



# Nobel Biocare World Conference

By Dr David B Dunn

Las Vegas was the place to be in May this year for yet another incredibly exciting and groundbreaking World Conference from Nobel Biocare. The opening included a welcome by the “father of osseointegration”, Professor P. I. Branemark. It was both humbling and exciting at the same time to see this pioneer still enthused with improving peoples’ lives through osseointegration, now well over 50 years later. Truly inspirational!

For those who’ve previously attended one of Nobel Biocare’s World Conferences, it must have been with some wonderment at how conference chairman, Dr Brien Lang and his team could push the envelope even further, and set the standard for dental education, which no commercial or pro-



fessional organisation has come close to matching. This biennial meeting, hosted again at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, catered for over 10,000 delegates and representatives from 61 nationalities! Few places in the world have a conference centre capable of hosting this many people in the one venue and at the same time. The logistics alone are mind-boggling!

This meeting had the customary cutting-edge audiovisual presentation, live surgeries and numerous internationally respected dental educators, clinicians and researchers. The various presentations covered a broad-spectrum including implant dentistry, conventional prosthodontics, material science and dental technology along with practice manage-

ment/staff training presentations. There was something for everyone!

Brien Lang took note from his young granddaughter’s “learning” activities, which included watching a plasma TV divided into four programs, listening to an i-Pod and chatting to her friends on computer via MSN, and all at the same time! Thus, in the Main Arena we saw a bombardment of cutting-edge information, which often included two live surgeries shown on-screen at the same time, a moderator “conducting” an expert panel consisting of five or six clinicians, researchers and scientists, and various presentations from this panel, cross-referenced to the various live surgeries being presented, all at the same time! For those unable to keep up with the pace, the moderators (including Australia’s Dr Patrick Henry, Mark Bartold and Brent Allen, Dr

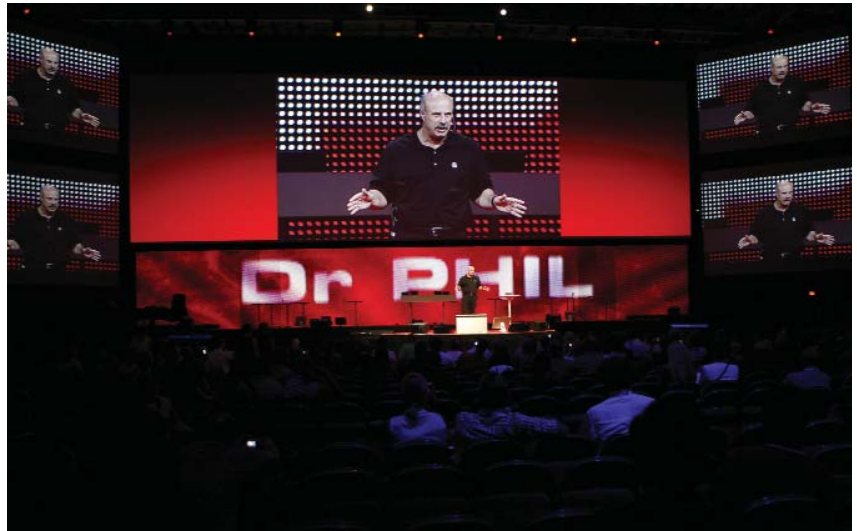
Avishai Sadan, Dr Peter Whorle, to name a few) were able to provide interim summaries, several times during these sessions, via short audiovisual clips of the live procedures, taken during the presentations, along with the panel presentations, thus providing the audience with a “tight” précis of the most important issues presented in the procedures and relevant expert commentary.

There were two Australian presenters for “live surgeries” - Dr Ian Bills from Adelaide, presenting over denture treatment utilising NobelGuide, and myself, presenting a full mouth reconstruction utilising all-ceramic crown and bridge technologies. All the live surgeries presented were undertaken in various facilities around the world, including Loma Linda Dental Faculty just outside of LA where Ian and I “performed”, and



these were beamed into Las Vegas, live via satellite (the other sites were located in Zurich, Switzerland; Lisbon, Portugal; Gothenburg, Sweden; Peking, China; Tel Aviv, Israel; and Freiburg, Germany).

