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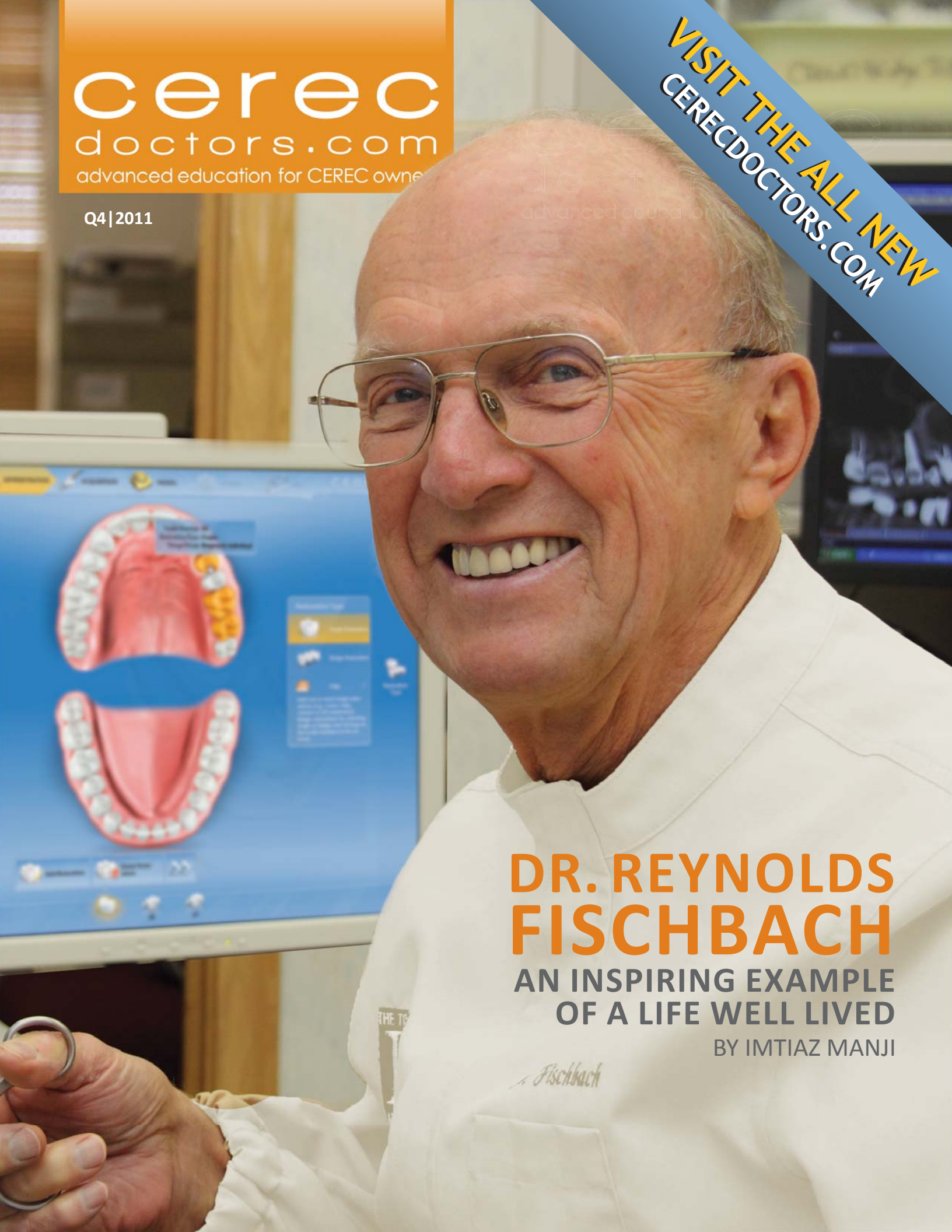
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AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE
OF A LIFE WELL LIVED

BY IMTIAZ MANJI



The Next Generation of CEREC Doctors

As this young dentist-to-be shows, you are never too young to appreciate CEREC technology.

