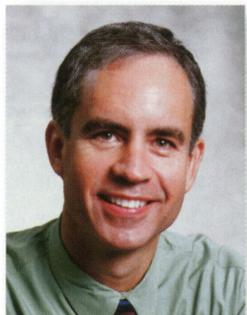


accreditation essentials



by
Corky Willhite, D.D.S., F.A.A.C.D.

Dr. Willhite has been in private practice since he graduated from LSU School of Dentistry in 1979. He quickly became interested in cosmetic dentistry and pursued hundreds of hours of continuing education. Many of these courses were sponsored by the A.D.A. and the A.G.D., organizations in which he still maintains membership. In 1990 he attended his first AACD Annual Meeting and hasn't missed one since. He achieved Accreditation and, as his slide collection grew, was asked by his colleagues to share his knowledge. One thing led to another, and he is flattered to have had the opportunity to lecture across the country and internationally, as well as publish articles on cosmetic dentistry. In the meantime, he has served in several positions of leadership in the AACD, as well as 2 years as President of the Louisiana Chapter. Since 1995 he has served as an Examiner for Accreditation and in 1999 was elected to the first Board of Governors. In 1997 he achieved his Fellowship and in 1998, he was invited to join the faculty in the Department of Prosthodontics at LSU, where he is an Assistant Clinical Professor. He believes in giving back to the community and regularly donates dentistry to those in need. Over the years, his practice has evolved to provide almost exclusively cosmetic and restorative services. Dr. Willhite lives in New Orleans with his wife and two "mostly enjoyable" teenagers.

INTERVIEW WITH THE CANDIDATE

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN STRATTA, D.M.D.
BY CORKY WILLHITE, D.D.S.

WILLHITE

How long did it take you to complete this case?

STRATTA

At the first appointment, the history, records, and photographs took about 90 minutes. Actual restorative treatment took about another hour and 10 minutes. Two days later, there was an additional 20-30 minute appointment for final finish and polish. The patient also had appointments 2 and 6 weeks after the treatment for his bite guard, postoperative check, and AACD photographs.

WILLHITE

Would you do anything differently if you were starting over?

STRATTA

Not restoratively, but it would have been more ideal if he had accepted a truly comprehensive treatment plan, say with laminates, that would have made it possible to improve his occlusal problems, too.

WILLHITE

Did you give the patient any incentives to cooperate with the extra time demands of an Accreditation case?

STRATTA

The patient was expecting a short procedure so that he could attend a business meeting. With the various diagnostics, his actual time in the office was about 2 hours. I've found that when the patient is told that the procedure will be photographed because of the high quality of the treatment, they are more than pleased to have us take extra time with them. Occasionally, the staff will give a patient a Sonicare or Oxyfresh kit as a special "thank you."

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WILLHITE

Do you have any words of wisdom to candidates about to start working toward Accreditation?

STRATTA

Yes! Emphatically, the first is to be determined to succeed—110% effort is required. Then hang on tight and enjoy the personal growth, the wealth of knowledge, the honed skills, the clinical insights, the abandonment of mediocrity, and the rewards that will result. As you begin to practice your new skills, be sure to convert and retrain your staff; they'll help you to succeed. As you participate in the Accreditation process you'll find a support group of teachers, course instructors, and AACD members, as well as written manuals that will open doors to your success. Attending an AACD Advanced Accreditation Workshop, where your cases are critiqued, is unbelievably helpful. I attended the one at the Greenbrier® Resort and learned to

see things in my own cases that I didn't know to look for before. Listen to the mentors' advice and critiques with an open mind, and you'll be amazed at how much you learn!

WILLHITE

You pulled together a tremendous amount of information to help you create a beautiful result. Were there any courses in particular that helped you understand how to achieve this?

STRATTA

Participation in hands-on courses was extremely helpful. These courses helped my understanding of dental esthetics and taught me the techniques needed to create a predictable result. Of course, just attending the courses wasn't enough to create instant esthetic masterpieces. Instead, it required an ongoing dedication to deliberately and meticulously apply what I had learned. I simply decided that in my daily prac-

tice, every restorative procedure, whether simple or complicated, would be a rehearsal for Accreditation cases. The keyword was and is: practice-practice-practice.

The courses I would recommend are:

- Advanced Esthetic Continuum, Level II (Eubanks and Morley at LSU)
- Mastering Esthetic Anterior Composites (Fahl at LVI)
- Creativity with Direct Composite Resin (Terry at AACD Annual Scientific Session)
- AACD Advanced Accreditation Workshop (Greenbrier Resort)
- Advanced Anterior Esthetics (Dickerson and colleagues at LVI)
- Innovative Composite Materials (Mopper at AACD Annual Scientific Session) *AB*



NEWLY ACCREDITED MEMBER



Jenifer Wohlberg

Jenifer Wohlberg is a Master Ceramist and heads the training program for the ceramics department at Valley Dental Arts in Stillwater, Minnesota, where she has worked for 12 years. Thanks to Valley Dental Arts' belief in education and excellence, Jenifer has been fortunate to study with many world-class ceramists, including Enrico Steger, Lee Culp, Claude Sieber, Pinhas Adar, Taki Nishihata, Matt Roberts, Thilo Voch, and Willi Geller. Jenifer realized early on that her passion for dentistry was within the cosmetic arena. Beginning in 1992, she spent nearly 8 years under the instruction of Dr. Robert Nixon in a number of hands-on seminars. In 1998, Jenifer participated in a live-patient series through PAC-Live, working under the instruction of Dr. David Hornbrook and Master Ceramist Matt Roberts. Jenifer has been a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry® for 3 years.