AAID stands for excellence in education, scientific development and patient care. The academy provides bona fide credentialing in implant dentistry through the associate fellow and fellow membership examinations. The associate fellow and fellow credentials are recognized by numerous state boards and, most recently, by the state court in Florida and the United States Federal Court in California. One of the remaining states that prohibited the announcement of credentials, Texas, is in the process of amending its rules to allow such advertising. More information is available at www.aaid.com or by contacting Joyce Sigmon at joyce@aaid.com or (312) 335-1550.

Associate fellow membership
If you wish to substantiate your expertise in implant dentistry through a verifiable credentialing process, the associate fellow membership is where you begin. Your associate fellow certificate will let patients know you are an experienced, credentialed implant professional.

To become an associate fellow, you must meet the educational and experiential requirements and pass a two-part examination. Part one is a written examination, and part two includes an oral examination and the defense of three cases that meet the criteria specified in the case requirements section of the “Requirements for the Associate Fellow Membership Examination.” Beginning in 2013, those who have passed Part 1 of the associate fellow examination may choose to take the oral/case examination for either associate fellow or fellow membership. In either case, the oral/case examination must be completed successfully within four years after passing Part 1, and candidates for the oral/case examination must be general members of the academy in good standing.

For more information, visit the credentialing section of the AAID website (www.aaid.com).

Fellow membership
Fellow membership is the next step in validating your expertise and proficiency in implant dentistry. Your fellow certificate and medallion will be tangible representations of your achievements that you can display to your patients.

Any member who is an associate fellow of the academy in good standing or, starting in 2013, who has passed Part 1 of the associate fellow examination, has five or more years of experience in the practice of implant dentistry and provides both the surgical and prosthetic phases of implant treatment is eligible for election as a fellow.

All applicants for fellowship must have completed at least 100 hours of continuing education in implant dentistry in addition to the 300 hours required for associate fellow membership, i.e. a total of 400 hours, and have attended an annual scientific session or educational course offered by the AAID or note of its districts within the two years before the examination. Proof of attendance must be submitted with the application. All applicants must also meet the professional and leadership requirements specified in the “Requirements for the Fellow Membership Examination.”