But this World Conference was much more than live surgeries and the impressive audiovisual performances in the MGM Grand Arena that characterised the event and wowed the audience in 2005. For the technically-minded there was a working Procera production facility on display demonstrating the amazing robotics and technologies utilised in the production of alumina and zirconia crown copings and bridge sub-structures (including both titanium and all zirconia implant bridges). Then there were live displays of the use of NobelRondo porcelain, with Master ceramists building crowns, bridges and laminates supported by Procera componentry. These working lab



benches were surrounded by eager ceramists willing to learn the subtle nuances and techniques of using of NobelRondo porcelain with all ceramic sub-structures.

For the research-minded and those with an enquiring mind, there was a scientific “corner” where experts could field and answer a diverse range of questions regarding both implant and conventional prosthodontic techniques and technologies ranging from characteristics of the TiUnite surface through to the flexural strength properties of zirconia bridges. Delegates were given a 95-page scientific summary detailing all of the research relevant to Nobel Biocare products, undertaken for such diverse topics as “All-on-4 and tilting of implants” through to Procera luting agents and techniques,

trans-mucosal shape; platform shifting, concave abutments and short implants.

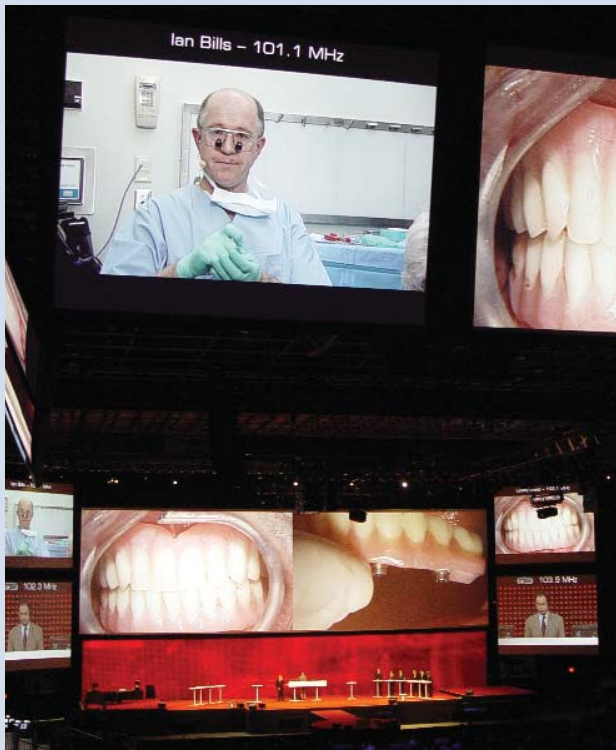
New techniques, technologies and componentry were presented throughout the conference, including the new NobelActive and zirconia implants, platform shifting, “curvy abutments” along with developments in NobelGuide software including maxillo-facial applications (of special interest to PI Branemark) and the introduction of the 1-piece full arch zirconia implant bridges and pressable Procera laminates, crowns and bonded bridges... a significant number of new and exciting developments!

For those wanting a more personal experience and “customised” information, delegates could book in for a “one-on-one” session, where expert clini-

cians from around the world would sit and answer questions from the delegates on an individual basis, review their treatment plans and techniques and generally provide a very personal, high level experience. It is not often that one can have an individual and focused consultation with people of the calibre of Drs Peter Moy, Sascha Jovanovic, Peter Schupbach, Peter Whorle or Daniel van Steenberghe, to name a few! These sessions were booked in 20-minute increments for delegates and many took the opportunity to book several sessions, over the days of the conference to maximise their learning experience. Several Australians were involved in this program which was very popular and I am sure will become a regular feature of these conferences.

## A conference like no other...

By Dr Ian Bills



From a different perspective, the enthusiasm of the large numbers of participants who had had little or no previous implant experience showed clearly that implant dentistry is fast becoming “everyday” dentistry. And lastly, only in Las Vegas could you find yourself being upstaged by Dr Phil.

