Dear Grad,

An open letter from the AO to this year’s new dental graduates

Congratulations on your tremendous accomplishment! We have learned a lot over the years as individual practitioners, professors and a collective board, and now we offer some important tips to you as you go out into the dental world.

Our top 10 tips for new dental graduates

1) Learning never stops. Always stay a student. Find a mentor, or mentors, you can turn to when you need advice. Read at least a few peer-reviewed journals to keep on top of current thinking.

2) Dentistry humbles even the best. Be critical of your work and learn from your mistakes so you can do it better next time. Likewise, you should celebrate your successes along the way.

3) Be part of a team you trust. Foster mutually beneficial relationships with your colleagues — both general dentists and specialists — and communicate constantly with them in order to provide optimal patient care.

4) Make treatment decisions based on WIDOM. WIDOM is an acronym for

California Implant Institute presents live patient surgical courses in Mexico

By California Implant Institute Staff

The California Implant Institute is pleased to present five-day, Level I and Level II comprehensive live patient surgical externship courses in Baja California, Mexico, this year.

Level I course
Attendees of the Level I course will implement step-by-step implant surgical protocols on live patients under the supervision of Louie Al-Faraje, DDS, and additional faculty.

The five-day course will include eight hours of lectures on diagnosis and treatment planning of implant cases (around two hours each morning). Each attendee will place 10-15 implants and assist with multiple implants on live patients.

Course participants will increase their knowledge and skill in the areas of flap design, alveoloplasty, implant placement, bone grafting and suturing techniques. Upon completion of the externship, attendees will have smoother transition from the classroom to surgically placing implants in their own offices.

All patients are carefully selected by the California Implant Institute faculty, and CT scans are provided for all patients. During the most recent program, 15 participants placed more than 170 implants, including immediate and computer-guided placements, and performed multiple bone-grafting procedures.

Level II course
Attendees of the Level II course will in
crease their knowledge and skill level in the areas of advanced implant surgical techniques, including lateral-window sinus lifting, maxillary and mandibular ridge expansions, CT graft and block grafting. Level II participants will work also with Piezotome and CO2 laser units, which are available at each Level II working station. Attendees will add advanced implant-related surgical procedures to their practice.

Upcoming courses
The live patient surgical externship in Mexico is provided four times a year. Each of the Level I and Level II programs offer 40 C.E. credits. Complete information on the externship, including tuition, testimonials, staff bios, accommodations and location, can be found at www.implanteducation.net, by calling (858) 496-0574 or by e-mail at info@implanteducation.net.

Academic director
Dr. Al-Faraje is a private practitioner as well as the founder and director of the California Implant Institute, which conducts a one-year fellowship program in implant dentistry. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and a diplomate of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists and the American Board of Oral Implantology.

“Would I Do It On Me?” If you are thoughtful in your approach, follow clinical guidelines and treat people fairly, your rewards in dentistry will be plentiful.

5) Remember all the “always” rules. Always “measure twice and cut once.” Always listen before you speak. Always photograph your work. Always audit your clinical results.

6) Fiscal responsibility lays a great foundation for success. Seek advice from a financial expert for the purpose of loan repayment and future planning. Be smart and practical with investments if you’re starting your own practice.

7) Excellence is a process, not an event. Continually challenge yourself to do your best. Define your five-year goals and renew them every four to five years.

8) Know your limitations. Be forthright about your level of experience and refer out that which you don’t feel comfortable. Don’t be afraid to say you don’t know.

9) Being involved in your profession is the best continuing education you will ever have. Be active in the associations you join and attend meetings when you can. Use them to network and learn how others handle the same issues you face.

10) Remember, you are in control of your own career. When you graduate, your faculty is not looking over your shoulder. There are no check-off lists to complete. You are now in control and it’s up to you to make what you will of your opportunity.

We hope our experience serves you well as you embark on this next phase of your career.

Sincerely,
Academy of Osseointegration (AO)
2015-2016 Board of Directors

AD