

Thursday June 6 2002 Day 1- The FUN BEGINS

Dr. John Stropko – MTA in Endodontic practice



John's the perfect guy to start. Great sense of humor, and what a clinician ! Stropko loosens us up with some seriously funny (isn't that an oxymoron?) video. I can't begin to describe those 30 second segues but lets just say that they broke everyone up and set the tone for a day of amazing fun Endo education. It turns out that John's previous pre-dental experience with the cement industry has made him the perfect guy to give us tips on using MTA. (Such as why it needs moisture, why you need to "vibrate it" in retrofills etc.) He tells us that the new white MTA is old MTA with the Fe removed. John shows us some great examples of treatment and reminds us NOT to "pack" the stuff into the prepared area. He's not a fan of the new Dentsply carriers but highly endorses the Dovgan carrier. (It appears that Joe " I'm not making anything on those" Dovgan has another great product. That's ANOTHER thing I've GOT to buy!) I like John's lecture

style. While John is obviously an exceptional clinician (Hey...he's a Boston U guy after all!), he comes across as "just one of the guys", very humble. (Presentations are just so much better when presenters check their egos at the door.) It adds to the cozy atmosphere of the meeting and helps bring all of us closer as a group. Cool! Great lecture. I look forward to his Microsurgical Update tomorrow, at the same early time.

Drs. Nahmias and Bery (Dr. Cancellier at the mic) – The Capture Zone Dudes



The Capture Zone Dudes present an interesting investigation of the effects of different preparation techniques on the shapes of "Capture Zones". Ie/ Some use Protapers, Profiles, LightSpeed, GGs combinations, hybridization etc. They reported on an informal survey of ROOTS clinicians that they performed. Clinicians' shaping methods and techniques were studied with reference to the apical shapes that their methods produced. Neat idea because it relates directly to a lot of the cases we see posted on ROOTS. We now get a better idea of WHY finished cases are shaped the way they are and how that affects the look of the fills. It

ended with a quiz that featured the finished radiographic cases of the various clinicians that were kind enough to volunteer (!?) their cases for scrutiny. We were asked to "match" the case with the shape of the capture zone produced by different clinicians. Very entertaining and informative. Just the kind of lecture that appealed to the operator in all of us, while at the same time allowing us to "see" what other ROOTers were doing. Nice job, guys.



Dr. Eric Herbranson – Digital Photography and the DOM

This could NOT have been better timed presentation if I had custom ordered it. Since I am getting my scope in only a few days AND have purchased (but not used) a Nikon 950, this was the perfect lecture for me. Eric goes through digital imaging fundamentals, shows us the X Mount (I bought that with my scope too!) and then does a great tutorial/comparison of the old and new megapixel digital cameras for the scope. Its like having your own prosumer camera consultant answering all those nagging questions that you forgot to ask before you bought your camera. Wow ! Not only that, he goes through the important settings on the 9** series Nikons AND gives us some help

with optimizing our digital images in Photoshop. (After struggling with Photoshop v 5.5 I imagine that's at least whole day lecture by itself. I only wish I had more time to hang out with this guy and learn about imaging. He certainly seems to know his stuff.) Make sure to check out the Xmount.com for other great info that Eric is providing. Also a great lecture style... simple explanations, even complex ideas were explained so all could understand. Great images ! BRING ERIC BACK next year ! I want more.

Dr. Harvey Weiner- Single Visit Endo – Is it really better?

I honestly didn't know how Harvey would handle this issue, considering the considerable controversy it has generated on ROOTS. Having been at the full day seminar at the AAE in Chicago, I observed first hand the controversy between the CaOH based multi-appointment camp (as represented by Trope and the Europeans) and the single appointment philosophy (as represented by Steve Cohen). On the basis of the presentations that day and on the literature support, you'd have to give that round to Trope et al, but I'm still not convinced because I believe that a lot of the Viking literature is not representative of good clinical technique as we on ROOTS define it. I.e/ Patency, position of fill etc. Perhaps it was a good thing that Harvey didn't get into those kind of specifics this time around.

Instead of immersing himself in the fight between the one step vs. two step clinicians, Harvey chose to go the less didactic route and focus on how his own practice had changed over the years and how he chose to incorporate new ideas and technology into his Endodontics. This included single appointment treatment, digital radiography and scope use as well as his association with Nova, the new Florida dental school. It was more of a "things change and we all must change with the times" type of retrospective and I am sure it gave food for thought to many of us who have not yet taken advantage of these new technologies in our own lives. (What? ROOTers WITHOUT technology? Who are these guys ?)

Did he sidestep the issue a bit? Yeah, I suppose so but I'm not sure what I would have done in his place, knowing that 15 feet away, in the front row, Freddie Barnett – the walking referencemeister – would be ready to pounce on every "works for ME!". Maybe it's best to leave sleeping dogs lie. Besides, we need to save something for ROOTS 3.

