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Carl Botvinick	Alayne Evans
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Richard Rubinstein	Vlad Tismenetskiy
Richard Gardner	Mark Robinson
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Out on the Town with Endodontic Associates

The Endodontic Associates staff from the Waterford, Bloomfield Hills, and Farmington locations all hosted a “staff night out” party for the staff of doctors that refer to their respective offices. All parties featured raffles with prizes ranging from gift certificates, to gift baskets, to Club Seat Tickets for a Detroit Lions game. The parties were held in the last two weeks of September and had great turnouts.

The Waterford office kicked off the festivities on Thursday, September 22nd at Liberty Golf and Banquet in Clarkston. The night brought torrential rains outside and a hot party inside. Staff members enjoyed drinks and gourmet hors d’oeuvres in Liberty’s spacious banquet room. There was even some magic in the night as a magician entertained tableside and lucky attendees won great raffle prizes. After the event, Dr. VanderVeen’s staff said they “had a great time” and that “it was nice to see the faces of the people we talk to... on a daily basis”.

The Bloomfield Hills office hosted Bahama Breeze II on Tuesday, September 27th. Back by popular



Winner's circle at the Waterford staff party.

demand, the party was held at Bahama Breeze in Troy on their Caribbean deck. Catching perfect weather, adorned with festive leis and serving delicious tropical frozen drinks and Caribbean-style hors d’oeuvres, the staff members in attendance cast the worries of office work to the sea and enjoyed a night of relaxation among their colleagues. According to Dr. Vaitas’ staff, “everything was absolutely perfect”. The “no worries mon” attitude must be catchy as this year’s event had twice the crowd of Bahama Breeze I.

The Farmington Hills office party hit Lucky’s, at the Novi Fountain Walk. On
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Out on the Town

Thursday, September 29th the invited staff members gathered for an evening of dining and drinks with the Farmington staff members in Lucky's private party area. Entertainment was never in short supply as Lucky's offered everything from billiard tables to interactive arcade games. Dr. Langberg's staff were among the many attendees whom had a "wonderful time and a great evening of fun and games".

The three parties were enjoyed by all and had a combined attendance of over 450. They also gave staff members a chance to meet face-to-face with the Endodontic Associates staff that cares for their patients. Endodontic Associates would like to thank everyone who made it out to the parties and stay tuned for more exciting events in your area in 2006! ■



Guests at the Farmington Hills party take a break from the office for a night of fun at Lucky's.

The Anatomy of Maxillary Molars

A prerequisite to a successful endodontic outcome is a clear understanding of the tooth's root canal system. The internal anatomy of the maxillary molar is reported to have the greatest variations and the highest incidence of extra canals.

Al Shalabi et al of Trinity College, Ireland, studied the canal configurations of 83 maxillary first and 40 maxillary second molars using 20x magnification. Inorganic tissue and debris were first cleared from the canals with sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl).

Then, to improve canal visualization, india ink was vacuum-pressured into the vacant canals. The specimens were demineralized with hydrochloric acid (HCl) and rendered transparent in a bath of methyl salicylate.

An overwhelming majority of the teeth (98% of the maxillary first molars, 85% of the maxillary second molars)

had 3 roots. Fused roots were found in 11% of the maxillary first molars and 43% of the maxillary second molars. Seventy-eight percent of the mesiobuccal canals of the first molars and 58% of the mesiobuccal canals of the second molars had 2 canals. Of those, only 62% of the maxillary first molars and 50% of the maxillary second molars had 2 separate foraminal exits.

Lateral canals were found in 21% of the maxillary first molar roots and 16% of the maxillary second molar roots. Most of these were found in the apical third of the palatal roots. Transverse anastomoses between canals were found in 38% of the mesiobuccal roots of the maxillary first molars and 17% of the maxillary second molars.

The majority of the communications occurred in the middle third of the roots. The incidence of extra canals and transversities decreased significantly

with age. This was probably due to normal secondary calcification.

The results of this study were quite similar to an often-quoted classic study by Vertucci et al (*Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol* 1974;38:456-464). The presence and incidence of MB1 and MB2 in the mesiobuccal roots of the maxillary first and second molars demand special attention.

