

Friday, March 27th, 2026

7:30am–10:00am • 2.5 CEU, Core

Soft Tissue Management Around Implants

Eric Blasingame, DDS, MS

Sponsored by Straumann USA, LLC

Managing gingival tissues around implants plays an important role in both the short and long term prognosis for dental implants. It provides the esthetic framework for how the final prosthesis will appear. Gingiva is not only essential to esthetics, it plays a major role in preventing peri-implantitis. Without a proper soft tissue scaffold, the peri-implant bone is in jeopardy. In this course, we'll discuss the biology of soft tissue grafting and how it applies to teeth and implants. We'll also discuss practical ways to improve outcomes in soft tissue which can be done during implant placement surgery as well as in the prosthetic phase of treatment.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the biology of soft tissue grafting; impact of incision design, flapless vs. flapped implant surgery, and guided implant surgery.
- Impact of healthy tissue around dental implants.
- Implant maintenance and peri-implantitis prevention.

7:30am–10:00am • 2.5 CEU, Core

Minimally Invasive Dentistry at the Tooth Level (SDF, GIC, and SMART)

Doug Young, DDS, EdD, MS, MBA

Sponsored by Oral BioTech and Elevate Oral Care

Dental caries is a site-specific disease in which the microbiology and chemistry will differ depending on location and local environment. This course will review the current ADA caries classification system to address these different sites and include a mechanism to track all stages of a caries lesion. New terminology, treatment thresholds, and use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF), glass ionomer cement (GIC) restoratives, and the silver modified atraumatic restorative treatment (SMART) will be presented. Only then will the clinician be able to use minimally invasive restorative approaches to managing this disease chemically at the tooth level. Actual clinical cases will be used to illustrate these concepts.

Learning objectives:

- Learn to properly classify all stages of caries lesions based on location, extent, and activity.
- Understand when to treat chemotherapeutically and when to treat surgically.
- Be aware of the use of glass ionomer and silver diamine fluoride to treat a caries lesion chemically.

8:00am–9:30am • 1.5 CEU, Core

Thriving Extended Functions Dental Assistants for Thriving Dental Practices

Colby Smith, DDS, MAGD

Registered Dental Assistants in Extended Functions (RDAEFs) can be a valuable addition to an excellence-focused private dental practice. The number and adoption of RDAEFs continues to grow year after year. This course will discuss: the benefits of RDAEF certification for both dental assistants' career and dental practice growth, ways to incorporate extended functions assistants into practice, and best practices for consistently maintaining and improving quality of care by all levels of dental providers.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the scope of practice of RDAEFs.
- Learn the training and education path to become a RDAEF.
- Explore practice and scheduling models for practices that utilize RDAEFs.

8:00am–10:00am • 2 CEU, Core

Cutting Edge Techniques and Materials to Maximize Success of Posterior Composite Resin Restorations

Marc Geissberger, DDS, MA

Sponsored by Solventum

The use of composite resin material as a direct restorative for posterior restorations has dramatically increased in the marketplace. With various materials emerging as a viable alternative to traditional techniques and the development of new resin compositions to assist clinicians with simplified techniques, it is easy to get confused and fall behind. This lecture will attempt to make sense of all of the products and techniques available in today's marketplace and will focus on materials and their applications as well as a brief review of some of the literature. Emphasis will be placed on new developments in the composite area as well as outline what developments to watch for in the coming years.

Learning objectives:

- Discover various etching principles and how they are applied to composite resins.
- Learn how to place a flawless Class I, II, and IV posterior restoration.
- Proper placement techniques that maximize clinical outcomes and esthetics.
- Learn how to select and place an appropriate matrix system, and how to create and maintain correct posterior anatomy and contours.

8:00am–10:00am • 2 CEU, Core

Eyes, Ears and Explanations: Hygiene Assessments That Influence Comprehensive Care Without Selling

Katrina Klein, RDH, CEAS, CPT

Dental hygienists are uniquely positioned to influence comprehensive patient care—without feeling like salespeople. This course explores how thorough assessments, active listening, and thoughtful communication can transform routine appointments into powerful moments of advocacy and education. Learn how to leverage your clinical observations and patient interactions to support whole-person care, enhance treatment acceptance, and elevate your role within the practice—simply by saying what you see, hear, and know. No pressure. No pitch. Just purposeful prevention.

Learning objectives:

- Identify key components of a comprehensive hygiene assessment.
- Demonstrate effective communication strategies to share assessment findings without pressure or sales tactics.
- Recognize the hygienist's role in influencing comprehensive care through proactive assessment and documentation.
- Develop confidence in delivering value-driven education during the hygiene appointment.

