



Another Opportunity to be of Service

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Hello! The fledgling Osseointegration Foundation is calling again. Please don't hang up yet, because it has a new, attractive, pragmatic challenge for you. No, it is not your hard-earned cash that is being solicited this time . . . although that is most welcomed whenever Osseointegration Academy members or other readers are motivated to respond.

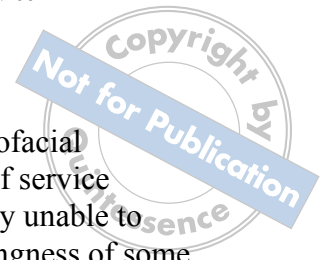
As you may know, *one* of the objectives of the growing Foundation is to be involved in the support of clinical service for underprivileged patients in need of rehabilitation that would involve the use of oral or craniofacial implants. The Foundation Board of Directors has indicated that while the use of osseointegrated implants should be the common denominator in treatment provided for potential selected patients, those with more complex problems possibly involving congenital or acquired defects resulting from trauma or disease etiologies would be given priority. What kind of support would be provided, you ask?

The cost for management of clinical situations involving complex interdisciplinary treatment can be staggering for anyone, let alone those who have inadequate or no resources to pay for the needed care. Patients who cannot, either through third-party participation or private funding, underwrite optimal care for often catastrophic oral or craniofacial residuals usually must accept inadequate alternative treatment or none at all. This is how your altruistic/humanitarian bent can be put to work!

Our implant corporate sector friends and colleagues have suggested that product could well be provided on a donated basis to facilitate the needed treatment of selected patients, if professional providers could volunteer to administer donated care in their private or affiliated office settings on behalf of the Osseointegration Foundation. Potential patients would be selected by the treating doctor and managing group from local or regional populations with the ultimate approval of the Osseointegration Academy-Osseointegration Foundation Liaison Committee. The hardware/software required for management of the particular existing clinical situation would be the choice of the treating individual or team and would be provided without cost. Details for work-up and treatment documentation have not been completed at this writing but will be forth-coming soon.

The Osseointegration Foundation is entering the second year of its drive to establish an endowment fund for the ultimate support of programs and projects involving dedicated research, education, and clinical service associated with oral and maxillofacial rehabilitation utilizing endosseous implants. In the first of 5 years of projected activity, individual members of the Academy of Osseointegration and related corporate interests have been solicited for direct contributions and/or pledge commitments to the fund. Moderate success has been achieved as the result of these early efforts, but much more must be accomplished if the Foundation endowment fund goal is to be reached. While similar and the new recruitment of potential donors will continue, the Foundation is committed to demonstrating increased participation by its *ACADEMY member constituents* or other members of the dental profession so as to attract the involvement of extramural philanthropic foundations, organizations, and agencies, including governmental. An alternative adjunct to monetary contribution is provided by this opportunity for donated service, which only the trained, licensed professional can provide.

In 1997, the Osseointegration Foundation will be seeking 25 volunteers to provide the professional



services required for the management of underprivileged patients in need of oral and craniofacial rehabilitation for complex clinical problems. This undertaking will be the first in a series of service projects designed to improve the oral health and quality of life for segments of our citizenry unable to fund their own needed care. The success of this endeavor will be dependent upon the willingness of some 4,000 Academy members to give of themselves and of their time, knowledge, and skills in the interest of bettering the lives of their fellow man. Those interested in learning of the proposal being offered and the inherent associated acknowledgments for completed treatment are asked to contact the Osseointegration Foundation Headquarters by phone or in writing as follows: Osseointegration Foundation, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-4267. Phone: 800/656-7736 (USA & Canada) or 312/321-5169 (elsewhere). Fax: 800/416-7736. e mail: academy@osseo.org.

Start the new year off on a positive note by resolving to become involved in this commendable venture in support of your Osseointegration Foundation. It could be the most personally rewarding contribution you could ever have the opportunity to make.