The Osseointegration Foundation tightens its focus to better serve the Academy's membership

By David Guichet, President, Osseointegration Foundation

Following a very successful year, the Osseointegration Foundation (OF) will employ a survey to focus its mission and explore opportunities to better serve the members of the Academy of Osseointegration (AO).

Historically, OF’s major activities centered on providing Charitable Grants and funding the AO Research Award Competition. Now, the Foundation has contracted with an outside consulting firm, onPARC, to develop and conduct an online survey. The survey will poll the Academy membership to help determine the future direction of Foundation initiatives and to better understand the motivation for contributions. We will launch this survey in September, when members receive an e-mail directing them how to reach the onPARC Website to take the survey.

The OF’s mission is to spread the word about the miracle of osseointegration in ways that can’t be accomplished easily within the AO. As a non-profit organization (501.c.3), the Foundation can gain access to funds earmarked for charitable use. Through OF activities like the Charitable Grant Program and funding the Academy’s Research Award Competition, the Foundation is working to fulfill its mission. At the AO Annual Meeting, the Foundation hosts a silent auction and makes a presentation to update members on the treatment outcomes of grant recipients. The highly visible donor board provides a “thank you” for the cumulative contributions received from corporations and members. Please view the donor list, contribute, and try to jump categories before the next Annual Meeting.

The Charitable Grant Program is a hallmark which distinguishes the OF and the AO from all other implant organizations. No other implant organization has a non-profit Foundation dedicated to a charitable initiative. Unfortunately, not enough people are yet aware of the OF’s mission or the Charitable Grant Program. Members may go to the Academy’s Website www.osseo.org and follow the link to download the grant application.

Successful applications qualify teams to receive up to $4,000. The implant team can select which system it will use with the patient. Most major implant companies have agreed to supply all the necessary implant components to complete patient treatment at no charge. The program has gained momentum and expanded over the last few years. Many Academy members have successfully treated individuals who might otherwise still be awaiting treatment.

Building an endowment for the OF is a continued focus. Last year, Foundation President Dr. Laureen Langer, through her diligence and passion, set an unprecedented example of leadership. She initiated many successful new programs, including the “Change a Smile, Change a Life” fund raising brochure and campaign. Under her leadership and thanks largely to significant contribution from the membership, the Foundation’s funds grew from $335,000 to over $500,000. Additionally, we have successfully transitioned the management of the OF to Executive Administration, Inc. (EAI, the same management team as the AO). We are very cost conscious and have received significant concessions and special services from EAI over the last several years. For this we are very grateful. Our intention is to establish an endowment for the Foundation, so that its programs may continue indefinitely.

In summary, the Osseointegration Foundation began with the purpose of getting the word out about the success of implant dentistry in ways that the traditional implant organizations could not. This has been a unique and strategic goal of the Foundation. I invite you to contribute this year, please. Simply download the faxback donor form to make a contribution. Log onto the Website at www.osseo.org, click on the Foundation button and follow the prompts for Foundation donor form. Print it out and FAX it to us.

Thank you for receiving and participating in the online survey. Especially, thank you for your past and future contributions. The Website is the best place to learn more about Foundation activities, the opportunity to serve, and how you can make a difference.
A campaign of passion
By Dr. Laureen Langer, Past President, Osseointegration Foundation

The Osseointegration Foundation enjoyed an active year of accomplish-
ment in 2001-2002. Our goal at the beginning of the year was
to create an endowment worth-
ly of a membership
of 4,100
implant dentistry professionals in
over 70 coun-
tries. To this end, we established a direct
to the membership grass roots “Change
a Smile, Change a Life” campaign. We kicked it off during the summer
by making personal phone calls to
introduce this philanthropic concept
to many of our members. We made it
“painless” to give by sending a
donor fax form for immediate credit
card donations.

We were slated to send our new
brochure featuring “Kim,” a case treated
by the Foundation and Drs.
J. Balshi
and
Kyumin Whang,
on
September 10. (For details on the treat-
ment of this case, see the July/August
issue of IJOMI 2002, 17:587-592.)

