

# ITI Section USA

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**Eduardo R. Lorenzana**, DDS, MS, established his private practice in San Antonio, Texas, focused on Periodontics, Oral Plastic Surgery, and Dental Implant Esthetics. Dr. Lorenzana earned his certificate in Periodontics and Masters in Oral Biology from Texas A&M - Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, Texas, and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Graduate Periodontics Department at Texas A&M - Baylor College of Dentistry and Faculty in the Preceptorship in Dental Implantology continuum at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio Dental School. Dr. Lorenzana shares his work and clinical perspectives through national and international lecturing, clinical research, and publications. He is Past-President of the Texas Society of Periodontists and President-Elect of the Southwest Society of Periodontists, and is a Fellow in the International Team for Implantology (ITI), currently serving as Communications Officer for the Section USA.

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**Eduardo R. Lorenzana** - *Communications Officer of the ITI Section USA*



**Dean Morton** - *President of the ITI Section USA*



**Gregory E. Phillips** - *Coordinator of the Study Clubs of the ITI Section USA*



**William C. Martin** - *Education Delegate of the ITI Section USA*

### **What contribution has the ITI Section USA made in Implant Dentistry in North America?**

US Fellows were influential with regard to Implant Dentistry in the US long before the ITI was re-organized to establish section structure. In the early 90's then members of the ITI were instrumental in bringing implants characterized by rough surfaces and tissue level designs to the region. These pioneers were not only clinicians but also recognized researchers bringing a focus onto the evidence, which supported quantum changes in how patients were managed. As time progressed and Implant Dentistry expanded, ITI members and fellows became influential in the dissemination of education at all levels—from university-based to practicing clinicians. These pioneering fellows were also critical in expanded influential roles with national organizations beyond (though including) the ITI. Most importantly, they established an accepted process for bringing evidence-based products to market and using them in a manner for the benefit of the patients.

### **Can you tell us more about the NA ITI Congress 2016, which will be held in Chicago on April 28-30?**

Planning for the ITI Congress North America 2016 is currently in full swing and our program once again includes international and national speakers as well as the very popular technology pod hall. However, in 2016 we are expecting

significantly higher attendance with many participants from overseas as the ITI is holding its biannual internal Committee meetings in Chicago, April 28 in the morning. As the ITI Annual General Meeting will also take place in the evening of the same day, we are expecting not only Committee members, but also many fellows from abroad to make the journey to Chicago. We expect attendance of more than 1,000 at the Congress. To accommodate this, we have arranged for parallel sessions during the Congress for the participants to choose from, so we can satisfy the educational desires from multiple disciplines. Consistent with the ideals of the ITI, the congress will bring evidence based, clinically applicable information to the audience. We will also be holding a Pre-Congress for our industrial partners and this is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, April 28, just after the Committee meetings. We have planned for this to be the largest ITI Congress North America has experienced and we hope you can join us!

### **What impact have the Study Clubs had in the ITI Section USA?**

The Study Club initiative allowed penetration of Implant Dentistry into the ground level of practices. It provided an opportunity for greater exposure to contemporary information and enhanced communication by bringing like-minded clinicians together in all regions of the country. It was instrumental in the

expansion of the ITI in the Section because it represents an investment by the ITI in those that have an interest in implant based patient care.

The impact of ITI Study Clubs in the United States has been very positive on several levels:

**Membership** - One of the primary objectives of the ITI Study Club initiative was to increase awareness within the dental community of the ITI and to increase membership. When the initiative began in 2010 there was a rapid growth in the number of Study Clubs in the United States and a corresponding rapid increase in the number of ITI members. At its peak, there were over 170 study clubs in the US; however, the number of members in each study club was fairly low. In order to improve efficiency, clubs with only a few members were closed and the members encouraged to become part of a nearby club. Although Study Clubs continue to close for a variety of reasons, new clubs are started and the total number of US ITI Study Clubs has remained fairly constant in the past few years at around 115-120. Currently, the average number of members in each Study Club ranges between 15

and 20, but several clubs have over 25 members. There has been a slight reduction in the ITI membership numbers in the Section USA, but overall there has been a nice growth of membership over pre-Study Club numbers.

**Education** - The obvious impact of the ITI Study Clubs is education on a local level, at the Study Clubs themselves. However, through the Study Clubs, the Section USA meetings, North American Congress and World Symposium are promoted. For many new ITI members, this is their first exposure to these meetings. Also, and maybe most importantly, the Online Academy has been introduced to many ITI members through the Study Clubs.

**Quality of Care** - Although difficult to measure, another impact of the ITI Study Clubs has been a general promotion of Dental Implantology within each Study Club community and an elevation of the quality of care of these patients. As knowledge of new materials and techniques is disseminated through the Study Clubs, more advanced procedures are being utilized by the study members, providing improved care to our patients.