

Interview

Joel L. Rosenlicht, DMD

Incoming President, American Academy of Implant Dentistry

Interviewed by Editor of AAID News, David Hochberg, DDS



Dr. Rosenlicht, talk to us about the influence of the general dentist with your early training and take us up to the present, sharing with us your perspective as to how things have changed.

Well, my first experience being exposed to dental implants was when I was in dental school. At that time, I was introduced to implant dentistry through the assistant dean, a doctor by the name of Doug Roberts, who was conducting research on endodontic stabilizers. I'm not quite sure if any of the current implant dentists or members of our Academy are familiar with endodontic stabilizers, but they were an implant that went through the root of the tooth to stabilize the

residual root, and it would actually give some longevity to the survival of that tooth.

What was interesting from my experience with Dr. Roberts and in doing some research with him on the endodontic stabilizers, we found that the teeth ended up failing, but lo and behold, the endodontic stabilizers, which were a very, very thin titanium rod, actually became embedded in bone and were very difficult to remove. About the same time, when I was a junior dental student, I remember hearing a lecture during the lunch period by **Leonard Linkow**. Dr. Linkow had come to our dental school to speak about the implant work he was doing. He talked about blades and different types of root forms he was working with. And, most interestingly, he discussed sub-periosteal implants.

The audience was small because, at that time, most of the instructors at my dental school - Fairleigh Dickinson University - were pretty averse to thinking that implants could ever work. I was intrigued that Dr. Linkow, a general dentist, had gone so far with some of the things he was doing with surgery, sub-

periosteal implants and blade implants. Some of what he showed us was interesting to me, such as remarkable successes intermixed with obvious controversial failures. That was really my introduction to dental implants. I was introduced to the innovators, many of whom were members of the AAID, all of whom at that time were general dentists.

And how have things changed today for the young practitioner being introduced to this wonderful field?

I think things have changed dramatically, especially the amount of research and education in the last 25 years not only in surgery, but in the approach to prosthetic reconstruction and so forth. It is vast. Sometimes I can't even imagine being able to keep up with everything that's going on. I think general dentists today who want to get involved with implant dentistry must make sure they pursue all the education they possibly can acquire, because this is a field that is so dynamic and expanding quite rapidly. Since so many different spe-

cialty aspects are associated with implant dentistry, I feel it is important for our members, especially our general members, to feel comfortable doing what they're going to be doing and in how they go about treating their patients.

What do you believe separates AAID from other dental societies?

All you have to do is read this newsletter and you see the difference: Educational opportunities, updates on members, political activities regarding our credentials, multiple district meetings, a great annual meeting, and an international presence with our global members including outreach programs. The AAID truly represents Dentistry of all disciplines in Implant Dentistry. I also don't want to forget the ABO/ID sponsored by the AAID: the only truly dedicated educational certifying board in Implant Dentistry.

If you were to make a 15 second elevator speech to a prospective member about the benefits of AAID, what would you say?

I would tell them they are rubbing elbows with the



Dr. Rosenlicht and his wife, Doreen with N246J, a Cessna Turbine 210, upon landing on Katama, Martha's Vineyard.

leaders of Implant Dentistry and some of the finest dentists and people around. This organization will broaden your scope, challenge your abilities and be there for your support and growth.

What will be your key priorities as AAID President?

The key priorities are to bring new members into positions of leadership through committee appoint-

ments, develop strong alliances with all groups in dentistry so that we remain the ADA's representative organization on implant matters, to grow our base of members both nationally and internationally, to provide world class education, leadership and support to our members, and lastly to encourage the growth of the ABO/ID and the wonderful research foundation all of us should be proud of.

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make us stronger and we will be able to help our members advertise their AAID credentials.

3. We have an opportunity to offer some courses outside the scope of implant surgery. These new dentists who may be interested in implant

surgery will need to have expert knowledge in oral surgery, dentures and the restorative phase.

I feel that the future of the AAID is very bright. Thank you again for allowing me to lead this great Academy this past year.

With kind personal regards.

Beverly Dunn ▶

Dr. Rosenlicht, please tell us a little bit about what you like to do when you're not treating patients?

Well, dentistry is extremely stressful in general. It's very difficult for me sometimes to do things that allow me to not think about the office or the patients I treat. So the hobby that allows me to do that is flying. Some of my flying is tied with some of the work I've been doing, such as lecturing and working with implant companies. So I have the opportunity to use the airplane for business as well as personal pleasure. I'm very grateful to the specialty that has allowed me to be able to do something that I also love besides dentistry, which is flying the airplane.

Any closing thought?

You know, just sitting down for this interview with you kind of humbles me to realize that I have the opportunity to become president of this wonderful organization. And for closing thoughts, I'm grateful to those involved in my education and colleagues who introduced me to the AAID and now allow me to help guide it for the next year. I take this opportunity very seriously and am extremely grateful and humbled by it.

We are certainly fortunate to have you as our new president and leader. I know the Academy is in good hands as you take us into the direction of a long lasting and successful future. Thank you very much, Dr. Rosenlicht. ▶

Central District Drop-in Cocktails and Raffle

Join your colleagues from the Central District for an informal gathering on Friday, November 13 after a day of continuing education from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm.

Join your colleagues in the Spirits Bar on the 1st floor for a non-hosted bar.

This informal gathering is also a fundraising event and will include a chance to win prizes in a raffle.

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased from any officer of the Central District for \$20 each.

Need not be present to win!

Look for your colleagues in the Spirits Bar.