8:00am–10:00am • 2 CEU, Core

Dental Photography for The Modern Practice

Nathan Yang, DDS

Sponsored by Kuraray America, Inc.

Dental photography is no longer just a tool for patient education, documentation and lab communication. These photographs can be used for marketing/social media growth, personal clinical growth, certifications and product placement just to name a few. Navigating through the sea of photography products and systems to accomplish this can be challenging and daunting. This course will break down these barriers with details on these systems, helping the dental professional make informed decisions for their practice needs.

Learning objectives:

- Explore dental photography systems.
- Learn dental photography settings.
- Discover clinical dental photography techniques.

9:00am–10:00am • 1 CEU, Core

Fueling Healthy Smiles: Nutrition's Role in Oral and Systemic Health

Sara Stratton, NTP, ONC, ACDM-ACS

Join us for a session on the powerful connection between nutrition and oral health. This talk explores how diet influences the oral microbiome, dental integrity, and overall systemic health—with an underlying foundation of a balanced diet. Learn which foods support healthy teeth and gums, how common nutrient deficiencies show up in the mouth, and what dietary

habits may be undermining your patients' oral health—even with good hygiene.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn the basics around macronutrients and micronutrients; and how to design a balanced diet.
- Understand how diet impacts oral and systemic health.
- Recognize the role of the oral microbiome.
- Learn practical nutrition strategies to support dental health and patient care.

10:30am–12:00pm • 1.5 CEU, Core

Streamline & Shine: Optimizing Inventory and Equipment Management

Ashley Reich, RDA, Workforce Development Program Specialist; California Dental Association

Sponsored by California Dental Association

This interactive session provides practical tools for you to streamline inventory and equipment management in your practice. Learn how to reduce costs and improve overall efficiency. Discover essential strategies to organize supplies effectively, implement best ordering practices and optimize budgeting. Explore OSHA requirements for equipment maintenance, understand the impact of proper care and develop actionable plans for assigning responsibilities.

Learning objectives:

- Execute effective inventory management strategies to reduce waste and streamline ordering.
- Understand OSHA requirements for equipment maintenance to ensure compliance and safety.
- Assign clear roles for inventory and equipment oversight to enhance team accountability and efficiency.

10:30am–12:00pm • 1.5 CEU, Core

Dental Materials for Your Practice

Nathan Yang, DDS

Sponsored by Kuraray America, Inc.

This course provides an exploration of dental materials used in today's patient-centered dental practices. Emphasizing both foundational science and practical application, clinicians will gain an understanding of the properties, indications, and limitations of dental restorative and preventive materials. The course will help clinicians critically evaluate and select appropriate dental materials for their offices based on clinical scenarios and evidence-based protocols. Emphasis will be placed on adhesive systems and dental restorative materials.

Learning objectives:

- Review basic principles of dental adhesion.
- Clinical application of adhesion with substrates.
- Criteria for selection of dental materials.

10:30am–12:00pm • 1.5 CEU, Core

Treating Caries Chemically...WTF? (Without The Filling)

Doug Young, DDS, EdD, MS, MBA

Sponsored by Oral BioTech and Elevate Oral Care

This course will address current trends in caries risk management at the patient level utilizing an evidence-based, person-centered methodology. Clinical practice today uses scientifically sound evidence-based approaches. There is a noticeable shift to the caries treatment paradigm by better preventing and managing caries as a disease at the patient level. Person-centered care is an approach where the individual in your dental chair is treated as a person rather than a patient; where their personal preferences and shared decisions drive clinical treatment options.

Learning objectives:

- Properly perform a caries risk assessment and propose evidence-based treatment options to the patient.
- Thoroughly understand biological, chemical and mechanical aspects of caries disease.
- Use a person-centered care approach using motivational interviewing and shared decision making.

10:30am–12:30pm • 2 CEU, Core

Predictable Solutions to Periodontal Problems

Eric Blasingame, DDS, MS

Sponsored by Straumann USA, LLC

This course is a case driven lecture that demystifies three of the most frustrating challenges in contemporary periodontics: vertical and horizontal bone defects, gingival recession, and peri implantitis. Drawing on current literature, biologic principles, and real world workflows from a high volume surgical practice. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of when to collaborate with a periodontist, as well as what techniques are available to solve their patient's periodontal problem.

Learning objectives:

- Differentiate between horizontal and vertical bone defects and determine indications for resective vs. regenerative surgery.
- Understand the best time to treat and what clinical measurements are indicators for surgical intervention of gingival recession; and what the surgical options are for patients with gingival recession.

