Few things are as important as truth

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free..." ~ JOHN VIII-XXXII

This quote from the book of John is inscribed on the lobby wall of the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia, and I think of it often while treating patients.

In clinical endodontics, as with all science, few things are as important as truth. Our essential sworn duty is to “do no harm.” We risk no greater harm to our patients than when we proceed on the basis of assumption, presumption, or habit, without first doing everything we can to ascertain the truth of our patient’s condition.

Fortunately, we have tools today that allow us to see more, appreciate more, and evaluate more of a patient’s condition than ever before.

My first epiphany in this realm was while still practicing general dentistry. My insatiable quest for continuing education took me to Santa Barbara, California, under the guidance of Dr. Cliff Ruddell. It was there that I first looked through a dental operating microscope. I was literally AMAZED!

French author Marcel Proust once observed, “The true voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.” As soon as I integrated a dental microscope into my general practice and peered through the lenses, I understood the truth of Proust’s wisdom.

Thanks to the lighting and magnification of the scope, I was seeing the clearest thing possible to the truth of my patient’s condition. Now I could see, with vivid clarity, every tooth margin. I looked, in intimate detail, at things that I saw clinically...but had not really seen.

Shortly, I came to realize another truth: we cannot treat what we cannot see. And the better we can see it, the better we can treat it.

Proper use of the microscope impacts everyone involved in patient care: the clinician who immediately gains confidence, the assistant (hopefully utilizing the assistant’s binoculars) who can better anticipate and understand the clinical conditions and needs, the office staff who know that their clinicians are providing the most well-informed care possible, and of course, the patients themselves who benefit from potentially reduced chair time, reduced pain and discomfort, decreased recovery times, and less risk of the need for future treatment.

While attending graduate school at Boston University, my mentor, Dr. Herb Schilder, sometimes referred to me as “The Virus,” because I was so excited about new dental technologies — and I was all too eager to share that enthusiasm with my classmates, my teachers, and anyone else who would listen. But the truth is that my love affair is not really with technology itself, but with what I can do with it. And that still holds true today. The things that we are able to do today with technology in dentistry are truly amazing.

Without question, I consider the dental operating microscope the single most important piece of technology that I have incorporated into my practice. Like the microscope, which I discovered purely by accident, more recently, Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) has proven to be a practice game changer for me. And like the microscope, it has transformed both the way that I practice and the way that I think about truth.

Dr. Chris Potts BDS, DGDP (UK), business advisor and ex-head of Boots Wales

Dr. Ellis Paul BDS, LDS, FFGDP (UK), FICD, editor-in-chief Private Dentistry

Dr. Paul Langmaid CBE, BDS, ex chief dental officer to the Government for Northern Ireland

Dr. Alexandra Day BDS, VT

Dr. Peter F Kurer LDS, MGDS, RCS

Dr. Gregor M. Kurburski DDS, MD, FICD, DCIC

Dr. Howard Lloyd BDS, MS, FGDP, MDR RCS, MPR RCS

Dr. Kenneth Rohwer DDS, MDS

Dr. Stephen Saunders DDS, MS, FDS RCS

Dr. Samuel D O Dorn DDS

Dr. Joshua Moshonov DMD

Dr. Nicholas Morley DDS

Dr. Michael Tagger DMD, MS

Dr. Yosef Nahman DDS, MS

Dr. Gary Nino BDS, DDS, MS, FRACDS, FICD, FFFA

Dr. James Rees BDS, MS, DDS, FDS RCS

Dr. Louis E. Reisman DDS

Dr. Syngapsky DDS, MS

Dr. Ken Serota DDS, MS, MS, DO

Dr. Steve Trope BDS, MS, MD

Dr. Peter Valianti DDS

Dr. Rick Walton DDS, MD

Endodontics & Implantology (Arizona)

North Scottsdale Endodontics & Implantology (Arizona)

aka: Clamdawg

Endodontic practice 1

Volume 6 Number 6

Endodontic Practice • US

November-December 2013 • Volume 6 Number 6

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Julian Webber BDS, MS, DGDP, FICO
Pierre-Max Duches BDS, FICO
Dr. Michael Tagger DMD, MS
Clifford J Rubideau DDS
John W. O’Connell DDS, MS