When 2 canals are not found and treated in this root, the patient should be informed of the importance of periodic radiographic examinations and be made aware of the potential for a latent failure. Communication with the patient is particularly important when a major restorative investment is being contemplated.

Al Shalabi RM, Omer OE, Glennon J, et al. Root canal anatomy of maxillary first and second permanent molars. *Int Endodon J* 2000;33:405-414. ■

Clinton Township Office – Bridging the Communications Gap

On Thursday, November 10, the doctors of the Clinton Township office of Endodontic Associates hosted a motivational seminar on “How to Achieve Total Case Acceptance - Getting Your Patients to Say Yes.” Organized by Drs. Richard Somerlott, Stephen Navarre and TJ Vokal, the seminar provided 3 continuing education credits for all attendees.

Back by popular demand was Dr. Mark Murphy, D.D.S, Director of Continuing Dental Education for DTI, a premium Dental Laboratory Company, and a practicing dentist in Rochester. Over 100 dentists and staff attended the afternoon session at the Macomb University Center, including

Endodontic Associates Drs. Michael Glass, Mark Dylewski and Edward Fitzpatrick. Dr. Murphy gave a very insightful and engaging 3 hour lecture on changing the communication structure between dentist and patient. He took on the daily communication challenge between dentist and patient and through entertaining stories, analogies and examples, demonstrated how to get the patient to accept the optimal case treatment.

Mark stressed that it is “all about trust” and illustrated ways to build the patient relationship to garner that trust as their complete oral health provider, caring and looking out for the well being of the patient. He defined the

values and emotions that drive patient decisions to choose optimal dentistry and explored the economic impact of increased case acceptance. Mark led the doctors through a step by step case example, providing useful communication tools at every junction toward getting the patient to say “yes”.

The fall Clinton Township EA Seminar is quickly becoming a fixed event on the Southeast Michigan dental calendar. This was the 3rd annual seminar at the Macomb University Center following EA Dr. Richard Rubinstein on “Rotary Instrumentation” in 2003 and EA Dr. Michael Hoen on “Digital Radiography” in 2004. ■

Lending a Helping Hand

Endodontic Associates was approached by Dr. Raymond Skowronski and his sister Dr. Annette Skowronski of Sterling Heights during their thoughtful and generous Hurricane Katrina disaster relief project. Dr. Ray took immediate action by supplying drinking water to the region and then contacted Dr. Westerman, a colleague and friend practicing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, inquiring what else was needed. Working through Dr. Westerman it quickly became clear that Michigan could provide much needed financial support, medical and dental supplies, gloves, masks, pharmaceuticals and antibiotics. Dr. Ray mobilized the

Detroit dental communities and directed the resources to patients displaced by the disastrous storm.

The doctors of Endodontic Associates were pleased to help with the local efforts of Drs. Skowronski and Skowronski and were also encouraged that the efforts of the Michigan dental community would provide long lasting and continuing benefits to those in need of the aide.

The world is blessed to have caring humanitarians like Drs. Raymond and Annette Skowronski. Endodontic Associates is proud and honored to have helped in this effort. ■



Endodontic Associates were one of many groups to assist in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Board Power Break

In late September, Endodontic Associates sponsored a refreshment room for the University of Michigan School of Dentistry candidates that participated in the Manikin portion of the Class of 2006 Northeast Regional Board Examination. The refreshment room was a huge success with student candidates, as the submarine sandwiches and sodas were a welcomed break from the examination. In a letter to Endodontic Associates, Dr. Stephen J. Stefanac, the Associate Dean, Patient Services wrote, "On behalf of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, I would like to thank Endodontic Associates for their patronage in this very popular function." Endodontic Associates continues to support dental academic institutions and the next generation of dental health professionals. ■



Two students take a break from the NERBS to enjoy the refreshments provided by Endodontic Associates.

Happy New Year

Our Hope for All

*A Safer Night
Another Tomorrow
Healthy Horizon
Euphoric World*

We would like to Thank all of you for your great loyalty and support, it has been an honor and privilege serving our dental communities.

May You and Yours have a Happy Healthy New Year

The Doctors and Staff of Endodontic Associates

Quote of the Quarter

"We can't do everything for everyone everywhere, but we can do something for someone somewhere."

**-Richard L Evans (1906-1971),
Clergyman and radio personality**