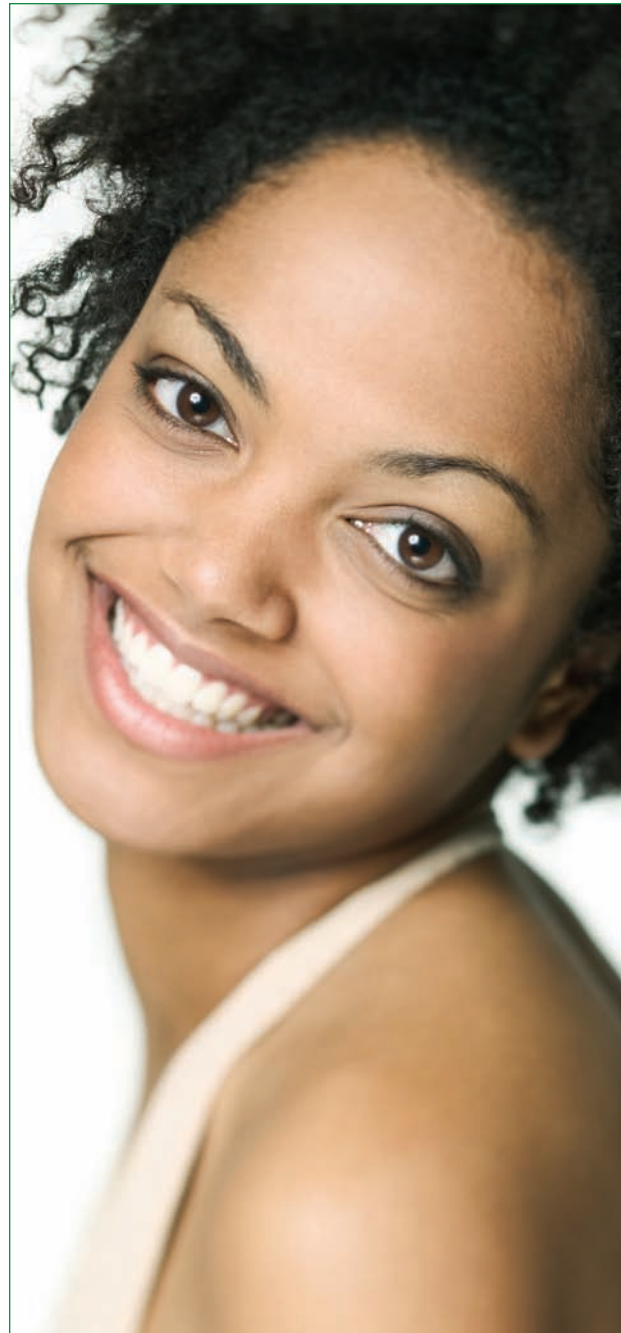

It is very common practice for Pankey Institute-trained dentists and specialists to take additional time to schedule this kind of conference for the sole purpose of coordinating the potentially different perspectives of those who will be providing their special expertise during the course of your treatment.

Many patients don't realize the extra value of the time your dentist and specialists spend on your behalf when you are not in the dental office. The times when they confer and discuss your case are an important part of the quality care you are receiving.

When your dentist and one or more specialists team closely together to provide you with the best diagnosis and treatment, we call this team effort "Interdisciplinary Dental Care." ■

By involving a group of specially trained dentists, who are all expert at what they do, you are ensured of having the best possible result.



From the pages of
**ORAL HEALTH
REPORT**

*A newsletter for the
patients of Pankey Institute
trained dentists*

***Interdisciplinary
Dental Care***

Sometimes It Takes a Team

by Irwin M. Becker, D.D.S.

Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Education, The Pankey Institute



Pankey Institute trained dentists and specialists take time to meet in consultation with the various dental professionals who may be needed to help develop the very best plan for you.

The best dentists recognize that they cannot be competent in all areas of dentistry and that sometimes it is necessary to involve other specialists in a patient's oral health evaluation and care. For example, you may be referred to an:

■ **Endodontist**, a dentist specializing in diseases that affect the inside of teeth (the dental pulp and nerve);

Steve or Lee, stage a photo at a real conference with a specialist.

- **Periodontist**, a dentist who specializes in the care and prevention of gum-related diseases, guided bone regeneration, and dental implants;
- **Orthodontist**, a dentist who specializes in the prevention or correction of irregular positioning of teeth;
- **Oral Surgeon**, a dentist with special training in surgery of the mouth and jaw;
- **Prosthodontist**, a dentist who is expert in prosthodontics (the branch of dentistry dealing with the replacement of teeth and related mouth or jaw structures by artificial devices).

Involving a specialist requires significant levels of communication on the part of your dentist, the staff of your dental office, the specialist, and the specialist's staff. It may mean that the specialist and your dentist meet to discuss their respective findings and thoughts before developing a treatment plan that meets your goals and objectives. This is especially common when pe-

riodontal surgery, implants, and orthodontics are involved.

The role of your dentist and dental staff is to coordinate the team, making sure that everyone knows where you are in the process at all times. The best dentists believe you are an important part of the process and should know at every juncture what to expect, what will happen, and who will be involved.

Developing a high degree of synergy with highly competent specialists is a goal of every Pankey Institute trained dentist. Together they have discussed the importance of your understanding your oral health condition and the course of treatment you have chosen or may be in the process of choosing. They will continue to communicate with each other about your case after each phase of evaluation and treatment.

By involving a group of specially trained dentists, who are all expert at what they do, you are ensured of having the best possible result. By communicating well with each other and with you, the result will be gratifying and will meet your expectations.

Isn't it special that your dentist takes the time to actually meet in consultation with the various specialists that may be needed to help make the very best decisions on your behalf? Or at least meet to clarify the vision that might be possible for your optimal oral health now and in the future?