



# Why is there an “i” in your team?

How does enhanced interaction and communication between the clinician/patient and clinician/laboratory contribute to restorative success? How does the continuing development of ceramic materials such as IPS Empress® enable dental professionals to meet treatment expectations?

This issue of **S**ignature profiles Dr. Joyce Bassett—a Scottsdale, Arizona clinician—who discusses how her practice strives to deliver the highest quality professional care and respects each patient’s personal needs.

**Signature:** How did your practice evolve into one with a focus on esthetic dentistry?

**Bassett:** Following graduation from dental school, I attended the first cosmetic course at Case Western Reserve University and was one of the first women in the “fast track” accreditation courses from Drs. Robert Nixon and Larry Rosenthal, among others. Dr. Linda Steele also provided guidance to elevate my restorative skills to the next level.

Hence, my practice converted to a cosmetic one very rapidly.

**Signature:** How does this cosmetic focus correlate with your practice philosophy?

**Bassett:** Esthetics is a primary objective. In our practice, esthetic goals strive toward a natural, lifelike smile that enhances the individual's facial features, without appearing artificial or manufactured. In addition to esthetics, function is also essential. Ensuring that functional needs are met not only enables a physical transformation for the patient, it also contributes to oral and masticatory health.

**Signature:** Which facets of the treatment plan are crucial for restorative success?

**Bassett:** Communication between the clinician and patient and clinician and laboratory technician is paramount to the success of any case. Our staff consistently discusses the patient's goals, needs, and wants, as well as a feasible treatment outcome to avoid unrealistic expectations. This is accomplished at the initial visit and continues until completion of the treatment. In addition, a comprehensive smile analysis enables us to design a natural smile rather than a perfect one and also provides the laboratory with essential information to achieve these goals. To gain natural esthetics, more color and rotations may be built into the dentition, the embrasures can be modified on the incisors, or additional characterization may be incorporated.

**Signature:** How have materials such as IPS Empress® and IPS d.SIGN® contributed to this success?

**Bassett:** One of my IPS d.SIGN cases exhibited such a dramatic result that it was featured on the Learning Channel (see Figures 1 and 2). This program demonstrated extraordinary restorative cases even before the creation of the Extreme Makeover television program. When the patient refused orthodontic and orthodontic treatment, the placement of IPS Empress restorations on teeth #4 through #13 enabled me to fulfill her pretreatment goals.



◀ before

**FIGURE 1.** Preoperative smile view demonstrates malalignment and crowding of the anterior dentition.

after ▶

**FIGURE 2.** Restoration with IPS d.SIGN® (Ivoclar Vivadent, Amherst, NY) on teeth #4 through #13 enabled preoperative goals to be met without orthodontic treatment.



◀ before

**FIGURE 3.** A 20-year-old female patient presented with absence of tooth #7 and requested smile enhancement without implant surgery.

after ▶

**FIGURE 4.** Postoperative smile view showed increased esthetics following placement of 6 IPS Empress veneers and framework.



◀ before

**FIGURE 5.** The patient expressed a desire for longer teeth and a less gummy smile.

after ▶

**FIGURE 6.** Postoperative view following successful placement of four IPS Empress veneers and gingival recontouring demonstrates symmetry and esthetics.



Another patient presented with a desire to restore an absent anterior tooth but declined implant placement. The IPS Empress System (veneers and bridgework) provided the functional and esthetic results the patient and I demanded. The results of this case also enabled me to attain AACD Accreditation. The continued evolution of the IPS Empress system now includes the IPS Empress Esthetic material that offers the clinician and technician a greater potential to achieve functional, lifelike results.

**Signature:** In addition to your commitment to your practice, you devote significant time providing restorative dentistry for a homeless shelter. Tell us more about these endeavors.

**Bassett:** As with the *Give Back a Smile*<sup>™</sup> program that restores smiles to victims of domestic violence, I perform restorative dentistry, such as veneers and bridges, for the homeless. These treatments enable them to enter the workforce with renewed smiles and confidence. Presently, this shelter—the Central Arizona Shelter Service (CASS)—is the only one in the country that includes a cosmetic dentistry program, however, other homeless centers are trying to model their programs after CASS, but dental professionals are needed in each region to contribute to the program.

**Signature:** Any other future plans?

**Bassett:** I will be opening a 12-operator facility, which will also serve as a teaching center on the weekends. This facility will focus on female clinicians instructing other female dentists on esthetics, porcelain veneers, and smile design—with “over-the-shoulder” training. This is a niche in which I am most comfortable and I’m sure that other female clinicians will feel the same. The facility will also provide a forum for female dental professionals to network, share knowledge and new ideas, and promote professional growth. We’re also fortunate to have manufacturers such as Ivoclar Vivadent that support these goals.

## Dr. Joyce Bassett

- Graduate of Ohio State University School of Dentistry in 1983
- Received certificate in Aesthetic Dentistry from Case Western Reserve University in 1994, Baylor College in Dallas in 1995, and the Advanced Cosmetic Institute of Las Vegas in 1996
- Fellow of International Academy of Dental Facial Aesthetics
- Fellow of Academy of General Dentistry; past president
- One of five accredited members in the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry in Arizona
- Private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona
- Gold medal winner in the AACD Smile Gallery competition
- Selected as one of America’s top dentists by the Consumers’ Research Council of America\*

*Dr. Bassett mentions her gratitude to Brad Patrick for the restorations in Figures 1, 2, 5 and 6 and Matt Roberts for the fabrication of the restorations in Figures 3 and 4.*

\*[www.consumersresearchcncl.org](http://www.consumersresearchcncl.org)

