By Nadean Burkett, Extraction Academy

It is estimated that more than 20 million teeth are extracted each year in the United States. Although it is considered a routine procedure, it is also one in which the most complications occur, including infection and pain, leading to discord in the doctor-patient relationship. Is it any wonder that extractions are the procedure most feared by patients and referred out by general practitioners? To address this clinical challenge, Nexus Dentistry has developed the Extraction Academy. Dr. Gregory Greenwood, chief dental officer of Nexus, is an internationally renowned lecturer on the latest trends in oral, IM, IN and IV conscious sedation in dentistry and is a mentor to clinicians who want to master their knowledge and skills in surgical procedures. This is particularly relevant in tooth extraction, which arguably is the most difficult procedure to perform successfully.

The development of the Extraction Academy program was a collaboration with Greenwood’s colleague, Dr. Kianor Shah, the visionary of the project. Although every dental school teaches students how to extract a tooth, it is stigmatized by the public as the most brutal dental procedure. Greenwood and Shah share the belief that just because every dentist is trained to extract teeth does not mean they should. With current advancements and technology available, extractions can be done safely and more comfortably for the patient. The success of the Extraction Academy program is based on the teachings of both theory and technique, including how to avoid complications and retain a patient for life. The skills learned and practiced by those dentists in the program are beneficial to both patient and doctor. Patients will no longer have the inconvenience and higher fees incurred when referred to a specialist, while the doctor’s ability to retain the patient within his or her practice has both financial and other advantages.

For Greenwood and his colleagues at the Extraction Academy, the rewards in their teaching and mentorship with dentists are realized most profoundly by the positive feedback of doctors who employ these techniques in their practice. They also immensely appreciate the tremendous outpouring of support from their sponsors, which allows them to fulfill their commitment to global community outreach by working with charitable organizations, such as The Wisdom Tooth Project, Oral Health America and Mercy Ships, to provide access to quality clinical care to those less fortunate around the world.

The Extraction Academy is holding a one-day, hands-on workshop on Sunday immediately following the CDA Presents. For more information, please visit www.extacademy.com.

Exodontia at the tip of your fingers

Learn everything you ever wanted to know about exodontia at the Extraction Academy, taking place Sunday here in Anaheim. (Photo/Provided by the Extraction Academy)