*Dr Bills, in private practice in Adelaide, is pictured performing a “Rehabilitation of the completely edentulous mandible using an implant-supported, bar-retained removable denture” beamed live to the main arena from Loma Linda University near Los Angeles.*

Everyone who decided not to attend the recent Nobel Biocare World Conference in Las Vegas on the basis that it would be the same as 2005 could not have been further from the mark. It was apparent in the first hour that this was a conference like no other. Quality presentations shown simultaneously coupled with opinion from numerous world-renowned experts made for an unprecedented learning experience. But it did not stop there as the range of opportunities to direct your own program in the areas of interest was huge. Whether it was lectures, hands-on training or One-on-One discussions, someone was there to discuss your problem.

The presentations in the main auditorium showed how rapidly this area of implant dentistry, and in fact of crown and bridge for natural teeth as well, is changing. Many procedures shown had not been demonstrated live before and the highlight for me was the vascularised graft, complete with pre-installed implants from a patient’s leg to augment a resorbed mandible.

To be able to be involved in this particular conference, even with a relatively minor role, was quite an experience. To see the work going on behind the scenes by scores of totally dedicated professionals to enable them to show these procedures from various parts of the globe was, to say the least, impressive. Similarly the efforts in preparation by all concerned to ensure the procedures demonstrated followed approved protocols, backed by references shown simultaneously on a side screen throughout, meant those in the audience were given the very best information available.

## What's new pussycat...



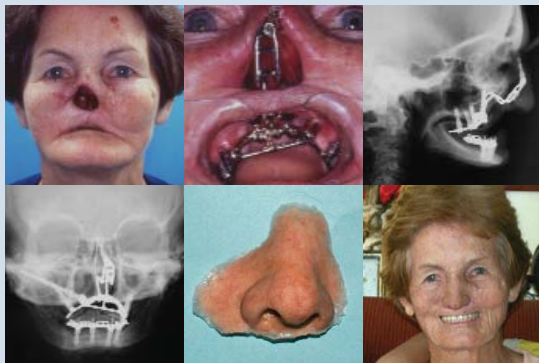
### NobelActive™

NobelActive, a new one-stage implant that features a unique shape and a new thread design with a 'self-drilling' capability to facilitate drilling protocols in areas of narrower osteotomy was previewed. The product is easy to use and provides high initial stability and good outcomes. NobelActive has been designed for increased soft tissue volume at the head of the implant, resulting in improved aesthetics.



### Curvy™ Abutment

This new implant abutment features an hourglass shape at its base and a curved margin, which have been designed to stabilize and promote an excellent soft tissue seal. This product will work with all two-stage Nobel Biocare implants.



### Nobel Biocare Maxillofacial Concept

The Maxillofacial Concept will offer the market's most complete range of "fixed" solutions for reconstructing a person's face, both inside and outside the mouth.

### New products announced

- NobelActive implant
- Curvy abutment
- Maxillofacial Concept
- Procera Maryland Bridge
- NobelGuide Zygomatic software
- Procera Crown Zirconia 0.4

## A chance to go one-on-one and more...



I had the opportunity to attend Nobel Biocare's World Conference in May this year. It is amazing that so many dental professionals attend this meeting and the conference offered an exciting blend of lectures, workshops and multiple live surgeries that were beamed in live via satellite from different locations. It was another success in delivery of what must have been a logistical nightmare with so many different procedures going on.

By Dr Christopher CK Ho

One of the more innovative offerings from this conference was the extremely rare opportunity to have so called "one-on-ones" with the leaders in implant and aesthetic dentistry. These were sessions that attendee dentists could arrange to talk about their cases, procedures, complications, or anything in particular. One could bring along cases and discuss the treatment planning with assessment of radiographs and study models. Honest and constructive feedback could be given to aid the dentist in their endeavours to offer patients the optimal treatment, and to have so many clinicians from all around the globe giving their opinions on a one-to-one basis has not been done before.

It was a real pleasure and an educational experience to be able to talk to world leaders in certain areas from ceramics, to soft tissue management and grafting. A number of my Australian colleagues were able to experience this one-on-one program and also gave this new program rave reviews. Some even hung around on the off chance that some dentists wouldn't show up for their arranged time and then took their places.

