John R. Linstrom D.D.S. specializes in microscope-enhanced cosmetic and general dentistry

John Linstrom was one of a select group of new members recently admitted into the Academy of Microscope Enhanced Dentistry at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Academy. The Academy is composed of dentists who are pioneers in the use of microscopes in dentistry. Held in Tucson, the meeting was attended by several hundred dentists, including representatives from twelve other countries.

Currently, fewer than one percent of dentists use microscopes outside the field of endodontics, or root canal treatment. "I use the microscope for every procedure I do," says Dr. Linstrom. "Although microscopes have been used in other fields of medicine for some time, they are relatively new to dentistry."

Dr. Linstrom has been using the microscope in his practice for about 4½ years. "I am excited to learn that this year, four undergraduate dental programs in the United States and one in Canada will be teaching students procedures with the microscope."



The friendly, caring team includes: standing, from left, Jennifer, Kimberlee, Darby, Dr. Linstrom, and Hidi; seated, from left, Teamer and Dr. Linstrom's wife Julianne.

Dr. Linstrom opened his current East Medford office 5½ years ago, which is outfitted with an impressive array of technologically advanced equipment. He introduced his first microscope into a treatment room in 2002. He says it got to the point where he would ask the next patient if he wouldn't mind waiting for the microscope treatment room, even if the appointment was just for a couple of fillings. "I felt that I could only do my very best work under the microscope, and I didn't want my patients to have anything but my best." One year later, he outfitted his second treatment room with an additional microscope.

While Dr. Linstrom views his patient's mouth through the maneuverable microscope, the patient can see everything he sees on an overhead monitor. Dr. Linstrom says patients say two things to him about viewing



Dr. Linstrom demonstrates microscope-enhanced dentistry. While he views the patient's mouth through the maneauverable microscope, the patient can see everything he sees on an overhead monitor.

the procedure. First: "I *don't* want to watch." Then, five minutes later: "Could you move your hand? I can't see the monitor."

He notes, "Where historically dentistry has been symptom-based, the microscope can be the key to preventive-based dentistry, helping the dentist and patient to identify a problem before a patient experiences discomfort. Many times I find that the microscope allows early detection of decay and structural cracks that I cannot otherwise see with traditional magnification, or loupes. My patients often times follow along with me, watching their procedure on the overhead monitor, and afterwards want to see the rest of their teeth on the overhead monitor using the microscope."

Dr. Linstrom's quest for excellence doesn't end with the use of the microscope; he pursues continuing education in all areas of dentistry. While dentists are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years, Dr. Linstrom has completed over 180 hours of continuing education this year. He attends classes throughout the country about one weekend each month. "Dentistry changes so much each year," he says, "and my patients deserve to be provided with the best dentistry has to offer in 2006." His cosmetic dentistry training includes extensive post-graduate course work through UCLA School of Dentistry and the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies.

In the past few years he has been keeping abreast of new materials and techniques now available for porcelain veneers, inlays and crowns. "The new materials available are stronger and more aesthetic than ever before," he emphasizes. When it

comes to fabricating veneers and crowns, he works only with premium laboratories and technicians, including the one featured on the television program "Extreme Makeover." He finds his greatest rewards in performing extensive makeovers and full mouth reconstruction. "A healthy, beautiful smile can make all the difference," he notes. "Cosmetic dentistry can serve as a life-changing experience helping people gain confidence and a new self image."

Another new technology that Dr. Linstrom embraces is the use of the soft tissue laser. He believes this is an excellent tool for precisely sculpting gum tissue—a highly important aspect of cosmetic dentistry. It is also highly effective when used to aid in the treatment of gum tissue diseases including gingivitis and periodontal disease.

Dr. Linstrom says he "seeks to engage patients through the use of video monitors and the microscope so that they can become integral partners in attaining their oral health goals. I feel very fortunate to be in dentistry today. There has never been a more exciting time than the present to integrate technology and care into a healthy smile for each one of our patients."

A comprehensive 90-minute appointment is provided for first-time patients, which includes all the necessary digital x-rays, intra-oral camera pictures and digital pictures for cosmetic before—and—after computer simulations, and a comprehensive examination with time to discuss the patient's desires in detail. Patients say they appreciate Dr. Linstrom's enthusiasm and thoroughness in treatment.

Dr. Linstrom is a graduate of the UCLA School of Dentistry. His friendly, caring team includes his wife, Julianne, who serves as manager; a dental hygienist; two dental assistants; a treatment coordinator; and a front office coordinator.

Prospective patient are encouraged to call for all their general dentistry needs. Additionally, you are invited to call now for a complimentary cosmetic consultation.



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