LUNCH !!! At this point most other conferences would break for lunch, let the attendees come up for air and then resume after that. **NOT SO WITH ROOTS!** ? Even though we need to refuel, we keep the learning coming ! Just when I think that they have thought of everything...there's more. I remember: Lunches for Thursday, Friday and Saturday are also provided as part of the registration fee. UNREAL ! For \$300 ! How can they afford to do this ? Amazing. I wonder again: How did ROOTS manage to pull this off? Peter and Joey remind us that it is time to buy the raffle tickets and support the new Server. I buy 2 @ \$50 each. Naw....better make that 4. It's for a good cause and for some peculiar reason, I'm feeling lucky. Am I right? We'll find out when they begin drawing later.

Dr.Cliff Ruddle - Lunch with Learning – Microsonics in Endodontics



You gotta love a guy who pulls no punches and has the conviction and talent to pull it off. With acknowledgments to his initial explorations with Gary Carr, Cliff takes us through an excellent review of "Microendodontic Ultrasonics" – Microsonics as he calls it. The first slide comes up and we immediately know that he can't begin to cover all the topics. But Cliff shows us why he's one of the top clinicians in the world. Great cases, discussion of instrument removal, the Post removal System. Man, that's a lot to digest...not including lunch.

Dr. Arnaldo Castellucci – Retreatment Using the SOM

I must admit that I had not seen Arnaldo lecture before and was completely blown away by the quality and innovation of his scope use and material. The highlight of his presentation was a case in which he managed to pack a canal conventionally through the side of the root using a surgical approach! Whoa ! We can only wonder what the referral thought when he took a look at THAT final post op report. Is this guy innovative or what? Since his practice is almost entirely retreatment. Arnaldo showed tons of retreatment cases and some real beauties. It kind of makes me glad that I don't have to tackle those kind of cases day in and day out, as a rule. There's another ROOTer that merits an encore at the next meeting. Bravo Dr. Castellucci ! I look forward to your next appearance.

Dr. Jerry Avillion – The System A

I didn't envy Jerry's job. The murmuring from Dr. Castellucci's presentation was still in the air when Dr. Avillion took the stage. One thing we know about Jerry, he's definitely not shy in voicing his opinions on ROOTS. Many of us have enjoyed the banter on ROOTS between Jerry and Joey D. in the area of "standards of care". I had heard a lot about the PacMac technique but never fully understood how the instrument and technique were used. Jerry took us through the steps of this thermal (friction generated) obturation technique. As a classic warm GP trained clinician, I was at first skeptical about the ability to control the material (especially in patent or larger foramina) but Jerry showed some outstanding cases (complete with nice fill anatomy) so you must give the guy his "props". I'm not sure I'll ever use it but the results seem to speak for themselves. He patiently answered questions about this method and I believe entire audience came away with greater understanding and appreciation for "another way" of getting the results that we want.

Dr. Rick Schwartz – The Endo Perio Continuum

One of the biggest problems that we face as endodontists in the challenge of the periodontally challenged tooth that appears to be endodontically involved. The Periodontist prays for endodontic involvement so that he has a decent chance of having the endodontist fill that POE and help him to repair the attachment apparatus. In other cases the situation may require a combined or coordinated approach. Rick gave us an overview of the diagnosis and discussed different treatment scenarios. He emphasized working closely with his Periodontist colleagues and asking for their assistance when the procedures involved areas where their expertise was greater. (Proper treatment coordination and/or referral at the right time is the hallmark of a quality clinician!) It was an excellent presentation of some of the more difficult situations that we face when treating a compromised tooth. The quality of Dr. Schwartz's endodontics (and the glowing introduction from Freddie B.) again showed why we are so fortunate to have talent like this available on ROOTS.

The program ends at 5 pm and I am not ashamed to say that I am exhausted. What a day ! So many facts ! So much expertise! Can I absorb it all ? Can I remember any of it and take it all home? Then I remember one more thing: I've got two more days to go !! Peter Cancellier reminds us that we have to be ready at 6 pm to go for the dinner/cruise. I'm a mess. A quick shave, shower, call to the family and we're off again!

Dinner Cruise on the Lord Hornblower



Our group heads out toward the harbour where we are asked for ID before boarding the Lord Hornblower. (ID? What am I gonna do ? Hijack the boat to Tijuana?) I sit between some German ROOTers Holger, Carsten and Willy. There is much alcohol consumed. Holger tells me some amazing stories of his life before the fall of the Iron curtain. How wonderful it is that we can enjoy each other's company, even though we are from totally different backgrounds and continents. We are treated to views of 3 aircraft carriers and some submarines that we can clearly see out the windows as we cruise by.

I mention how cool it would be to sail around



the harbor having a closer look until tells to closely examine the small boats that seen to be circling harbor, machine guns at the ready. Maybe I'll just stay her and have another beer. It is a very relaxed pleasant evening. Quite a change from the hectic pace of the lectures. I meet Wes and Ben, engaged in conversation near the bow. The time passes too quickly and before long we're back in the harbor. The only thing I can think of is a good night's sleep to be ready for tomorrow.



End Part 2