I found this to be a refreshing change that Nobel Biocare offered to the attendees of this conference, as this was a really special educational experience and if offered again should not be missed.

*Dr Ho, in private practice in Sydney, was one of 85 Australian clinicians who attended the World Conference.*

For those aspiring researchers and young clinicians, there was the scientific poster display and competition with over 300 presentations. Our very own Sydney University Dental Faculty was well represented with two presentations of very high calibre. I had the pleasure of being one of the judges for the assessment of the poster presentations, and indeed it was a very hard job to separate the winners from such a high-quality field and across a diverse range of presentations. There is certainly no shortage in talent on the way up!

For those seeking more intense knowledge on a certain topic, there were nearly 10,000 places available for workshops and hands-on sessions where delegates could attend and gain more detailed knowledge on products, technologies or techniques, relevant to their topic of interest. These sessions, due to their pop-

ularity, had to be pre-booked, which was reflected in the demand for over 15,000 attendee places!

One left this conference with a “mental hangover” from the diversity and volume of information made available. But a World Conference is much more than lectures and various presentations. It is also a meeting place. A meeting place for friendship and peers in this wonderful, world dental fraternity. For some, their greatest knowledge and inspiration may come from a meeting in a bar, or discussing their experiences with others over a late-night dinner after experiencing one of the many incredible shows that Vegas has to offer, year-round. If that was not enough, Nobel Biocare added to this experience with lunches, dinners and guest entertainers which varied from “Dr Phil” to Tom Jones!

Looking forward, it seems hard to imagine how the bar can be lifted much higher, however, on track record, Brien Lang will certainly be able to achieve this. In speaking with Brien prior to the conclusion of the program, I know he has some special innovations in store which will certainly go to helping make the next World Conference, again, something not to be missed... book your diary now for May 2009!

*Dr Dunn, in private practice in Sydney, performed a “Procera Crown and Bridge solution for natural teeth - full-mouth rehabilitation using alumina and zirconia crowns and bridges” beamed live to the main arena from Loma Linda University near Los Angeles. In addition, Dr Dunn also offered his clinical opinions and advice as part of the one-on-one program and as a judge in the poster competition.*

## On show to the world...

By Dr David Jones

The inevitable flights, time, the sheer scale of the hotels on “the strip”. That’s Vegas. Then there was the conference. With 10,000 registered attendance, it certainly had the potential to be a circus. It wasn’t.

I was one of several hundred that presented posters. Not surprisingly, I paid more attention than I had in the past. Contributions ranged from young dentists’ and technicians’ clinical cases to university research and interdisciplinary projects.

Within the broad theme of implant dentistry, it was apparent that there were many differences in application and approach to treatment. These would be generally classified as:

- The number of implants used per reconstruction.
- The number of units needed for a full reconstruction.
- Immediate, or sequential treatment with multiple surgeries; and
- The number of clinicians involved.

Presenting a poster involved a few challenges. Finding and documenting a suitable “current” case that fitted the poster program criteria (for example, 12-15 photos) was the first obvious hurdle. Less apparently, but soon evident, was explaining the context in which the work was done plus its scope and then “telling the story” with limited words and photos, so that it could be scanned by some and scrutinised by

others. Personal pride, I suppose, meant I wanted to use or extend the use of technology (albeit on a small scale) rather than repeat what had been shown many times before. I also wanted to demonstrate the applicability of this to general dental practice.

The learning curve involved was a great experience in itself. New skills, practice organization and time management changes were all involved. Might I say a “little” reading and learning was also needed.

The result of this process was that my appetite for the conference was whetter. I was also able to appreciate some of the more subtle aspects of the different approaches to treatment presented.

Being in the here and now of everyday dentistry my whole practice has benefited from “moving up a notch”.

*Dr Jones, in private practice in North Sydney, presented his poster titled: “The use of Procera technologies is demonstrated to meet a patient request and simplify the number of procedures needed for an acceptable aesthetic result, so optimising patient care. Nobel-Guide with immediate replacement and immediate function provisionals, then a screw retained Procera zirconia bridge and crown with NobelRondo ceramic.”*

