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# PRECISION, PROGRESS, AND PERSPECTIVE: *Rethinking Excellence*

As restorative dentistry continues to evolve, our commitment to excellence is shaped by the integration of innovation, clinical skill, and sound judgment. This issue of the *Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry (jCD)* offers a window into where we have been—and where we are going—through a collection of articles that are as thoughtful as they are forward-thinking.

It highlights how to approach one of the most technically demanding challenges in esthetic dentistry: matching a single maxillary central incisor with an implant-supported restoration. As this issue's featured cover case demonstrates, successful implant therapy in esthetically demanding areas requires a carefully coordinated, prosthetically driven workflow, from ideal 3D implant placement and soft tissue management to prosthetic design, to minimize complications and ensure long-term esthetic and biologic stability. It emphasizes that success is not just about placing an implant—it is about where and how, and which team approach is chosen to achieve it. The attention to detail and the crucial role of interdisciplinary collaboration displayed here underscores the value of our expertise and reminds us that even our strongest results invite critique and that continual refinement is an integral part of our professional ethos.

This *jCD* issue also explores the expanding role of artificial intelligence in smile design. While these technologies present exciting new possibilities, such as real-time simulations and enhanced patient engagement, they also raise critical ethical and clinical considerations. Our aim is not to replace the clinician but to augment our ability to deliver care with accuracy, empathy, and transparency, ushering in a new era of dentistry that is both innovative and patient-centric. This is an exciting time for our field, and we look forward to the potential that AI can offer.

We also take a closer look at the role of resilient ceramics in chairside CAD/CAM workflows. These materials, valued for their strength, reliability, and wear resistance, are redefining what is possible in partial-coverage restorations. However, as with any innovation, long-term clinical validation is essential.

We invite you to read, reflect, and consider how these ideas influence your practice. While adopting modern technologies and practices can be challenging, it is through these challenges that we grow and improve. As always, we encourage you to share your perspectives and experiences with your colleagues. Your contributions are invaluable; we must remember that dentistry progresses not only with new tools and technologies but also through thoughtful application, honest dialogue, and a shared dedication to doing what is best for our patients.

Edward Lowe, DMD, AAACD  
Editor-in-Chief