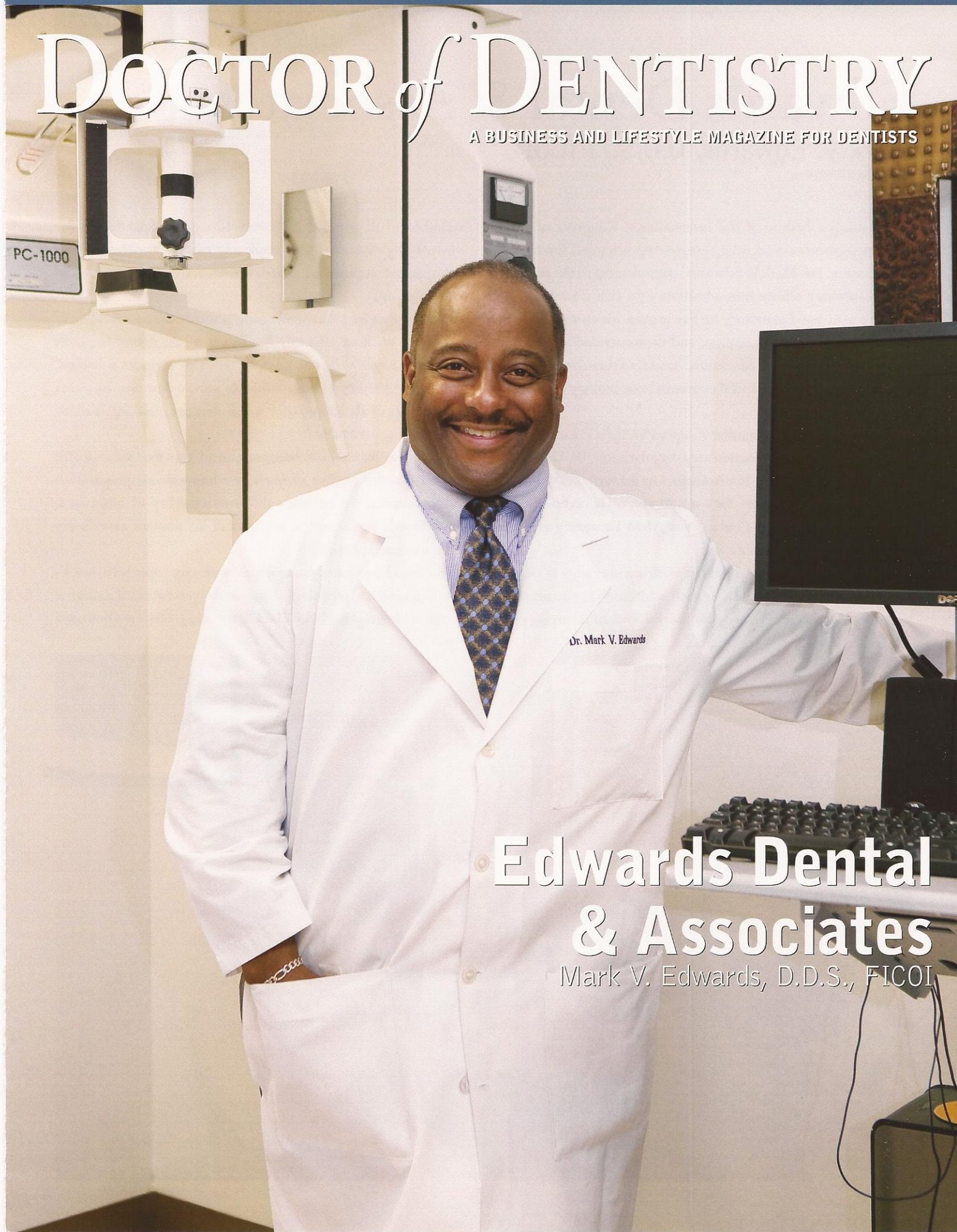


Greater Houston Edition

DOCTOR of DENTISTRY

A BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR DENTISTS



Dr. Mark V. Edwards

Edwards Dental & Associates

Mark V. Edwards, D.D.S., FICOI

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By Denise R. Williams

Becoming a Fellow of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists is a credential bestowed upon a select few dental practitioners. Dr. Mark V. Edwards' commitment to the practice of implantology allows him admittance to that fraternity. As a member in good standing, he has proven his competency in implant surgery and restoration, and demonstrated an ongoing commitment to implant education. As part of that commitment, he has completed an advanced course in bone biology harvesting and grafting.

