

3M Donation Advances Digital Dentistry at U.S. Dental Schools

Schools that meet established criteria to receive Lava Chairside Oral Scanner C.O.S. Systems

By the end of 2011, dental programs from selected schools across the nation will be able to offer hands-on training with some of the most advanced technology in the industry. 3M Community Giving, the charitable giving arm of 3M, announced that it will donate Lava™ Chairside Oral Scanner C.O.S. impression-taking systems as part of its goal to advance academic excellence in higher education. The donation includes support from 3M's dental division, 3M ESPE, to successfully integrate the technology into dental schools. Dental schools selected will meet several criteria including number of students, proximity to 3M facilities and demonstrated capability to integrate digital dentistry into their curriculums.

"Digital-related products are expected to revolutionize the next generation of dentistry making it essential that students receive training to ensure that they are properly prepared to enter the marketplace," said Ian Hardgrove, senior vice president of marketing and sales and president of the 3M Corporate Giving Committee. "Connecting universities with the desire to offer cutting edge technologies with the worldwide leader of dental innovations was a natural fit given our organizational goal of preparing students for future opportunities and 3M ESPE's commitment to transform the dental industry. The Lava C.O.S. system will provide the basis for assisting universities to enter the digital age of dentistry."

The Lava C.O.S. is a powerful teaching tool to advance the learning techniques between students and teachers. It is an innovative digital impression-taking system that allows dentists to view continuous 3D video images captured in a patient's mouth in real time on a touch-screen monitor. This real-time visibility allows dentists to confidently and immediately assess the data capture before a patient leaves the office. The technology also allows dentists and labs to have the same advanced tools to review cases knowing that they are seeing exactly the same images. Dentists using the Lava C.O.S. report increased productivity, lower remake rates, better patient satisfaction and more reliable communication with their lab. Having hands-on experience with the system prior to graduation will help graduates transition their pre-clinical experiences to the patient clinic.

3M ESPE will help facilitate the donations to schools that meet the required criteria in order to ensure that the technology is used to its fullest advantage. "Embracing new technology is a challenge for any organization," says Larry Lair, president and general manager of 3M ESPE. "3M ESPE is committed to helping 3M Community Giving ensure that selected universities successfully integrate this into their curriculum. We are thrilled that they are committed to supporting education and supplying these schools with leading technology."

3M Community Giving donates cash and products to education and nonprofit organizations to strengthen communities in the United States where the company has facilities. Investments are primarily in technical, engineering, business schools and efforts that further teaching and learning.

About 3M

3M captures the spark of new ideas and transforms them into thousands of ingenious products. Our culture of creative collaboration inspires a never-ending stream of powerful technologies that make life better. 3M is the innovation company that never stops inventing. With \$27 billion in sales, 3M employs about 80,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 65 countries. 3M Community Giving consists of product donations and cash grants from 3M and the 3M Foundation which is bolstered by employee and retiree volunteerism. In 2010, nearly \$59 million was awarded to education and charitable organizations. For more information, visit www.3M.com, www.3Mgiving.com or follow @3MNews on Twitter.

About 3M ESPE

3M ESPE manufactures and markets more than 2,000 products and services designed to help dental professionals improve their patients' oral health care. 3M Health Care, one of 3M's six major business segments, provides world-class innovative products and services to help health care professionals improve the practice and delivery of patient care in medical, oral care, drug delivery and health information markets. The recently created 3M Digital Oral Care Department, part of the 3M ESPE Division, aims to accelerate and strengthen 3M's efforts to lead the digital transformation that is occurring in oral care. For more information on the complete 3M ESPE line of dental products visit the 3M ESPE Web site at www.3MESPE.com or call the 3M ESPE Technical Hotline at 1-800-634-2249. Products are available for purchase through authorized 3M ESPE distributors. *3M, ESPE, Impregum, Penta, Pentamix, Lava, RelyX, Ketac, Filtek, Adper, Sof-Lex and Imprint* are trademarks of 3M ESPE or 3M ESPE AG.

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