

The Alpha Omega



# ALUMNEWS

of Greater Los Angeles

Alpha Tau Chapter • Tau Chapter [www.aosocal.org](http://www.aosocal.org)

October 2011

*October*



Renzo Casellini, M.D.T.

*presents*

“The Newest Techniques  
in Implant Esthetics”

Wednesday, October 26th, 2011

## ABOUT THE TOPIC

Mr. Renzo C. Casellini, Master Dental Technologist, will present an overview of what you can do with implants in all prosthetic situations, whether it is removable, fixed, or hybrid. He will share his 27 years of experience working with more than 50,000 implants and demonstrate that the combination of esthetics and Biomechanics produces predictably superior restorations. Prosthetic management is a major factor in the success or failure of implant treatment. Inadequate planning, improper selection of a patient or implant system is the most frequent cause of restorative and cosmetic failures. Mr. Casellini will also share:

- Newest developing techniques on esthetics and implants.
- Newest techniques in Zirconium abutments, over structures, crowns, and full screw retained restoration in zirconium with white and pink porcelain esthetics from Europe.
- Newest technique for removable, fixed, screw retained and cemented implant restorations.
- Causes of restorative and cosmetic failures.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mr. Casellini received his education in Switzerland, where his family has been dynamically involved in the dental industry for four generations. For the past 34 years he has been the owner of Swiss Quality Dental Ceramics & Dental Implant Studio, servicing accounts throughout the United States and Internationally. His detailed articles on implants and esthetics have been featured in over 50 professional publications throughout the world. Mr. Casellini has specialized in porcelain restorations, full mouth reconstruction, attachment combination cases, Osseo integrated implants, and telescopic designs. He has served as an instructor in Restorative Dentistry at Loma Linda University of California, and is a member of several international associations, and frequently lectures worldwide on esthetic implant restorations for the last 27 years. Mr. Casellini has received a Mastership from the American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics, the International College of Oral Implantologists, as well as the Alliance of the American College of Prosthodontists. He is currently the Board President of The Implant Prosthodontic Section of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. In 2009 he became a Diplomat of the American Dental Implant Association.

**DATE:**  
Wednesday, October 26th, 2011

**LOCATION:**  
Sinai Temple  
10400 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
*corner of Wilshire Blvd. and Beverly Glen*

**TIME:**  
Cocktails 6:15 p.m.  
Dinner 6:45 p.m.  
Speaker 7:15 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Gene Manusov

**PHONE RESERVATIONS**  
(310) 398-9626

**INTERNET RESERVATIONS**  
[dr.genem1@verizon.net](mailto:dr.genem1@verizon.net)

**REGISTRATION**  
Member pre-register \$75.00  
Guest (non-dentist) \$75.00  
Member at the door \$85.00  
Non-Member \$85.00

## EDITOR'S REPORT



### A NEW YEAR

*Dear Fraters,*

I hope this newsletter finds you all well rested after our long summer hiatus. As we begin our new year, our board is excited to bring a new lineup of events to our membership.

**Dr. Ramin Shabtaie**, our new president, has lead us in our direction to make this year the best yet!

**Dr. Jeff Berlin**, our web-master, has been working tirelessly to bring you our new Alpha Omega Website ([aosocal.org](http://aosocal.org)), which is now up and running. This new tool will allow us not only see this years events and years past newsletters, but will enable us to have the convenience to sign up for meetings and pay for events and membership online!

**Dr. Mitch Levitt**, our president-elect and program chair, has worked hard to bring a diverse group of speakers throughout the year at our meetings. The broad range of topics should appeal to all members, and we encourage everybody to attend all the meetings.

*Remember!* – if you prepay for the entire year's five meetings, one meeting will be free!

Although our board works hard to put our programs together, it is you, our members, which make Alpha Omega great. We look forward to our great new year, and we always welcome any comments and suggestions to continue to improve!

*Gregory Urfrig, DMD*

### 2011-12 L.A. Chapter Schedule

**Oct. 26** – Renzo Casellini, M.D.T.  
*"The Newest Techniques of Implant Esthetics"*

**Nov. 30** – Joel Laudenbach, DMD  
*"Hot Topics in Oral Medicine"*

**Feb. 29** TBD

**April 25** – Manual Diaz, Esq.  
*"Embezzlement in the Dental Office"*

**May 16** – Rabbi Wolpe - Social event  
*Topic TBD*

### WE ARE PROUD

L.A. Board member **Michelle Kelman**, and a newly appointed Board member of the **ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND**, is to be honored by ICRF VISION'S GROUP with their **"2011 Visionary of the Year Award"** at their next Monte Carlo Night. **SEE PAGE 5.**

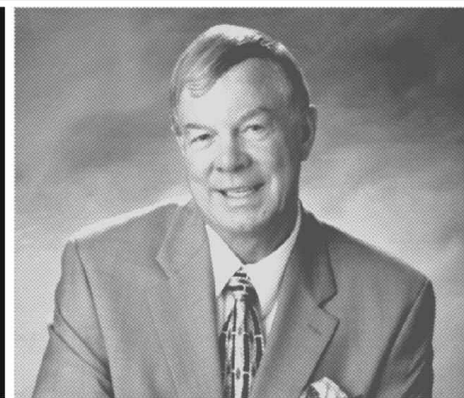
Dr. Michelle (as her patients call her) received her doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of Southern California in 2004. As AO president of Tau Chapter, she received the Nathan Styrt Scholarship Award. Her postdoctoral training focused on the growth and development of healthy and medically complex infants, children, and individuals with special needs in both a clinical and hospital setting. Dr. Michelle has lectured internationally and is very active in the community, Mazel Tov!

