THE FORCES SHAPING DENTISTRY

With all of the advances in technology, there’s no question that digital dentistry is here to stay and more and more dental practices and laboratories are taking advantage of the opportunities this ever-evolving trend provides. Digital dentistry offers patients better options in less time — something that certainly appeals to the common sense of both dentists and lab owners. Want to know more about digital dentistry? Check out the infographic below, which moves from story-telling statistics into the forces shaping dentistry today, as well as the specific article that was the cover story of June’s Dental Products Report and Digital Lab Products. You can find it online by going to http://tinyurl.com/digitaldentistry.

THE FEMALE DEMOGRAPHIC

A recent report published by USA News & World Report on ‘The 100 Best Jobs named dentistry as the 41 best job in the US. Drisko believes that dentistry strongly appeals to the nurturing and artistic instincts of women and is also attractive as a career choice because it is one of the few healthcare professions where you are your own boss. In 2012, according to the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) statistics, the numbers of women and men enrolling in dental school were nearly 50/50.

CHAIRSIDE MILLING & TECHNOLOGY

New developments in chairside milling materials, the growth of corporate dental practices, and the lure to offer same-day services will drive the demand for chairside milling. The speed of service and patient demand will be major driving forces behind chairside milling adoption.

THE ASSISTANT’S EXPANDED ROLE

Using a dental auxiliary to his/her maximum capabilities is critical from a profitability and efficiency standpoint. The assistant scans, designs, mills, and characterizes each restoration allowing the dentist to be more productive in other areas. Most go on to be very skilled assistants, sometimes training other dental professionals in the art and science of digital dental design and providing a high quality patient experience. Planmeca University offers a Certification in Digital Dentistry where assistants gain advanced education in various specialties. There are currently 300 certified assistants and technicians in the program.

DIGITAL WORKFLOW

Digital impression technology such as the Planmeca PlanScan Restorative system, as well as reliable materials assist in the transition from conventional restorative dentistry to a full digital workflow enabling practices to offer new services such as Same-Day Dentistry.

CORPORATE DENTAL

Corporate run dental practices have become a new source of competition to the solo practice. Estimated to employ approximately 10% of dentists in 2013, Levin’s Group research predicts that percentage will increase to 16% in the next five years.

THE SQUEEZE OF INSURANCE-BASED DENTISTRY

A decade ago, only a small fraction of dentists accepted PPO-insured patients. Today more than 74% of all practicing dentists in the US accept at least one PPO insured patient.”

ASSISTANT

The assistant plays a key role in the scanning process and can do a myriad of things in the world of digital dentistry. Want to know exactly what the assistant can do in your state? Go to www.ada.org.

LAB

This isn’t your father’s dental lab. CAD/CAM is changing the market and, among laboratories with CAD/CAM system(s), NADD expects 72.3% have a scanner and milling system.

SAME-DAY CAD/CAM RESTORATION

For more information or to sign-up for a free demonstration go to Planmecacadcam.com