The Hahn Tapered Implant: 45 years in the making

By Keith Peters, Contributing Editor, Inclusive magazine

Since placing his first implant nearly 45 years ago, Dr. Jack Hahn has spent much of his career as an implantologist thinking of ways to make treatment more accessible to the practitioner as well as the patient.

Implant design has improved dramatically during that time, with Hahn spearheading key innovations that have helped make implant therapy the essential mode of dental treatment it is today. From the endosseous blade-form implant he helped Miter Inc. develop in 1978 to the newly released Hahn™ Tapered Implant, Hahn’s efforts have been driven by the desire to continually improve in order to make treatment simpler and more predictable.

“The easier we make it to position the implant for a restoration that looks like a natural tooth, the better results we’ll have,” Hahn said in a recent interview.

It was this line of thinking that inspired Hahn’s idea for the first tapered implant. After a long day that included several cases in which he had difficulty placing parallel-walled implants in the anatomically restricted space of the anterior maxilla, Hahn had an epiphany: “The tooth I was replacing was taper-shaped, so why was I putting in a square peg?”

That very night, he sketched out the concept.

Steve Hurson, former chief scientist for Nobel Biocare, has said of this industry-changing innovation: “Dr. Hahn identified a need for an implant with a narrower apex, which would achieve higher primary stability in soft bone. The concept was to have an implant design that would have the tapered shape of a tooth root…resulting in a system with outstanding predictability.”

In essence, this was an extension of the philosophy that inspired the design of the machined collar Hahn helped Steri-Oss develop. “By designing a 4 mm machined collar that was more like the neck of a natural tooth root, we were able to prevent crestal bone loss and improve outcomes,” Hahn said.

This drive to constantly improve has not always been open arms. In fact, his role with Steri-Oss was borne of a disagreement with Miter Inc.

“The Titanodon implant had some problems, including an abutment attachment that lost its retention after a few years and fins that would become exposed if there was any crestal bone loss. So I proposed a machined collar with a new prosthetic connection,” Hahn said. “They said they couldn’t do it because it would be too expensive to change the machinery. I didn’t want to have my name associated with the implant any longer if they weren’t going to correct the problems.”

This led Hahn to other endeavors, including his role with Steri-Oss and, eventually, Nobel Biocare.

After the NobelReplace® tapered implant system launched in 1997, Hahn continued placing and restoring implants, completing thousands of cases. This experience afforded clinical observations that would serve as the basis for a new implant design that Hahn considers his best.

“I came to Nobel with my idea for a new implant in 2012, conceptual engineering drawings in hand, and they said, ‘Replace is so successful; why change now?’”

Hahn said he replied: “Apple has become one of the most successful companies in history by constantly innovating. Why shouldn’t we do the same in dental implants?”

Hahn continued, “I had been placing implants for decades, and there were still problems we could solve with a new design. I had this implant that would be easier for doctors to place, with a simpler drilling protocol and a thread design that would allow for efficient placement and a high degree of primary stability.”

Wanting to take his design concept to the next level, Hahn began pursuing alternatives, an effort that eventually led him to Glidewell Laboratories.

“I knew a lot of the Glidewell people from my days at Steri-Oss and Nobel, and they were happy to meet with me,” he said.

The resulting partnership culminated in the recent launch of the Hahn Tapered Implant System, and Hahn said he couldn’t be happier with the results.

“When I first visited their facilities, it was immediately apparent that their manufacturing capabilities are state-of-the-art,” he said. “Their engineering team has the technology and know-how to bring design concepts to life with astonishing speed and precision, and their expertise on the prosthetic side of implant dentistry has been invaluable in creating an implant that is as simple to restore as it is to place.”

With a career that speaks volumes on the importance of continual innovation, Hahn said he’s proud to have his name on an implant that contributes to the forward progression of implant dentistry while reducing the cost of treatment.

“The better we make implant design, the more accessible we can make implant dentistry to doctors so they can improve their practices and the quality of life of their patients,” he said.

