“Dental technicians forum at IDEM Singapore 2014”

Interview with Dr Mollova, Singapore

John Battersby: You have been involved in promoting continuing education for dental professionals for quite a few years, what are the major changes you have seen in that time?

Dr Mollova: I think in recent years there has been a growing acceptance of the need for continuing education for the entire dental team not just the dentists. That is especially true for dental technicians as without constant training they can’t hope to keep up with the rapid advances in technology. I hope that in the future we will see more countries in the Asia-Pacific region requiring a minimal number of CPD credit hours per year for dental technicians as Singapore already does.

Has the emphasis of the Centre for Advanced Professional Practices (CAPP) training programmes altered since you started the company?

The most obvious and biggest change since CAPP was set up 10 years ago has to be the exponential growth in CAD/CAM technology and digital dentistry in general. And I think they will remain the fastest growing technology in dentistry for some years to come.

Your events are well established in Europe and Middle East but this is only your second event in Asia-Pacific, is the region lagging behind in the adoption of CAD/CAM and other digital technologies?

The Asia-Pacific is a huge and very diverse region so it is difficult to generalise. Some countries like Singapore and Australia are advanced and wealthy economies while others like Vietnam and Cambodia are still developing so it is unfair to compare them to more established or wealthier markets such as Europe and the Middle East.

There certainly seems to be a growing appetite for conferences and seminars dealing with the topics. I will be back in Singapore in April for IDEM Singapore 2014 which is introducing a new track especially for dental technicians called the Dental Technician Forum which will include several lectures on the topic of CAD/CAM as well as other subjects such as the latest implant products and techniques. An event co-organized by CAPP and Koelnmesse.

For a country generally thought of as pro technology and innovation Singapore has been surprisingly slow in adopting CAD/CAM and Digital Dentistry, do you think that will change?

I think that is already changing, the fact that the Singapore Dental Association and Koelnmesse invited us to run a Dental Technician Forum at IDEM Singapore next year is proof of that; as is the overwhelmingly positive response that our own CAD/CAM and Digital Dentistry International Conferences have received.

So you don’t think there is reluctance on the part of some labs and technicians to adopt CAD/CAM and other Digital Dentistry technologies for fear of being replaced by them?

I doubt that is the case. There will always be a need for technicians, for highly skilled pro-
Meet the 3Shape D900 Scanner
- the “cream of the crop”

By 3Shape

Earlier this year, 3Shape presented its latest technology wonder for 3D scanning in dental labs - the 3Shape D900 with color scanning capabilities. The new scanner combines advanced technologies with a strong focus on speed and accuracy - while providing new features for productive workflows and optimal user experience.

More cameras – more speed

The 3Shape D900 has 4 cameras, rather than the 2-camera platform found in previous 3Shape scanner models. While 3Shape’s 2-camera D700 series and D800 series are already considered among the world’s fastest, the D900 takes scanning speed even further. With more cameras on board, the D900 can capture 3D data even faster. For comparison, the scan-time for a single die is 15 seconds on the D900, and 25 seconds on the D700 and D800.

The 3Shape D900 combines texture scanning and Real-Color™ scanning technology that allows technicians to capture their color guidance markings directly off the model, and bring these into the design process. For some labs, the specific color of the gypsum is a significant element in their work, and the D900 lets them duplicate this in CAD/CAM. As one dental technician stated while examining a D900 scan result on the screen... “It’s like holding the model in your hand.”

New Multi-Die scan technology for high productivity

The 4 cameras on the D900 facilitate a new high-speed Multi-Die technology that captures and registers all dies on the re-designed multi-die plate using a single scan sweep, without mechanical processes to position the dies. This feature, combined with the many new technologies in the D900, make it the perfect choice for large, high volume production-oriented labs that are working with all types of dental indications. See the video - Using color scans when designing Removable Partial.

See texture color scans created by the D900 and learn how they can be used in the lab. Video - Dental System 2013 - “Removal Partial Design”. You can see it at youtube.com/3Shape or scan the QR code.

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professionals who are experts in the use of the machines that make the prosthodontics that modern dental practices rely on to stay in business. The machines and technologies they use may change from generation to generation but the need for experts to work them will always remain. So as long as technicians keep their skills and knowledge up to date they will always be a vital part of the dental team.

What do you think will be the next big thing in CAD/CAM and Digital Dentistry; do you see 3D printing making a big impact?

Predicting the impact of new technologies is always difficult; in the 1980’s all the pundits were predicting that computers would lead to paperless offices by the end of the century but instead in the second decade of the next century we see that because computers have made the handling of data and the process of document printing so much easier we go through more paper than ever. Having said that, I have a feeling 3D printing will have a big impact on everything and every industry in the future but I think it is too early to predict which industries in particular and to what extent.

“3D printing will have a big impact on everything”

Of course 3D printing is already with us in dentistry and I am sure that as new materials and technologies develop, to exploit it will become more common place but like all the other new manufacturing technologies it will still need technicians to run it.

More Information

Dental Technician Forum
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Singapore

Co-organized by:
Centre of Advanced Professional Practices & Koelnmesse

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