A native Houstonian, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and graduate of one of the nation's top dental schools, the University of Texas Dental School at San Antonio, Dr. Edwards has practiced dentistry in Harris County for over 20 years. He completed his undergraduate studies at Prairie View A&M University after attending Lamar High School.

Dr. Edwards is a general dentist with a wide range of dental services including cosmetic (tooth whitening), restorative, orthodontics (braces), prosthodontics and oral surgery. A

background in general dentistry is a great foundation for implantology because to completely restore tooth function and support structures, implants sometimes are the most viable option.

Implant dentistry has undergone positive advancement over the years. Without affecting bordering teeth, dental implants can replace one or more missing teeth or support a bridge, eliminating the need for a removable partial denture. Implants can, also, provide support for a full denture, making it more secure and comfortable.

Though implants have become almost routine, success still depends on the quality of one's communication, preparation and execution. To enhance the predictability of outcomes, Dr. Edwards performs the majority of his implant cases using software-based planning.

The use of computed tomography with computer software allows diagnosis and planning, as well as the generation of a surgical or stereolithographic guide. The CT scanning software eliminates

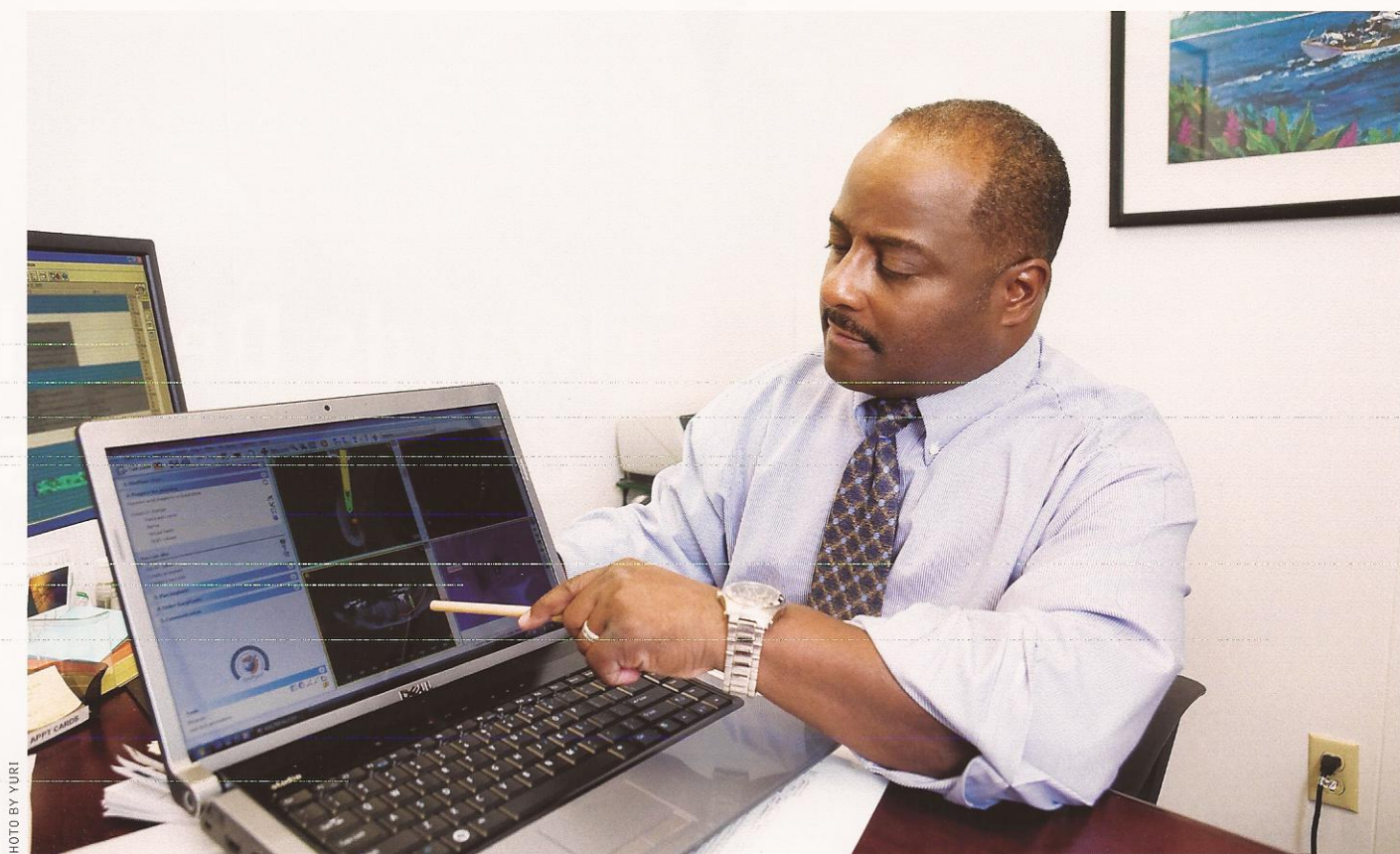


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CONTROL MEASURES / PROTECTION			
1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	

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A native Houstonian, Dr. Edwards has committed his career to the practice of dentistry in Harris County.

possible manual placement errors and determines a staged protocol that outlines treatment sequence.

Accurate diagnosis and preparation of a case is critical. Utilizing CT scanning software allows Dr. Edwards to determine the quality and quantity of bone in places where it would be difficult using conventional radiographic techniques. He can visualize the finished case before he even starts the procedure, thereby making surgical placement of implants less invasive and more predictable. Since the implants are appropriately positioned, prosthetic reconstruction also becomes simpler.

