Periodontics News

THE NEXT THING

Neal Murphy ’76, periodontist and orthodontist who lives in the Los Angeles area, never stops practicing, learning, teaching, writing, and talking about his profession. Today, he combines his two disciplines in the nascent science of clinical tissue engineering. He calls it PeriOrthodontics.

Using growth factors and decoration of the alveolar bone, Dr. Murphy activates stem cells in the bone marrow and creates what he calls a “new regional phenotype.” This allows him to move teeth 200-300% faster without extracting bicuspid. “That results in a more stable and youthful appearing clinical outcome. This clinical management of the alveolar bone during orthodontic therapy seeks to alter the bone response to orthodontic force while using conventional light forces,” he says.

He adds, “The actual techniques have been practiced in orthodontics and periodontics for about 100 years. This is not merely spatial restructuring, but rather the altering of the basic processes of bone physiology during orthodontic care. In periodontics, we are on the cusp of an epochal change from mechanical manipulation of tissue to orchestrating the expression of the genome itself.”

Dr. Murphy lectures and presents seminars in the United States and internationally about this topic. He also teaches and lectures at UCLA School of Dentistry about periodontics and orthodontics, is a former associate professor at the USC School of Dentistry, is the author of numerous books and scientific articles, and founder of the UCLA Orthodontic Study Club. His zest for learning pervades all other areas of his life. “I can’t practice without being guided by science and every case is a new scientific discovery,” he says. “It’s a philosophy of practice and life that began at Case School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Bisada taught me to act as an honorable clinician and, most importantly, how to think like a scientist. It is a debt that I can never fully repay except by continuing the Case legacy of honorable excellence. After thirty years of practice, I can’t wait to get to the office.”

“Retire? I will never retire completely. I shall semiretire into teaching and clinical research. There are just too many fascinating things in the world. Besides, with a 28 handicap, what else could I do?”

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BE THERE!

Get together with alumni, friends and colleagues at this year’s Case School of Dental Medicine Alumni Reception at the American Academy of Periodontology meeting in Denver, Colorado.

Monday, September 26, 2005
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Mr. Harvard Room
Grand Hyatt Denver Downtown

RSVP by September 19 to Case School of Dental Medicine Alumni Office
T: (877) 468-1436
E: dentalalumni@case.edu

A WORK IN PROGRESS

The first phase of the Periodontics Department’s expanded laboratory and computer facility is complete. The work space is much improved, and the computer capacity enhanced. Alumni support will help make phase two of this project a reality.

Neal Murphy, D.D.S., M.S.

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