Editor’s note: The Hahn Tapered Implant is a registered trademark of Glidewell Laboratories. NobelReplace is a registered trademark of Nobel Biocare.
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SharperPractice: The Bat Cave of dentistry

By SharperPractice Staff

SharperPractice specializes in distributing innovative products from around the globe that are “Best in Class.” For more than 20 years, the company has been in the business of providing the most advanced intraoral camera solutions in the industry — as well as innovations that increase efficiency for the dental office.

Some dentists who have visited the SharperPractice booth in dental meeting exhibit hall refer to it as the “Bat Cave” because they are amazed at the quality and innovation in the products presented.

The company’s flagship product, the DocPort i.o. intraoral camera, features a fog-free, focus-free design for ease of use and crystal-clear imaging. Image acquisition is hassle-free via the easy-touch capture button located on the camera wand or with the optional USB footswitch.

Direct connection to USB ports using a standard, inexpensive USB cable eliminates potentially costly cable repairs, and the camera is supplied with a remote automatic on/off handpiece holder.

Designed to integrate directly with any dental software platform in both PC and Macintosh environments, DocPort i.o. is an easy choice for quality dental imaging.

New from Carl Zeiss —

• As many as 75 percent of adult patients experience some degree of anxiety when visiting the dentist. Tackling patient anxiety is not always a simple solution for a dental practice. One of the most effective and natural ways of putting them at ease is through distraction, which can take the mind’s attention away from the sights and sounds of the dental office to a more calm and peaceful place.

Thanks to the Cinemizer OLED, your patients can experience high-quality 2-D or 3-D videos during almost any procedure in a comfortable, convenient and immersive environment. This will help them relax and forget where they are, decreasing anxiety and stress and improving their overall experience in your office.

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• FlashMax P3, one of the most powerful curing lights in the world, has a wide-spectrum output of more than 5,800 mw/cm2 and cures 3 mm layers of most materials in only two seconds. Manufactured in Denmark, the FlashMax P3 features a unique ergonomic design with simple identical bilateral controls in a cordless form factor. Replaceable smart-charge battery technology allows the light to charge throughout the day on its 360-degree base and activates 200 cures on a single charge. It contains nearly three times the power of plasma arc lights at a fraction of the cost.

• The EverClear mirror is a must for every dental office. This is the mirror you never have to wipe. Gone are the days of constantly wiping handpiece spray and debris from a dental mirror. Gone are worries about the assistant’s air spray keeping the mirror clean. No longer will dentists twist their backs and necks to get a direct view of the tooth, when a spray-covered mirror stops serving its purpose.

Only the best-in-class products and services become SharperPractice offerings, according to the company. For more information, you can visit www.sharperpractice.com or stop by the booth, No. 726, here in San Francisco.

The I-DENT EverClear mirror

Cinemizer OLED virtual reality video glasses from Carl Zeiss. (Photos/Provided by SharperPractice)

Here at the CDA

To see some of SharperPractice’s offerings, stop by the booth, No. 726.

The I-DENT EverClear mirror, right, never needs to be wiped clear of handpiece spray and other debris (as opposed to a regular mirror, left), ensuring constant unobstructed views of your work zone.
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By Keystone Industries Staff

- Dental professionals can spend copious amounts of time searching for a prophy paste that does it all.
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- With Gelato prophy paste by Keystone Industries, the possibilities have no limits, according to the company. The paste, which provides a smooth, splatter-free application, is 1.23 percent fluoride ion and will leave a patient’s teeth with excellent polish—and stains removed. Minimal enamel loss is met with each use.

Review: ‘Top Prophy Paste’

One of the biggest bragging rights Gelato prophy paste has earned is from The Dental Advisor. For two consecutive years (2013 and 2014), Keystone’s paste won Top Prophy Paste. In the review, based on more than 2,500 uses with 35 consultants, it earned a 4.5 grade out of 5 and a 91 percent clinical rating.

The ranking would appear to confirm how the paste gets the clinical job done and also provides patients with the flavor options to leave their mouths feeling fresh and clean.

Coming in four different grits (fine, medium, coarse and x-coarse), Gelato has a wide range of uses for removing stains. Dental hygienists normally use the fine grit for routine work and move their way up the grit scale for heavier stain removals.

