It’s a good time to be involved in implant dentistry. New techniques and technologies are changing the industry at a rapid pace. Things that weren’t possible before—like growing human tissue—are now becoming a lot closer to reality.

This year’s American Academy of Implant Dentistry’s Annual Educational Conference, its 63rd, explores some of the magic that can be found not only in the new parts of implant dentistry but in the everyday parts as well.

On Wednesday, keynote speaker Dr. Nina Tandon gave us a peek into the future with her presentation, “Body 3.0,” in which she described a future that is all about growing our own body parts. Following her session, there were even more glimpses into the future with Dr. Peter E. Murray’s “Generation of Teeth Using Stem Cells” and Dr. Tomas Albrektsson’s “Future of Biomaterials and Osseointegration.”

By Kristine Colker, today Staff

Dr. Jaime Lozada, fourth from left, and Dr. Nicholas Caplanis, fifth from left, both past presidents of the AAID, celebrate at the AAID Welcome Reception on Wednesday night with the staff of Microdent Implant System. (Photo/Javier de Pison, today Staff)
Thursday’s sessions turned attention back to the present as digital dentistry took center stage. From not too long ago when the only X-rays were two-dimensional to today’s systems that can capture a degree of accuracy, predictability and precision never before available, 3-D dentistry is offering a type of magic that can enhance one’s practice.

Drs. Jay R. Beagle (“Digital Planning for the Implant Surgeon”), Frank L. Higginbottom (“Digital Implant Dentistry: New Technology for Teeth and Implants”) and German Galluci (“Digital Approach to Implant Dentistry”) were just three of the five speakers on hand to discuss how this new technology fits into implant dentistry and how you can make sure it works for you and not against you.

Today, the focus will turn to soft-tissue strategies as Dr. Serge Dibart discusses the piezo-implant, Dr. Anthony Sclar demystifies esthetic implant therapy and Dr. James Rutkowski gives an update on the use of platelet-rich plasma and fiber and recombinant growth factors.

Of course, the main sessions aren’t the only place magic is happening here at the AAID. The educational sessions are endless, including the concurrent sessions being held this afternoon. There are 10 different 90-minute programs that will be presented between 1:30 and 3 p.m. (See Page 8 for full details). Then after enjoying a refreshment and networking break from 3 to 4 p.m., you can choose a different program to attend from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

In addition, don’t forget about the array of companies waiting for you in the exhibit hall. You can catch them all day long or during the designated networking and refreshment breaks from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. today and Saturday and from 3 to 4 p.m. today.