BY MICHELLE DRAPPI

At my high school, The Ranney School, the Capstone Project is a research project intended to expand a student's intellectual curiosity and highlight their academic accomplishments.

For seniors, capstones offer students the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and research skills that they have acquired in previous years and to prepare for the type of research expected in college. Students independently research a topic of their own choosing and then produce a final paper and presentation given to the entire student body.

When it came time for me to choose a topic in eighth grade, I didn't even have to think about it. My Capstone was on the field of dentistry, and I researched all different types of careers within the field. I have known since the age of



||| I have

seven that I want to become a dentist. Ever since I can remember I have spent so much time in my mother's office, watching her work, and I have always liked being there. Thus, for me this project was an opportunity to explore my desired profession. I zeroed in on a topic that all dentists need to know but is not offered at the undergraduate level: Basic Dental Anatomy and Physiology.

Although I knew that dental anatomy

alone would be a sufficiently demanding topic, I wanted to expand my project to include something in dentistry that would allow me to apply my knowledge of dental anatomy. When it was time to choose my topic, I first discussed the newest innovations in dentistry with my mom, who is always updating her office with the latest technologies. We were discussing how much she appreciated her new restoration unit, the CEREC



to me to understand how CEREC works and how it's changing the field of dentistry. Because my mother is a member of cerectoctors.com, I had

therefore had more dental procedures than the student population. They were really excited to see the actual CEREC machine operate and design a

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available to me the journals that were sent to her, and through other research I found online articles and websites where dentists explained their experiences with CEREC. I watched the videos from the CEREC Encyclopedia to learn how to operate the CEREC. Once I had learned how to use the machine through the demonstrational videos, I spent afternoons and Saturday mornings in my mother's office. I shadowed her through her CEREC cases, and I even watched the entire process from the minute the patient sat in the chair to the time they left.

For my presentation, I made several of my own restorations using model teeth. The CEREC was quite user-friendly for someone lacking the experience of an established dentist. After learning the different types of design methods the CEREC offers and which method is right for the restoration, the hardest part of making the actual restoration is taking the perfect picture with the Bluecam. Otherwise, it's a few simple clicks and then a preview of the restoration is displayed for you on the CEREC monitor. All that's left is to make adjustments to the 3-D restoration before milling according to personal preference.

I have to say, I successfully wowed my audience – especially the faculty members present, who I guess have been to the dentist more often and have

perfect fit! They had lots of questions and were very curious. Many were wondering why they had to learn this technology from a high school student, and not from their own dentists!

As an added bonus, while I attended a Young & Motivated workshop in Scottsdale, Ariz., this past summer, I had the great opportunity to meet all of the doctors whose articles I studied all year long, including Dr. Puri, Dr. Mirzayan, Dr. Fleming and Dr. Spear. For my hard work of study this year, my mom let me take the CEREC anterior course with her and I had a great time, and learned even more interesting things!

After researching and actually practicing some aspects of the field of dentistry, I really feel great about the profession that I have chosen! It is so exciting, and filled with so much wonderful and exciting technology.

Computer-aided design (CAD) is the future of dentistry. It is a technology that is constantly evolving and improving, and is used in many fields of study including art, engineering and anything that requires photo-realistic rendering. As technology improves, these technology-dependent fields benefit. Even the standard drill has come a long way since the start of dentistry. The dentists of tomorrow are born into this new age of technology; therefore it will be naturally much easier for them to grasp these new concepts. ❖

CAD/CAM. I learned that the CEREC is currently the most advanced technology in dental restorations. Having done a little bit of research on the CEREC myself, I decided to expand my topic to include types of restorations and the CEREC technology. I spent a year focusing on how to use the unit, what the unit does and its effects on dentistry as a profession.

I used my prior knowledge of the CEREC and the resources available