### OUR AO WEBSITE IS BACK!!

Thanks to our computer *GURU* and Webmaster, Jeff Berlin, our new and greatly improved website is finally online. Please visit [www.aosocal.org](http://www.aosocal.org) for all scientific meeting schedules, officer's rosters, links to many dental organizations, archived AO newsletters and much more.

***We appreciate all comments!***

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*Letters to the Editor are welcome and appreciated*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**CONTINUING WORK**



*Dear Fraters,*

This year I have the honor of being the president of our Los Angeles chapter. With the help of our wonderful and dedicated board members, we plan to bring another year full of events that will benefit every member. The board, as usual, took a great deal of time and effort to organize and present an impressive line up of activities and meetings, and for that every member on the board should be commended. In return, what we ask is for our members to attend the scientific lectures and the planned events.

Every year the dental community spends a fortune in continuing education in many forms. Doctors and allied staff pay for the courses in variety of formats and venues. Much of the revenues are spent on advertising the courses or what I would like to call "please come here". Many of the outreach efforts are smart and innovative. While most of the effort placed to promote and educate the dental field is through large organizations, some are more questionable in nature and credibility. Locally, there are numerous organizations offering courses in topics ranging from esthetics and restorative to implants and bone grafting.

One of the advantages of Alpha Omega is the ease and simplicity of gaining practical and dependable continuing education from reputable sources at a familiar and accessible setting. The topics are always hot and relevant to the practitioner. But there's more than meets the eye. Alpha Omega has been unifying dentists locally and internationally on many levels. Although its foundation is based on Judaism- the cornerstone on which the fraternity thrives, there is more to gain by being a part of the community.

For many years, the continuing education and scientific meetings provided by our Los Angeles chapter has been attracting more of the well qualified speakers on a variety of topics. The topics and the speakers are chosen carefully, keeping in mind the needs of today's practitioners. In addition, a variety of activities are provided for the younger and the more seasoned members. The comradery and personal interaction between members and the feeling of being part of the family is priceless. The fact that Alpha Omega proudly participates in many philanthropic affairs across the country as well as internationally, makes it so much easier to be a part of the gang.

Although my message will reach you in the Allumnews after the High Holidays, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful new year. Judaism is our cornerstone, yet our power is in our diversity.

*Fraternally Yours,*  
*Ramin Shabtaie, DDS*

# Looking Stem Cells in the Mouth

By Viva Sarah Press - September 05, 2011

Dental researchers at Tel Aviv University say adult oral mucosa cells could be the source of new therapies for neurodegenerative, heart, and autoimmune diseases, as well as diabetes.

It is known that adult-derived stem cells are problematic because they are less pliant and less able to transform into the stem cells that science needs to find breakthrough treatments for disease. Yet, highly potent embryonic stem cells aren't always available either because of ethical and safety controversy.

Now, Prof. Sandu Pitaru, of Tel Aviv University's Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine, says science's answer could be found in our mouths. According to Pitaru, stem cells of oral mucosa, the membrane that lines the inside of our mouths, do not seem to age along with the rest of our bodies.

"Wounds in the oral mucosa heal by regeneration, which means that the tissue reverts completely back to its original state," he says.

Prof. Pitaru set out to determine if oral mucosa could be a source for young, fetal-like stem cells with this unique healing ability. Even when obtained from an older patient,

he says, these stem cells still have properties of young or primitive stem cells - which have a high capacity to be transformed into different tissues.

Prof. Pitaru and his fellow researchers have already succeeded in coaxing oral mucosa stem cells into becoming other significant cells, including bone, cartilage, muscle, and even neurons.

All this, says Prof. Pitaru, is derived from a miniscule biopsy of tissue, measuring one by two by three millimeters. "We are able to grow trillions of stem cells from this small piece of tissue," he says. The site of the biopsy is readily accessible, and patients experience minimal discomfort and require almost no healing time. This makes the mouth a convenient site for harvesting stem cells.

Pitaru's research has been published in the journal Stem Cell.

Pitaru and his graduate students are currently in pre-clinical trials, implanting these stem cells into various tissues within small rodents. Their projects include researching the impact of the innovative cells as a treatment for chronic heart failure; neurodegenerative diseases; inflammatory autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's disease; and diabetes.