EDITORIAL ADVISORS
Lancaster Church DDS, MD, MS
L. Stephen Buchanan DDS, MS, FICD
Gary B Carr DDS
Amadeo Castelvecchi DDS, MD
Gordon J. Christensen DDS, MD, MS
Brian Cohen DDS, MD, MS, DDS, DSGP, LS RCS
Stephen Cohen MD, DDS, FACS, FICD
Simon Cunningham BDS, LDS RCS, MS
Samuel D O’Donnelly DDS
Joseph Dorgan DDS
Tony Druzin DDS, MD, BS, MM
Chris Emery BDS, MSc, MIR, MDIDCS
Luc H Yana DDS
Robert Reicher DMD
Stephen Fied BDS, MSc
Marcia Fribben BDS
Gerald L. Gluckman DDS, MS
Kohr Kulkarni BDS, MD, MS, PhD
Anthony E Kosnakos BDS, MSc
Jeffrey W. Kubler DDS, MS, MD
Syngapsky DDS, MS, PhD
Kenneth A Koch DMD
Peter F. Kurer LDS, MDS, RCS
Gregor M. Kurth DDS, MFA, FAPC, FACD, DCIC
Howard Lloyd BDS, MS, FGDP, MS RCS, MPR RCS
Stephen Manning BDS, MS, FGDS
Joshua Mosher MD
Carlos Murillo CD
Yosef Nahman DDS, MS
Gary Nino BDS, DDS, MS, FRACDS, FICD, FFFA
William Perrin DDS, DMD, MD
David L Pitts DDS, MDIDCS
Alison Quarlaugh ENSD, MSc, DDS, FDS, MR RCS
John Regan RDIDTSD, MS, QDGP
Jeremey Rees BDS, MS, DDS, FDS RCS, PhD
Louis E. Reisman DDS
Stephen F. Schwartz DDS, MS
Ken Serota DDS, MS, DO
Eve Serra DDS, MS, MD, MS, IS
Michael Taggart DMD
Martin Trope BDS, DMD
Peter Valianti DDS
Rick Walton DDS, MD
John Whitworth PhD, DDS, FGDS, RCS

PUBLISHER  |  Lisa Miller
Email: lmmiller@medmarkaz.com Tel: (480) 403-1500

MANAGING EDITOR  |  Mall Schrader-Feld
Email: msf@mcall.com Tel: (727) 515-5118

ASSISTANT EDITOR  |  Kay Harvey Fernandez
Email: kayh@medmarkaz.com Tel: (727) 212-0413

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  |  Merid Gross
Email: mgross@medmarkaz.com Tel: (727) 393-3394

DIRECTOR OF SALES  |  Michelle Manning
Email: mmanning@medmarkaz.com Tel: (480) 621-8955

NATIONAL SALES/MARKETING MANAGER
Drew Trombly
Email: dtrombly@medmarkaz.com Tel: (813) 459-2650

PRODUCTION MANAGER/CLIENT RELATIONS
Ashleen Goud
Email: agoud@medmarkaz.com Tel: (813) 340-4373

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/subscription coordinator
Lauren Peyser
Email: lpeyser@medmarkaz.com Tel: (480) 621-8955

MedMark, LLC
15720 N. Gateway-Hayden Loop, Ste 9
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Tel: (480) 621-8955 Fax: (480) 629-4002 Toll-free: (800) 570-9486 Web: www.endodonticpractice.us

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
1 year (6 issues) $99
3 years (18 issues) $239

Copyright © 2013 Endodontic Practice. All rights reserved. MEDMARK, LLC is part of the Premiere Dental Publishing Group. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or any means by any means without the written consent of the publisher. This magazine is a publication of MEDMARK, LLC. The publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published, or in consequences arising from the information contained herein. The publisher assumes no liability for any error or omission in this magazine. Neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable or responsible for any claim or cause of action by any personcer or persons arising out of the use or possession. The publisher assumes no liability for any claim or cause of action by any person arising out of the use or possession of this magazine. This publication cannot be regarded as a replacement for advice of a professional advisor. This publication is provided as a guide, and is not intended to be a substitute for the advice of the authority and is not necessarily the opinion of Endodontic Practice or its publisher.

Thomas V. McClammy, DMD, MS
aka: Clamdawg
North Scottsdale Endodontics & Implantology (Arizona)
Foundational Dental Seminars