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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENTAL IMPLANTS BRING JOY BACK TO LIFE
Prosthodontists Provide More Stable, Healthy Alternative to Traditional Dentures

Lafayette, IN (September 22, 2003) – By age 50 the average American is missing twelve teeth, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. One-third of those over 65 are missing all of their teeth. As boomers look for better ways to regain their smiles, dental specialists are perfecting new technologies, such as dental implants, that look, feel and function like natural teeth.

Dental implants are anchored in the jawbone as replacement roots and act as permanent teeth. The entire process can be accomplished within a few months and results can last for more than thirty years, much longer than traditional dentures which place false teeth on top of gums, often requiring adhesives to keep them stable. According to the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) the use of dental implants is on the rise providing patients with improved speech and security. Other benefits include:

- **Improved Eating** – There is no need to worry about certain foods; chewing with dental implants is like chewing with natural teeth.
- **Appearance** – With traditional dentures, the jaw can shrink due to lack of use; implants actually stimulate bone growth by keeping the jaw active.
- **Comfort** – Moving dentures sometimes irritate or injure gums; implants are a sturdy, permanent solution that feel like real teeth.

According to dental implant recipients, however, the greatest benefit is self-esteem. “I would have done it years ago if I knew how great I would feel,” said Bill Davidson, a 71 year old dental implant patient. “I don’t have to worry about my teeth any more, and it’s a wonderful sense of freedom.”

“A smile can affect your outlook on life,” said Dr. Lynn Pestle, a Lafayette area Prosthodontist and member of the ACP. “Dental implants work for anyone, whether they are 18 or 80. I’ve seen the joy patients experience after receiving dental implants – they get the courage to live the lives they’ve wanted.”

The dental implant treatment is best if performed by a dentist who has received special training in this procedure. Prosthodontists have received an additional three years of rigorous training following dental school and are particularly skilled at determining the right angle and placement of the implants, as well as creating replacement crowns that look just like natural teeth.

For more information on dental implants, you can contact Dr. Lynn A. Pestle at (765) 447-7887 or visit the ACP website at www.prosthodontics.org.

About the American College of Prosthodontists

Founded in 1970, the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) is the national professional association representing one of the nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association. Prosthodontics is the largest discipline in dentistry and involves the restoration and replacement of teeth. As specialists, prosthodontists receive three years of additional training following dental school and focus their practice in this area. The ACP is dedicated to improving the quality of patient's lives through the advancement of prosthodontics. With a diverse membership across the United States, prosthodontists provide the highest level of dental care, creating generations of beautiful, healthy smiles.

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