

An aesthetics extravaganza

By James Goolnik

I was lucky enough to be invited to Discuss Dental's 10th Las Vegas Extravaganza, held at the Venetian Hotel, Las Vegas, over Memorial day weekend (27-29 May 2005).

As always with such a major event, the choice was overwhelming, with over 21 different speakers in four massive rooms. There were events for the whole team, encompassing both clinical and management programmes.

A packed conference programme also had to compete with cloudless skies, over 100°F heat outside and all the entertainment that Vegas has to offer. Whatever time of day you left the conference, people were gambling at the tables. It was even hard to find time to sleep. Las Vegas is one of those cities that you have to visit, not for a well-earned restful break but for the full-on experience and that was something that I did not want to miss.

The conference started with indoor fireworks and a rendition of the American Anthem at 8am on Friday morning.

Newton Fahl was there showcasing his beautiful composite work. He described the detailed steps that it takes to produce conservative direct

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aesthetic anterior restorations. He also gave lots of tips on layering, which system to choose for which situation, and finishing and polishing techniques.

Pascal Magne helped to show a predominately American audience that all teeth do not need to be bleach white. He showed beautiful restorations that conformed to his 'biometric principle' of blending in with their surroundings.

Ron Jackson gave an overview of aesthetic inlays and onlays, including what materials to choose in which situations. He had a great section on bonding and easy ways to eradicate post-operative sensitivity completely.

Representatives from Discuss Dental were on hand to showcase the new Zoom 2 and explain how amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP) has been incorporated in all of its new whitening products. ACP helps prevent tooth sensitivity and increases the enamel's lustre. Zoom 2 has a new ultraviolet light that activates a hydrogen peroxide gel that is catalysed by a photo-fenton reaction of peroxide and dissolved iron. It works in three 15-minute cycles with instant start with no warm-up time. Users of the original Zoom system will see a reduction of surgery time of 20 minutes and less sensitivity with Zoom 2.

There were three keynote speakers. Actor Sean Astin

(Samwise, Frodo's companion in *Lord of the Rings*) talked about growing-up in Hollywood and being involved in one of the most successful films of all time.

Dr Phil McGraw (a psychologist seen on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*) tried to inspire the audience to 'get real'.

Finally, Jeanne Robertson at 6'2" was hard to miss on the podium; she talked about achieving the Miss Carolina crown and her life since then.

Live entertainment was from Carrot Top. I expected not to understand the American humour but he was great, lots of visual humour with trunks full of props. *Boogie Nights* finished the night off with dancing.

We also went to *Cirque du Soleil* at the Bellagio. The show *O* was spectacular, using synchronised swimmers, acrobats and divers revolving around a changing set above and below water.

I have to thank Discuss Dental and especially Bill Dorfman and Robert Hayman, who were great hosts.

I am now eagerly anticipating next year's event, which may yet eclipse this year's, with keynote speakers being Steven Covey (the author of *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*) and Donald Trump (founder of the Trump series of companies and the television programme *The Apprentice USA*). 



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