Obviously, the mailing had to be delayed
until a more appropriate time in
November. In spite of this being the
worst year for charities in general, we
were able to generate a significant
increase in funds over past years. This
was due to the kindness and compassion
of our membership. It made me proud
to be part of an organization that
allowed us to accomplish this at a time
when peoples’ thoughts and hearts were
consumed by our national tragedy.

Our own Dr. Sascha A. Jovanovic, Los
Angeles, the Foundation’s Secretary,
offered to distribute our “Kim” bro-
chures to the 1,100 members attending
the annual Congress of the European
Association of Osseointegration in
Milan, Italy, as he was simultaneously
President of that organization.
Unfortunately, they held the Milan
meeting the week of September 11.
Sascha made an almost impossible
marathon trip through most of the
world in order to arrive in Milan on the
last day of the meeting. We appreciated
his efforts, because we think that it
is very important for AO members
who live in countries outside the U.S.
to understand that the Foundation
serves them.

One of the most dramatic cases was a
patient being treated by Dr. Carlos
Aparicio and his team in Spain. The
Foundation, through its member contrib-
butions, is helping a family of three sib-
lings, two boys and a girl, with severe
Amelogenesis Imperfecta. When we said
that we could only treat one of the chil-
dren this year, the two boys immediately
asked us if we would accept the girl.
We are desperate to help them all.

Many people are awaiting our help who
genuinely deserve a new chance at life.
We need to continue our donations
until we reach our goal of 100%
member participation. Of course,
I would love to see every member
give $5,000 right away, but I realize
that some of you will want to do
this in increments. That is why we
created a cumulative donor list that
shows your passion for helping the less
fortunate by sending in the attached
donor form or faxing it in.

To honor those who have already
given, we made a special lighted
Donor Board at the Dallas meeting
listing all the names in appropriate cate-
gories. Also, we thanked each donor
during the Foundation slide presenta-
tion at the General Session. Donors
can watch their contributions grow by
changing levels each year. Hegel has
said that “nothing in the world has been
accomplished without passion.” All of
us are in a healing profession because
we have compassion, as the donor list
in this newsletter demonstrates. Please
show your passion for helping the less
fortunate by sending in the attached
form today. You can add your name to
this prestigious list by simply returning
the enclosed donor form or faxing it in.

The mission of the Foundation has
always been twofold: encouragement of
independent research in osseointegra-
tion and helping our members to help
others by means of Charitable Grants.
This year, we awarded the $10,000
Research Grant to Dr. Kyumin Whang,
San Antonio, TX, for his work, “Efficacy
of Novel Osteogenic Biomaterial,
Op-Pig.” This paper will be presented at
the 2003 Annual Meeting in Boston.

This year, four Charitable Grants
were made to the following members:
Drs. Carlos Aparicio, Barcelona, Spain, to treat a male with
Amelogenesis Imperfecta; Patrick
J. Henry, West Perth, Australia, a
31-year-old female suffering from
Amelogenesis Imperfecta; R. Gilbert
Triplett, Baylor College of Dentistry,
Dallas, TX, a 20-year-old male with
Amelogenesis Imperfecta (see accom-
panying article); and
Glenn J. Wolfinger, Fort
Washington, PA, for a 13-
year-old male requiring a
fixed restoration supported by
osseointegrated implants.

To continue our fundraising and
philanthropic efforts
during the coming year, we
must consistently raise AO
member awareness of the
work of the Foundation.
With the Academy leader-
ship’s continued support,
the Foundation will be an
asset to the organization
and will improve the viability and
awareness of AO and the Foundation
both within the profession and to
the public.

It has been an honor and a privilege
to serve this year as Foundation President.
Titles come with responsibility, and I
have tried to live up to mine. We have
generated strong momentum this year.
Now, we have to crank it up a bit and
keep it going. All the programs are in
place. Therefore, I anticipate that next
year will be the best yet.