Reflecting back over 40-plus years of practice as an oral surgeon, I have had the privilege of watching the growth and development of current-day implantology from infancy to today’s contemporary status.

Based on today’s technology and engineering, would you purchase a 1998 model car or cell phone or current models? Easy answer. Why shouldn’t your choice of an implant system be as direct?

The “industry” of design, engineering, and manufacturing implants is not stagnant; like that of automobiles and cell phones, it is extremely dynamic. The secret of ongoing success in the practice of implantology is to be aware of and implement the newest technology backed by strategic engineering and science specific to the brand.

Keeping this in mind, we should give some thought to the current small-diameter (mini) implant systems we are currently using in our practices. They certainly deserve our attention because they are surely unique and often play an unsung role in our restorative armamentarium.

Throughout the years, we’ve acknowledged and understood the many applications of small-diameter implants but perhaps never gave a second thought to the possibility of a more clinically advanced system. For stabilizing full and partial dentures as well as assisting in the stabilization of fixed bridgework, your system seems to do the job.

What You Don’t Know Should Scare You

I remember a manufacturing company that used to tout in its product advertising that “the quality goes in before the name goes on!” How about your small-diameter implant system? Ever research the science or technology associated with the system and/or manufacturer you are currently using? You may be surprised to hear that there may not be much if anything available. But don’t
be discouraged; there has been some well-founded, documented, publicized information relative to unique advances in both the technology and science of small-diameter implants and dental implants general.

The following information—as universally published in juried scientific and clinical journals—relates to the technology of Intra-Lock’s implant offerings in particular. A brief synopsis of the journals’ research, technology, and science-supported data follows. Additionally, numerous supportive scientific publications can be found on the website intra-lock.com.

Intra-Lock’s Small Diameter Implant Systems, MDL and MILO, were developed more than 15 years ago, and as a result of continuous research and development since then, the company now offers truly advanced systems. Its implants are true “convertible” implants with one-piece solid strength and 2-piece versatility. A choice of implant diameters and lengths provides for variedatomic challenges. Additionally, a very unique 15° Angled MDL resolves the challenges sometimes encountered when placing small-diameter implants in the anterior maxilla. The company’s patented “Cement-Over Abutments” convert all MDL and MILO Implants from removable to fixed treatment options.

The systems’ unique Mini Drive-Lock instrumentation (Figure 1) reduces delivery and placement to one fluid motion. All Intra-Lock implants have 2 additional unique and proprietary components.

The OSSEAN surface (Figure 2) is extremely hydrophilic and impregnated with calcium phosphate molecules that are incorporated into the surface structure at the molecular level. OSSEAN is not a coating; it is a surface treatment with fractal topography that extends beyond the nanoscale level, thus promoting rapid early healing and increased biomechanical fixation.

Additionally, BLOSSOM (Figure 3), a patent-pending cutting design, is incorporated into the 2.5-mm-diameter MDL and 3.0-mm-diameter Wide Pitch MILO implants. Unlike traditional tapping designs, BLOSSOM’s architecture enables the implant to cut through bone with increased efficiency and minimal force; hence minimizing bone compression and microfracture. BLOSSOM allows for a lower insertion torque while decreasing micro movement. The result: increased initial implant stability.

If you are currently using another small-diameter implant system, perhaps your interest in what’s new and exciting has been stimulated. Find some time to do your own research. You owe it to yourself as a respected dental practitioner, and you certainly owe it to your patients, to offer them your skill and the highest-quality implants that technology and science provide.

Remember, the greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge. Fighting against illusions in science is a very complex and tricky task, requiring continuing efforts and time. Your approach, in all aspects of implantology, is an important step forward in this endeavor.

For more information, call (877) 330-0338 or visit the website intra-lock.com.