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## Monte Carlo Night

**V**ISIONS, The Next Generation of the Israel Cancer Research Fund, a dedicated group of young professionals whose vision is a cancer-free world, is proud to host its 11th Annual Monte Carlo Night fundraiser on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at The Mark in Los Angeles honoring **Michelle Kelman, D.D.S.** This event has proven to be a spectacular evening in years past—from notable entertainment, to gaming tables, drawings, and, of course, the ever-successful silent auction. Throughout the years, Monte Carlo Night has established itself as one of the city's top events for young professionals, attracting hundreds of people all with a common goal to raise funds for cutting-edge cancer research while enjoying an evening full of exciting festivities.

Since its inception, ICRF has provided more than \$40 million in cancer research grants, leading to monumental breakthroughs in the treatment of cancer. In fact, two ICRF sponsored scientists, Dr. Avram Hershko and Dr. Aaron Ciechanover, received the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. VISIONS, The Next Generation of ICRF, whose mission is to create a greater awareness of the need to find a cure for cancer, has alone raised more than \$600,000 to fund research fellowships through our successful Monte Carlo Night events. Donations like yours make this research possible.

We ask that you honor us with a donation to help make the night a success, thus enabling us to raise more funds for cancer research. The silent auction is made possible through the considerate donation of items from businesses and organizations from all over the community such as yours.

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To: Ellis Fields  
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To: Sumner & Fiby Saul  
*Congratulations on birth of Grandson Isaac*  
 From: Leon & Barbara Unterman  
 Gene & Sunnie Manusov  
 Al Rubel

*Dear Friends:*  
 Thank you for your good wishes for my speedy recovery. Your thoughts are deeply appreciated.  
 Sincerely,  
 Estelle Kahn

*Dear Fraters and Ladies,*  
 A grateful thank you for all your good wishes for my speedy recovery.  
 Thank YOU, Fraternally  
 Ellis Fields

*A Message from your Tribute Secretaries*  
 We are here to serve you and eagerly look forward to doing just that. We have 5 categories of tributes. They are as follows.

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The new Golden and Platinum tribute cards are lovely. They are both dark blue and the Golden Tribute has the AO insignia in gold on the front and the Platinum has the insignia in silver. Any personal message can be written inside. For any of your tribute needs, please contact.

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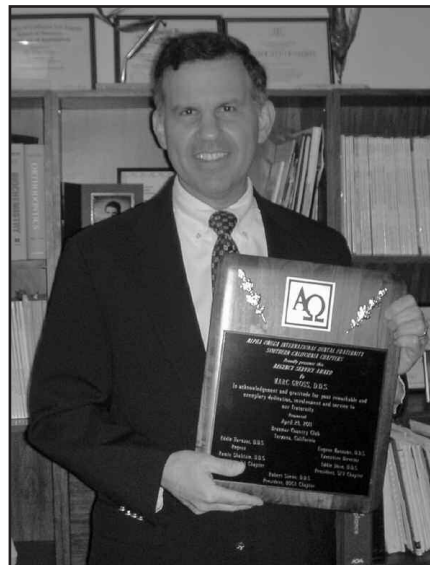
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## CONGRATULATIONS - AO IS PROUD

Marc Gross was presented the well-deserved "Regency Service Award" from International Alpha Omega and the Southern California Chapters on April 28, 2011 at the Braemar Country Club.

No one has been a better representative of Alpha Omega than Marc. It is most appropriate that he was acknowledged with much gratitude for his remarkable and exemplary dedication, involvement and service to Alpha Omega.

Thank you so very much - Marc and Sharon



- Mahrouz Cohen recently was installed as the Secretary of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society.
- Gary Herman recently was elected to a second term as a Trustee of the California Dental Association.
- Alan Stein currently is serving a second term as a Trustee of the California Dental Association.

Thank you to Mahrouz, Gary and Alan for their exceptional contributions upon our behalf to organized dentistry.

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# 2011 ALPHA OMEGA CONVENTION

DECEMBER 25, 2011 - JANUARY 1, 2012

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### AO SCIENTIFIC DINNER RESERVATIONS

Please make \_\_\_ dinner reservation(s) to attend this month's Alumni Dinner Meeting  
**at Sinai Temple.**

REGISTRATION:		TIME:	
Member pre-register	\$75.00	Cocktails	6:15 p.m.
Guest (non-dentist)	75.00	Dinner	6:45
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**2011-12 SFV Chapter Meeting Schedule**

**November 3, 2011**  
Robert Merrill, D.D.S., M.S.  
– “Sleep Apnea”

**February 23, 2012**  
Alan Felsenfeld, D.D.S.  
– “Oral Surgery”

**April 19, 2012**  
Kurt Skarin, J.D., Ph.D  
– “Practice Sales”

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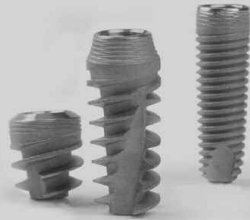
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## OUR AO WEBSITE IS BACK!!

Thanks to our computer GURU and Webmaster, Jeff Berlin, our new and greatly improved website is finally online. Please visit **www.aosocal.org** for all scientific meeting schedules, officer's rosters, links to many dental organizations, archived AO newsletters and much more.

**We appreciate all comments!**