A flavor for every taste

Keystone’s Gelato comes in six flavors: bubble gum, cherry, mint, piña colada, orange sherbert and raspberry. The paste is available in 6- and 12-ounce jars, and also boxes of 200 individual cups.

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For the ninth consecutive year, CareCredit has donated $100,000 to the ADA Foundation (ADAF) Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) Fund. The $100,000 grant is designated to support Give Kids A Smile through funding of three major initiatives:

- GKAS NASCAR elementary school oral health education events for underserved children.
- ADA Mission of Mercy and Give Kids A Smile oral health education and treatment event.
- GKAS and TeamSmile collaborative oral health treatment events, teaming sports and dental professionals to improve children’s oral health. Building off the success of previous years, children from underserved communities will participate in GKAS NASCAR oral health education events to be held in Indiana, South Carolina, North Carolina and Alabama from now through October. These education events will incorporate key messaging from the Ad Council’s 2min2x oral-care campaign, educating and encouraging children to spend two minutes brushing their teeth, twice a day. As in past years, each child attending the event will receive free oral-health goody bags.

The grant will also support the ADA Mission of Mercy, a one-day free oral health-care event to be held in conjunction with the ADA — America’s Dental Meeting in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 8. During the event, dentists and dental team members will volunteer their services in the Give Kids A Smile area to provide up to 200 underserved children with education, screenings, cleanings, sealants, fluoride treatments and needed restorative care.

In the fall, the CareCredit donation will also fund several GKAS and TeamSmile collaborative events to be held in conjunction with professional sports teams. Dentist and dental team members will volunteer their time to provide education and free oral-health treatment to underserved children in collaboration with high-profile sports teams.

“Teaming up with the ADA Foundation’s Give Kids A Smile program enables us to deliver a message about good oral health to thousands of parents and children this year,” said Cindy Hearn, senior vice president branding and communications for CareCredit, member of the ADA Foundation Board and GKAS National Advisory Committee. “As the founding donor of the ADA Foundation GKAS Fund, we are pleased that our grant will, once again, be used to further support these exciting programs and can, in a unique and relevant way, improve the lives of children who have little to no access to necessary dental care.”

For more information about the GKAS events, visit facebook.com/GiveKidsASmile or follow GKAS on Twitter @GiveKidsASmile.
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*According to “Dosimetry of Orthodontic Diagnostic FOVs Using Low Dose CBCT Protocol,” by J.B. Ludlow and J. Koivisto. For copies of this study, please contact Planmeca USA.
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The Planmeca Sovereign is a combination of sophisticated engineering, innovative technology and award-winning design. It is the only dental unit on the market with both a motorized chair swivel and a motorized base for ease-of-use for any treatment need — such as CAD/CAM, implantology, laser treatment, prosthodontics or even anesthesia, all in the same room.

In addition, the length of the motorized backrest can be adjusted to optimally position patients of all sizes. Available only on the Planmeca Sovereign, this innovative feature guarantees the best possible comfort for the patient and optimal working ergonomics for the dental team.

Planmeca Sovereign Classic

The Planmeca Sovereign Classic was designed around the key concepts of comfort and usability.

A slim, compact cuspidor makes it the perfect choice for any treatment room, while the user-centered design offers ease of use for both doctor and assistant.

Ultraleather™ upholstery and ergonomic design also ensure patient comfort during procedures.

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Planmeca Compact i Touch supports an ergonomic and smooth workflow, with simple and intuitive details that make your everyday work easy, comfortable and efficient — without compromise.

For versatility, its compact size fits almost any office design, plus it’s packed with features and functionalities to maximize your productivity.

With more than 40,000 satisfied users around the world, it is designed to accommodate a wide variety of needs in dentistry.

Better care through innovation

By Planmeca Staff

The Planmeca Compact i Touch, Sovereign Classic and Sovereign make up a distinctive product line that is built with the doctor in mind. Feature-rich and designed to accommodate your preferred working positions, these units are made to minimize physical strain and maximize the life of your practice.

Planmeca Sovereign

Planmeca Sovereign Classic

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For more information or to take a closer look at the Planmeca Compact i Touch, Sovereign Classic or Sovereign, stop by the booth, No. 1926.

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