

# ROOT WORDS

*Promoting just a little bit of knowledge...and a whole lot of Healthy Smiles*

## *Mission Statement*

*To provide excellent endodontic care in a professional, friendly environment by a highly trained and motivated team!*

*We work to fulfill our mission by making patient care our #1 goal.*

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## *How Well Do You Know Your Anatomy?*

**H**ow many radiographs have you studied during your career? For most of us, the answer is probably “thousands.” We have all seen significant variations in root morphology. We expect to see teeth with long roots, short roots, curved roots and extra roots. But what about the anatomy of the root canal system itself?

Most of us are now aware, for instance, that the mesiobuccal root of the maxillary first and second molars may have more than one canal. How often does this occur? There have been a number of studies and the results vary significantly, depending upon the methodology used. In vivo studies tend to put the occurrence at approximately 30 percent, while in vitro studies typically show a higher occurrence rate at 50 to 70 percent.

Variations in root canal systems occur in other teeth we might not normally suspect. Studies have shown that a small percentage of mandibular central and lateral incisors have more than one canal. In some of these teeth, what appears to be a single canal is really a system in which the canal bifurcates only to join again near the apex!

Two canals are common in maxillary first premolars. However, this phenomenon can occur in any premolar tooth. Three canal systems are occasionally found in both maxillary and mandibular premolars, as well. Occlusal anatomy in such teeth may give no hint of the unusual root anatomy.

In mandibular second molars, we occasionally see another anomaly

termed the “C-shaped canal.” This is a system in which the canals normally present are joined during the development of the tooth to form a single large canal shaped like the letter “C.”

Remember also that a variety of webs, fins and anastomoses are often present and create a rather complex root canal system, not just the separate and individual canals we might envision. Lateral canals, accessory canals and multiple apical foramina make the root canal system even more puzzling at times. Also, keep in mind that an isthmus space—an anatomical space joining two or more canals—is often present at the root apex.

All of these anatomical variations create challenges in endodontic treatment. Some may require treatment beyond non-surgical root canal therapy and may ultimately affect treatment outcome ■

*Dr. Myron Hilton earned his D.D.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry and completed his specialty training in endodontics at Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry. He is the current President of the Oklahoma County Dental Society.*



EA now has a new and SHORTER web address: [www.eaokc.com](http://www.eaokc.com).

You and your patients can access our website either by using the old address ([endodonticassociatesokc.com](http://endodonticassociatesokc.com)) or the new and improved name!

*Quality Patient Care in a Comfortable Environment*

What began as a temporary and part-time job for Endodontic Assistant Carla Howell in 1989 has turned into

## Staff Vitals

### Carla Howell

16 years of gratifying employment!

As head assistant, Carla continues to enjoy her job because of the upbeat atmosphere in the office. She confesses that the respect and care the doctors at EA show the staff, coupled with the lifelong friendships she has made over the years, have been the biggest factors in her continuing to be a faithful employee.

"This is a fast paced environment and we work really hard," said Carla, "but we also make



**Carla Howell**  
Endodontic Assistant

time for lots of laughter. That camaraderie has been the key to maintaining such a great team! This is a great place to work and I enjoy every minute of it!"

Carla has two children: Staci is 24 and currently resides in Denver, Colorado, and Dustin is 21 and works in construction in Norman.

In Carla's spare time, she enjoys long walks with her chocolate lab Kylie, working out at the gym and talking on the phone with Staci. Carla is a self-proclaimed "protective mother" who still tries to "run my children's lives."

### *New Fee Schedule in Effect March 1, 2006*

Our fee schedule, which went into effect March 1st, will increase slightly for some procedures. Long-term payment plans are available. Patients should make arrangements through our business office prior to treatment.

## 2006 Seminar News

You might want to note on your calendar that Endodontic Associate's annual seminar is scheduled for June 23rd at the Meridian Convention Center. Specific details—including the identity of the speaker, the topic of discussion and eligible CE credits—will be revealed next month as arrangements are finalized.

Invitations will be mailed in May. Seating will be limited to the first 250 doctors who respond after receiving their invitations (no staff, please).

As always, Endodontic Associate's summer seminars are one of the ways we say "Thank You!" to our referring dentists ■

- Consultation Fee - \$75
- Emergency Treatment Fee - \$150
- Front Teeth - \$800
- Bicuspid Teeth - \$900
- Molar Teeth - \$1,000
- Root Surgery - \$1,100
- Post with Build-up - \$200
- Post Removal - \$100
- Oral Sedation/Consult Required - \$200
- Nitrous Oxide - \$30

## Congratulations... Valentine's Lottery Winners



**Becky Hall**

Dr. Monica Neely's Office (above)

**Stephanie Fick**

Dr. Steven Fick's Office (not pictured)

**Be Sure and Enter  
Our Next Lottery!**



**Erin Coy**

Dr. Grady Lembke's Office (above)

**Bill Meade**

Drs. McKamie, Rothwell & Snell  
(top right)

**Marsha Black**

Dr. Linda Miner's Office (bottom right)

