerings designed to serve dentists as their needs become more sophisticated.

Academy of Osseointegration bucks tradition at annual meeting in San Antonio

By Sierra Rendon, Managing Editor, Implant Tribune

The Academy of Osseointegration’s 22nd annual meeting, held March 8-10, was an historic one.

In his Opening Remarks address, AO President Edward B. Sevetz Jr., DMD, explained the many reasons this meeting stood apart from the rest.

First, Sevetz said, there was the location: San Antonio, Texas. It was the first time AO had ever met at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, just minutes from the historic site of the Alamo and the famous Riverwalk.

Then, there was the exhibit hall, which boasted of the highest number of corporate partners and exhibitors that any AO meeting had ever had.

There was also the State of the Science of Implant Dentistry Consensus Conference, which explained the results of a several-year-long project headed by Drs. Vince Iacono and David Cochran. During that conference, attendees had the opportunity to vote for treatment plans on wireless keypads for innovative audience participation.

The SSID was established to answer specific questions about the field and posted for consideration by a select group of 140 distinguished clinicians, scientists and academicians.

Those questions were:

- “What is the effect on outcomes of time-to-loading of a fixed or removable prosthesis placed on implant(s)?”

Smoking can cause dental implants to fail

By John Hoffman, News Editor, Dental Tribune

CHICAGO — Smoking can harm the integrity of dental implants and cause them to fail more so than in a non-smoker, according to a new study that appeared in the February issue of the Journal of Periodontology (JOP).

Researchers from University of Murcia in Spain investigated if smoking impacts the ability of a dental implant to succeed. They found that smoking is a risk factor with regard to tooth loss and dental implant failure.

“People who smoke are at a greater risk of infection following surgery, and may heal more slowly,” said Dr. Arturo Sanchez Perez, Department of Periodontology at the University of Murcia. “When an implant is placed in a smoker, it is more likely to fail. This means a patient’s smile may be negatively affected, and the potential for more bone loss in the areas surrounding the gums and teeth.”

Smoking negatively affects blood flow to the bone and tissues surrounding the gums and teeth, which impairs bone healing.

Implants fail because of a failure to integrate with the surrounding bone tissues. The study followed 66 patients over 5 years, who received 165 implants. They found that 15.8 percent of implants failed in smokers, versus 1.4 percent of implants in non-smokers.
Virtual classroom: Personal, mobile and flexible learning

By Sascha A. Jovanovic, Editor-in-Chief, Implant Tribune

In today's increasingly complex and evolving dental world, dental professionals must be innovative, knowledgable and globally up to date in both concepts and practice. Advanced dental education programs provide GPs and specialists with concepts, solutions and procedures to drive their practice and turn today's clinical solutions into satisfied patients and beautiful smiles. But travel inconveniences, costs, overbusy practitioners and the arrival of new and reliable IT technology have changed the world of dental education.

It is this transformation that prompted an update of classic CE programs using new media like DVD, CD-Rom and Internet video streaming. It has already in short order transformed the way dentists learn. Modules where the dentists can complete a master program in implant dentistry are now available.

Achievement award, which was given to keynote speaker Professor Tomas Albrectsson. In his speech, Albrectsson described the early days in the field of osseointegration, in which he worked with Per-Ingvar Branemark.

"The aesthetics of our early osseointegrated implants were not optimal, but improved with the help of properly trained prosthodontists. However, our implants remained stable." He also expressed his desire that new advances in the field be met with caution. "All novelties with osseointegrated implants have not been positive... I am increasingly disturbed by simplified messages and notions that everything will succeed. Despite positive results with most major implant systems, it remains risky to challenge biology. I agree with Branemark who has stated that everything is not rapid and simple."

Albrectsson suggested how doctors placing implants should set out for success in the future.

"We must remember to put patients first at all times to ensure a good, continued middle age of osseointegration: 1. We must have a return of science to the field of oral implants; 2. New implants/radical implant innovations need clinical pre-testing; 3. If things go wrong, the dentist may have the major responsibility; and 4. Clinical handling may be as common a reason for implant failure as is ever the hardware."

The Academy of Osseointegration's 2008 meeting will be held in Boston, MA.

"Tobacco use has been shown to be a risk factor for periodontal diseases, which is the main cause of tooth loss in adults," said Dr. Preston D. Miller, DDS, president of the American Academy of Periodontology. "This research shows that if you want your dental implant to last, you should not smoke. Also, the treating dentist should make sure their patients are aware of this before placing an implant, and emphasize the importance of quitting smoking."

To assess your periodontal health, visit www.perio.org and click on "Assess your gum disease risk." Visit the AAP website, www.perio.org, for a referral to a periodontist and free brochure titled Tobacco and Periodontal Diseases: Targeting Tobacco Use. Or call 800-TLOSS-EM (800-556-7756) toll-free.

"This research shows that if you want your dental implant to last, you should not smoke. Also, the treating dentist should make sure their patients are aware of this before placing an implant, and emphasize the importance of quitting smoking."