Dr. Edwards and the team at Edwards Dental & Associates can perform both the implant surgery and restorations. Or, referring dentists who want to restore an implant after placement can do so. For stage one and stage two implants, only a few minor tools are needed.

A stage one implant consists of placing an endosseous implant in the bone and suturing soft tissue (gums) over the implant. The implant will be exposed at a later time. A stage two implant consists of placing an endosseous implant in the bone. The platform will be exposed to the oral environment by attaching or connecting an abutment or healing collar.

Though current economic conditions have impacted all elective medical procedures including dental implants, changes in reimbursement and the aging of the U.S. population continue to fuel almost double-digit demand for implant services. From 2000 to 2030, the elderly population is expected to double.

The impact of growing up in communities without fluoridated water, coupled with a desire to maintain a youthful appearance has aging baby boomers becoming the dominant group seeking dental services.

"We welcome all types of patients, old or young. It doesn't matter," says Dr. Edwards. From the moment patients enter his office, they are enveloped in a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere. Known for his gentle chairside manner, Dr. Edwards is skilled at making patients of all ages feel comfortable. His goal is total patient satisfaction.

"Patients and referring dentists have a lot of choices," he acknowledges, "so, with every patient, with every service, with every encounter, I make sure my staff and I show respect for the trust they've placed in us."

Dr. Edwards has never been one to rest on his laurels. As he has dedicated himself to continuing education, his practice is committed to investment in the latest technology and maintenance of state-of-the-art sterilization protocol.

Edwards Dental & Associates is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Wednesday and Saturday by appointment. Centrally located close to the medical center with easy access to the expressway, it is near the Astrodome/Reliant Center, between Kirby Road and South Main/Buffalo Speedway.

Edwards Dental & Associates is located at 2600 South Loop West, Suite 410, Houston, TX 77054. For more information, visit www.edwardsdental-care.com, call (713) 669-9864 or e-mail docedw713@aol.com. ■