



NEWS RELEASE

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Visiting Greek and Greek-Cypriot Dental Professionals Obtain 'Hands-On' Learning from Dr. Dean Vafiadis

New York – A group of dental professionals from Greece and Cyprus recently arrived in the Big Apple to continue their education and become acquainted with the latest concepts in American dentistry. The program is organized by the Hellenic Association of Continuing Dental Education (HACDE) in Greece, in association with New York University's College of Dentistry (NYUCD) continuing education programs and Dr. Dean Vafiadis (aka Dr. Dean), associate clinical professor at NYUCD and founder of the New York Smile Institute.

Knowledge is power but continuing education opportunities for dentists in Greece is limited. The 70 participants per year of NYUCD's continuing education programs are successful before they arrive, but what they obtain from the seminars and especially from Dr. Dean's two-session live patient "hands-on" demonstrations at the New York Smile Institute is priceless and unlike any typical dental school environment.

Dr. Nick Nakas, NYUCD's Greece international program director and founder of HACDE, has nothing but praise. "Dr. Dean's live patient demonstrations are a unique way for many of the clinicians to enhance their skills and return to their practices in Greece with new techniques and help many patients." The six-week accredited NYUCD continuing education program requires three one-week visits to the U.S and three weeks in Greece. The next one-week is scheduled for August 2008.

With over 20 years experience, Dr. Dean graduated from NYUCD as one of the youngest Prosthodontists in New York City, and one out of only eight Greek-American Prosthodontists in the State. An Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and former vice president of St. Basil Academy's Board of Trustees, he says the importance of a beautiful smile should never be underestimated. We communicate and show our feelings with our smile, which also happens to be the primary focus of our face. He is inspired from his Hellenic roots and his desire to help change people's lives.

"I travel abroad throughout Europe, Russia, Korea, Japan but something always draws me back to Greece. I want my homeland to get the most out of my educational experience and help their population of patients with advanced techniques and dental procedures."

Over the past 12 years, Dr. Dean has been lecturing and offering educational programs to hundreds of Greek dentists in Athens and Thessaloniki and surrounding areas. His passion for dentistry has made him one of the leading sought-after educators from the U.S. He has published extensively in the field of Implants and Aesthetics but only few clinicians have had the opportunity to witness the procedures performed on patients. By using video-streaming, internet cameras and state of the art computerized restorations, the educational experiences he provides are professional, unique and memorable.

To date nearly 150 dentists have participated in Dr. Dean's patient demonstrations, which have included Implants, Aesthetics: Porcelain Veneers, Smile-enhancement and Alignment procedures. Like the adage goes, you are never fully dressed without a smile. For more information, visit New York Smile Institute www.nysi.org, HACDE www.dentalseminars.gr, and NYUCD www.nyu.edu/dental/ce/

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Greek and Greek-Cypriot dental professionals smile for a photo following one of their "hands-on" learning demonstration sessions led by Dr. Dean Vafiadis at the New York Smile Institute in Manhattan. Pictured (standing from left) are Kostas Varoufakis, three invited Columbian dentists, Xenia Koloni, Despoina Baka, Souat Tsolak, T. Theofano, Stella Papadopoulou (Cyprus), Vasilis Karamaounas, Loukia Beian, Ilias Kolokotronis, Elani Dritsa, Giannis Tsamparlis, Andreas Aspros (Cyprus), Nikoleta Mouza, and Dr. Dean Vafiadis, founder of the New York Smile Institute. Also, pictured (sitting from left) are an invited Columbian dentist, Dr. Nikos Nakas, NYUCD's Greece program director, Panagiotis Giavas (a Greek patient), Melina Kostarelou, and Katerina Maridaki. Photo: Courtesy of NYSI.