



Dear Bakersfield Dental Colleagues,

This year, as part of a “new year’s resolution”, I’ve committed to a series of one-day workshops in restorative dentistry, the intention being to better train my staff and associates in the basics of modern dental practice.

Because I’m planning to take a significant amount of time in preparation, I figured that it would make sense to ask any others who are interested in either learning or sharing their own knowledge in these areas to participate. That way, we can create a better learning environment for my own team-members, while providing an opportunity for others to join the fun.

I am going to make as complete a learning experience as I can, but I’m definitely not going to worry about animated PowerPoint shows, nor am I going to try to impress everyone with my clinical wizardry. Rather, I just want to share some nuts-and-bolts knowledge that I’ve learned from the trenches over these past 25 years.

So this series is geared mostly toward either younger dentists, or those more seasoned practitioners who have a desire to expand their skills into areas new to them. These workshops are not going to put LVI, Pac-Live, or Pankey out of business, but we’ll cover the fundamentals.

The general format will consist of a brief lecture portion, then a group practice session on extracted teeth, followed by observation and finally performance of each procedure on a live patient. As to costs, I’ll FAX you a materials list if you wish, or in the alternative I will provide everything you need at cost.

There is no course tuition to participate.

If you wish, our staff and their families can be patients for you, or you can arrange to bring your own. Either way, I expect these workshops to be valuable for those wanting to expand their clinical skills, in a structured and supervised environment.

Although we will grant California CE credits, please don’t come unless you are genuinely interested in learning the procedures and techniques, as there is really a very limited capacity.

Eventually, this process will extend into subjects of a management nature, like office procedure, staff management, marketing, etc., but for now, I want to keep the focus on clinical dentistry..... the bedrock of our professional lives.

Attached you will find a summary of upcoming course topics, with dates as to each. Please call me at 831-9024 if you can participate, as we’ll need to arrange all the necessities.

Come join the fun.....I look forward to meeting you,

Neil Millikin, D.D.S.

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Topics for Saturday, Feb. 7 (9:30 – 5:00 with lunch break – 7 CE Units):

Primary Topic: “Reamin’ and Dreamin” – Automated NiTi endodontics

Based on the techniques of Scott Perkins and Steve Buchanan, we will look at techniques that can allow excellent endodontics in as little as 15 minute. In addition to NiTi filing systems, we will use the electronic apex locator, auto-reverse handpieces, and Soft-core warm gutta percha obturation.

Secondary Topic: “Are you numb yet?” – Instant and profound anesthesia

Based on the techniques of Steve Mautner, Rod Kurthy, and Scott Perkins, we will explore the use of EMLA topical anesthetic, Septacaine, and the proper use of the Ligmaject-type periodontal ligament injector. Leave your “blocks” at the door!

Secondary Topic: “Go, Go, Go” – Rapid experience acquisition protocol

In a modern dental practice, it can be a challenge to gain enough experience to get good at any new procedure. We will explore a method of gaining a year’s experience in a couple of hours. We will then use this method to gain comfort and experience in endo prior to working with a live patient!

Topics for Saturday, Feb. 28: (9:30 – 5:00 with lunch break – 7 CE Units):

Primary Topic: “A bonding Experience” – Problem-free posterior composites

Open contacts, occlusal prematurities, thermal and biting sensitivity, recurrent decay, and other problems often plague the dentist transitioning to posterior composite restorations. Using the methods of Marshall White and others, we will tackle posterior composites so that you can feel comfortable and confident in their placement.

Secondary Topic: “Turn this Way” – Positioning, retraction, lighting – visibility and access

Especially for the new practitioner, access and visibility determine efficiency and quality more than any other factor. We will gain insights into these critical steps to any quality dental restoration.

Secondary Topic: “Grab and Go” – Rapid procedure management techniques

The average dental office stocks literally thousands of different supplies and materials, and it seems a constant struggle to keep them organized and in stock. Setting up a treatment room can sometimes take longer than the procedure itself! We will introduce a three-prong approach to avoid the time wasted looking for the materials you need. This is a great topic for staff, and even for experienced practitioners.

Topics for March and Beyond:

- *Rapid and predictable crowns*
- *Placing and restoring your first implant*
- *Efficient crown cementation*
- *Dental emergency management*
- *Rapid clinical documentation*
- *Digital dental photography*
- *Digital radiography*
- *Treatment planning for predictability*
- *Overdentures made easy*
- *Mini implants for denture stabilization*