Welcome to the ADA Annual Session, and congratulations on actively moving your understanding and professional success forward. It is only through excellent education that we individually grow and develop as dental health professionals and, through that, build a practice that is not just successful but delivers comprehensive and high-quality care.

As a patient, I expect the best care I can find. As a dentist, I want to deliver the best care possible. That takes us to the power of continuing education and, as dentists, we are faced with many choices in continuing education.

As a way to introduce you to the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies, or LVI, I want to outline what LVI is about and what void it fills in your practice. The alumni who have completed programs at LVI were given an independent survey, and unlike the typical surveys of dentists, 99.7 percent love being a dentist, and of those surveyed, 92 percent enjoy their profession more since they started their training at LVI. That alone is reason enough to go to LVI and find out more.

While the programs at LVI cover the full breadth of dentistry, the most powerful and life-changing program is generally reported as being Core I, or “Advanced Functional Dentistry – The Power of Physiologic Based Occlusion.” This program is a three-day course that is designed for clinicians and their teams to learn together about the power of getting their patients’ physiology on their side.

In this program, clinicians can learn how to take control of their practice and start to enjoy the full benefits of owning a practice and providing high-quality dentistry. Regardless of whether it is a solo practice or a group setting, every dentist can start the process of creating comprehensive care experiences for their patients.

We will discuss why some cases dentists are asked by their patients to perform are actually dangerous cases to restore cosmetically. We will discover the developmental science behind how unattractive smiles evolve and what cases may need the help of auxiliary healthcare professionals to get the patient feeling better.

The impact of musculoskeletal signs and symptoms will be explored, and we will look at how the supporting soft tissue is the most important diagnostic tool you have — not simply the gingiva but the entire soft-tissue support of the structures and not just in the mouth but also in the rest of the body.

A successful restorative practice should not be built on insurance reimbursement schedules. An independent business should stand not on the whims and distractions of a fee schedule but rather on the ideal benefits of comprehensive care balanced by the patients’ needs and desires.

Dentistry can be a challenging and thankless business, but it doesn’t have to be. Through complete and comprehensive diagnosis, there is an amazing world of thank yous and hugs and tears that our patients bring to us when we change their lives. The Core I program at LVI is the first step on that journey. That’s why when you call, we answer the phone: “LVI, where lives are changing daily!”

For more information on the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies, visit www.lviglobal.com.