- Understand the cause of peri-implantitis and determine when to collaborate with a periodontist.
- Understand what the surgical options are for treating peri-implantitis and when it is more predictable to just remove an implant and start over.

10:30am–12:30pm • 2 CEU, Core

Treatment Planning, Designing and Delivering Complex Restorative and Multidisciplinary Cases

Marc Geissberger, DDS, MA

Sponsored by Solventum

Treatment planning, designing and managing complex restorative and esthetic cases can be a daunting task. While each practitioner may have their own treatment preferences, several universal design and treatment principles can be applied to the treatment of all complex cases. These principles will be introduced through this exciting, interactive presentation using cases that include multidisciplinary needs and diligent management to achieve optimal results. Sequencing treatment with multiple specialties (orthodontics, periodontics, oral surgery, and endodontics) will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on specific techniques and design concepts to aid practitioners in achieving optimal functional and esthetic results.

Learning objectives:

- Diagnose a variety of complex clinical situations and design a case with the final product in mind.
- Select appropriate materials based on functional needs and esthetics.
- Manage and quarterback all members of the treating team.
- Work effectively with lab team to achieve lasting, esthetic results.
- Optimize case acceptance through an increased understanding of various patient types.

10:30am–12:30pm • 2 CEU, 20%

From Stuck to Aligned: What Every Dental Leader Needs to Know to Grow Without the Grind

Melinda Heryford, MBA; Melinda Heryford Consulting

Sponsored by Weave

Feeling overwhelmed in your practice? You're not alone. This course will uncover the hidden causes of burnout and the subtle signs that your practice may be "stuck." Attendees will learn the difference between urgent work and important growth. We'll discuss how to help you regain clarity and focus. Learn how to redefine your role as a leader, showing how alignment—not micromanagement—builds momentum, ownership, and sustainable success. Walk away with renewed energy, strategic insight, and a clear path to lead your

practice with confidence and purpose.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize the core pain points holding their practice back—including burnout, disconnection, and scattered priorities—and name where they are on the practice lifecycle curve.
- Understand the importance of defining a clear, outcome-driven BIG WIG (Wildly Important Goal) as a unifying force for their team and a filter for all decisions.
- Gain a new lens on leadership that emphasizes clarity, alignment, and delegation over micromanagement, empowering them to focus on the few things that make the greatest impact.

10:30am–12:30pm • 2 CEU, Core

Key Factors to Effectively Manage Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office

Thomas Lenhart, DMD

Medical emergencies, though infrequent, can occur at any time in the dental setting. This lecture-based course will provide dental professionals with essential knowledge and practical strategies to effectively respond effectively to a variety of medical emergencies.

Learning objectives:

- Implement strategies to prevent medical emergencies through thorough medical history review and patient assessment.
- Gain familiarity with essential emergency equipment and medications.
- Formulating an emergency plan.
- Utilization of emergency training.
- Effectively utilize emergency equipment and medications typically found in office emergency kits.
- Implement Team approach and effective communication.
- Understand the need for MOCK Drills and Simulation.

10:30am–12:30pm • 2 CEU, Core

Advanced Instrumentation Techniques for Tenacious Calculus Removal

Anna Pattison, RDH, MS

An update on the newest hand instruments and ultrasonic units and tips to enhance your ability to treat patients with moderate to advanced periodontitis and/or implants. New videos show alternative fulcrums, new instruments and advanced techniques. New titanium mini-bladed instruments and ultrasonic tips for implants will be compared to subgingival air polishing.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize the design, indications and sequence for use of various new curets, sickles, diamond-coated instruments, furcation and implant instruments.
- Describe the differences between magnetostrictive and piezoelectric ultrasonic devices and tips for periodontal and implant scaling.
- Recognize the indications for extraoral, opposite arch or other alternative fulcrums.

2:00pm–3:30pm • 1.5 CEU, Core

Digital Dentures: Principles for Success

Jefferson Clark, DDS, MS, FACP

Unlock the future of prosthodontics with Digital Dentures – a comprehensive course designed for those seeking to master the art and science of digitally fabricated dentures. This course explores the essential principles that drive successful outcomes in modern denture therapy, focusing on three critical areas.

Learning objectives:

- Learn how to craft beautiful, natural-looking smiles.
- Gain knowledge on proven clinical workflows and techniques that streamline the digital denture process.
- Explore strategies for incorporating dental implants into digital denture treatment plans.

