

The BioRESEARCH Annual Conference

The BioRESEARCH Annual Conference, which is held each spring in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is the culmination of BioRESEARCH's mission to improve dentistry through superior diagnostic aids. Attendees and speakers run the spectrum of treatment philosophies, but all are joined by the common dedication to the objective measurement of temporomandibular joint (TMJ), muscle, and occlusal function in dentistry. If you believe that the teeth, muscles, and joints are interrelated in their function, you'll certainly find friends in Milwaukee.

The speakers at the BioRESEARCH Annual Conference come from diverse philosophical positions, yet the meeting is free of the divisive bickering that is common between the treatment camps. Lively scientific debate over diagnostic and treatment options is encouraged, but all speakers and attendees give the professional courtesy and respect that all clinicians deserve. According to Dr. Mark Montgomery of The Hornbrook Group, "This meeting has the best energy and the most interesting and exciting lectures of the year." Dr. Chris Stevens of the Dick Barnes Group agreed, stating, "This meeting is very scientific, but has the feel of a dental school reunion. Regardless of why you think physiology is important to dentistry isn't relevant; we all just enjoy seeing each other and advancing the science."

CREATING A COMMON LANGUAGE

BioRESEARCH has been able to cross the divide between treatment camps success-

fully by providing a common, objective, and scientific language to the complex world of stomatognathic function. Now clinicians can communicate based upon objective measurement of TMJ function and muscle activity. The subjective language of "pops and clicks" has been changed to objective measurement of the amplitude, duration, and frequency of TMJ vibrations. Nebulous symptoms like "tight muscles" can now be measured and compared in microvolts of activity. Objective measurement of the force, timing, and balance of occlusal contacts has replaced the guesswork of trying to gauge occlusal health with occlusal paper alone.

At the Annual Conference, it is not uncommon to see clinicians from differing schools of thought sitting down and sharing their own failures. BioRESEARCH provides a safe environment for clinicians (both young and "experienced") to explore new philosophies without being judged or pigeonholed into a single camp. As dentists, we expect to achieve perfection every single time. We are taught dentistry as a zero-sum game: you fix it, or it fails. Because you do not have to prove you are always right, the Annual Conference is an opportunity to explore new treatment models where no one is posturing as to who is superior.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

In addition to the collegiality, there is a decidedly didactic flavor to the BioRESEARCH Annual Conference. Following are some of the educational and training highlights available to attendees.

- The Interpretation of Biometric Instruments course boasts a twofold focus. The first is to train clinicians to interpret and implement joint vibration analysis, electromyography, jaw tracking, and T-Scan occlusal analysis equipment. The second is to expose you to the many applications of the equipment.

- As the application workshops were being held, Dr. Kirk Blanchard taught the ins and outs of BioPAK interpretation. The room was filled with new users as well as seasoned veterans. Dr. Blanchard worked the audience through the interpretation of joint vibration analysis, electromyography, jaw tracking, and T-Scan III while they followed along on their own computers. "Although I have been involved with BioRESEARCH for many years, and I am near the completion of my Mastership Level Certification in Biometrics, having Kirk go through the process, step by step, was still extremely interesting. There was plenty to learn from the experience of this fine clinician," said Dr. Frank Stapleton. "As always, when I returned from the conference I was both grateful for, and empowered by, the insight that biometric data analysis provides to the diagnostic process."

- Dr. Robert Kerstein is a prolific author and popular lecturer on computerized occlusal management. His presentation focused on complex occlusal cases that simply cannot be adequately treated without the use of objective diagnostics.

- The Restorative track was highlighted by Drs. Chris Stevens and Jim Beck. Dr. Stevens showed four full-mouth reconstruction cases that revolved around the concept that while most agree "form follows function," very few clinicians are able to objectively record mandibular function before and after their restorative cases. Dr. Stevens recorded the chewing patterns of his patients using the BioRESEARCH jaw tracker and mastication analysis program to show that his restorative work allowed his patients to continue to function (chew and speak) in the provisional stage as well as after the final restorations were seated.

- Dr. Beck used four of his complete case studies to illustrate his philosophy of "full-mouth reconstruction to optimal

dental physiology." Each of his cases stepped through a systematic diagnostic and decision-making matrix that allows him to alleviate the stressors of TMJ and craniofacial dysfunction on the natural teeth and provide the best environment for long-term stability of his esthetic restorations.

- Dr. Sangiv Patel presented his philosophy of the "rigid and resilient stomatognathic system," detailing how dentistry has always focused on designing and placing more and more rigid restorations and materials in the resilient stomatognathic system.

- Dr. Ray Becker combined craniofacial biometrics with state of the art CEREC (Sirona, Charlotte, NC) restorations to make single-visit dentistry even more effective by controlling the forces that wage war on the occlusion. "Like the rest of the presenters here, I teach dentistry from the front lines," said Dr. Becker. "Every dentist can understand that when a tooth 'fails,' there is a reason behind it, and simple tooth replacement without environmental control is something I'm not comfortable with anymore."

- The Orthodontic program was headlined by Dr. Brock Rondeau of Rondeau Seminars and Dr. Jay Gerber, director of neuromuscular orthodontics at the Las Vegas Institute. Dr. Rondeau amazed the crowd with the impact that functional orthodontic treatments can have on the normal development of the TMJ and airway. His case studies clearly documented the development from pathologic occlusion, TMJ, and airway to normal, beautifully finished cases.

- Dr. Gerber pointed out how neuromuscular treatments can be used in traumatic injury cases and how successfully patients can be treated when a complete diagnosis is made and the appropriate treatment modalities are then selected in a clear and logical manner.

- Drs. Barry Glassman and Steven Olmos presented complete case studies of temporomandibular disorder (TMD)/craniofacial pain patients. Dr. Glassman's presentation focused on the role of both nocturnal and daytime parafunctional control, and Dr. Olmos focused on mandibular repositioning and autonomic testing as an adjunct to the biometric diagnostic aids they both use every day.



Figure 1 Dr. Stapleton receiving the first of his two Biometric Certification awards from the BioRESEARCH Clinical Consultants. Left to right: Shane Varga, Tiffany Schaefer, Dr. Stapleton, Kelly Gengler, and Nate Krey.



- Dr. Mike Smith of The Hornbrook Group took the TMD track back to general dentistry with a detailed system for transitioning the TMD patient to a final restorative solution. Using his TMD/restorative practice as a model, Dr. Smith detailed the steps he takes for both patient and treatment selection to ensure his restorative finish is craniofacially correct. This presentation combined several treatment options and philosophies. “I think it’s impossible to decide on a treatment option or shoot for a predetermined prognosis when it comes to the TMD/restorative connection,” said Dr. Smith. “I let my diagnosis lead me to maximum medical improvement, as well as a final restorative position.”

LOOKING FORWARD

You are invited to be a part of this unique collection of dental visionaries. Be prepared to have your philosophies challenged, your mind energized, and your heart inspired by some of the most forward-thinking and technologically savvy clinicians in North America. The 2009 Annual Conference is April 30 to May 2, 2009, in Milwaukee. BioRESEARCH has amassed an impressive list of speakers, including professors from several dental schools as well as post-graduate education institutions such as The Dawson Academy, The Dick Barnes Group, The Hornbrook Group, and many more. Additional information on this course is available at www.BioRESEARCHinc.com.