2:00pm–3:30pm • 1.5 CEU, Core

Treatment Planning Extraction vs. Saving Teeth – “Shuck it or f**k it”

Jennifer Goss, DDS

The decision to extract a tooth that could potentially be saved with advanced periodontal treatment can be a challenge in practice. We know implant dentistry can be a more predictable option compared with regenerative procedures to save a tooth with periodontitis. In this course I will present options available in periodontal surgery and compare them to alternative options such as extraction and prosthetic or implant dentistry. The goal is to provide a framework to help guide dental professionals and patients to make informed decisions regarding treatment options.

Learning objectives:

- Gain a broader understanding of advanced periodontal treatment options to help save teeth.
- Provide a framework to help make decisions using knowledge of available therapies and alternative options to “save or extract” as well as the pros and cons of those options.
- Understand various systems of prognosis to help make treatment decisions.

2:00pm–3:30pm • NO CEU

Selling to a DSO—The Good, The Bad & the Ugly

Rodney Johnston, MBA, CMA; OMNI Practice Group

We've all heard of Dental Service Organizations (DSOs), but what and who are they? Why are they buying up dental practices and do they pay more than an individual buyer for a practice? DSOs have been a growing player on the dental scene, in some areas owning up to 20% of dental practices. There are some DSOs who do a good job of providing patient care, and on the flip side, there are also DSOs who want to take over the practice and run it their way. Not all DSOs are the same to work with.

Learning objectives:

- What are some of the DSO models and how are the transactions structured?
- How long do they require selling doctors to work back and what about associate doctors?
- How do you get out of an agreement without penalty if you're working for a DSO?
- Learn that there are good DSOs and not so good DSOs.

2:00pm–4:00pm • 2 CEU, 20%

Right People. Right Seats. Real Results: The New Rules of Hiring & Retention in Dentistry

Melinda Heryford, MBA; Melinda Heryford Consulting

Sponsored by Weave

What worked 5 years ago won't work today. Tired of high turnover and disconnected teams? This session gives practice owners and managers a real-world playbook to attract, hire, and retain growth-minded team members. Learn how to build a culture that actually sticks and create a workplace your team won't want to leave.

Learning objectives:

- Understand why traditional hiring tactics fail in today's market and how to realign their approach to attract right-fit team members.
- Learn the foundational elements of a People Fit Filter—including how to assess values, role clarity, and culture compatibility during hiring and onboarding.
- Discover retention strategies that work—including communication rhythms, growth conversations, and systems that build accountability and expectations.

2:00pm–4:00pm • 2 CEU, Core

Recognition and Management of Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office

Thomas Lenhart, DMD

This comprehensive lecture is designed to equip dental professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage medical emergencies that may arise in a dental office setting. Participants will explore the most common medical crises encountered during

dental treatments and learn to implement effective response strategies to ensure patient safety.

Learning objectives:

- Understand and identify the pathophysiology, early warning signs and symptoms of medical emergencies commonly seen in dental practices, including syncope, hypoglycemia, airway obstruction, bronchospasm, hypoventilation, allergic reactions, seizures, aspiration of vomitus, angina, myocardial Infarct, and stroke.
- Learn to establish and implement standardized emergency response protocols tailored to the dental office environment.
- Recognize and manage the most common medical emergencies that occur in the dental setting.

2:00pm–4:00pm • 2 CEU, Core

Don't Get Burned – Keys to Avoid and Remove Burnished Calculus

Anna Pattison, RDH, MS

This presentation discusses the causes of burnished calculus including common hand and ultrasonic instrumentation errors. The best hand instruments, ultrasonic tips and techniques for detection and removal of burnished calculus will be identified with practical tips on how to achieve optimal treatment outcomes.

Learning objectives:

- Define burnished calculus and describe its detrimental effects on the periodontium.
- Describe the causes of burnished calculus by hand and ultrasonic instrumentation.
- Identify the best hand instruments, ultrasonic tips and techniques for detection and removal of burnished calculus.

2:00pm–4:00pm • 2 CEU, Core

Light the Beam: Laser Dentistry Across the Spectrum

Pinelopi Xenoudi, DDS, MS, MHA

Dental lasers offer minimally invasive, precise, and patient-friendly solutions across all specialties. This presentation explores the science, clinical applications, and practical integration of laser technology. Attendees will gain insights into how lasers enhance patient outcomes, while also discovering their expanding role in periodontics, endodontics, restorative dentistry, pediatrics, and more.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the science behind dental lasers.
- Integrate laser technology across specialties.
- Evaluate clinical outcomes and evidence-based benefits.
- Implement laser dentistry in daily practice.

