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# NEWSLETTER

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**Precision in Practice**

**New Zealand**

Interview with  
Dr Soo-Wee Ong



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Offers Inside**

# Precision in Practice

Interview with Dr Soo-Wee Ong on Surgery, Education and Clinical Confidence

From the outset of his career, Dr Soo-Wee Ong was drawn to oral surgery not simply for its complexity, but for its role as a foundation for clinical excellence in dentistry.

"I've been drawn to oral surgery since the very beginning of my career. While many are attracted to the complexity of the procedures, **I've always viewed oral surgery as a foundational skill in the broader context of dentistry.** The precision and principles involved are translatable to almost every facet of the profession. Seeing it as such a rewarding and vital 'anchor' for clinical excellence is ultimately what led me to specialise, and it continues to drive my commitment, especially in the education space today."



That same philosophy naturally extended into education, shaping both his approach to teaching and the creation of Origin Education.

"It's hard to pinpoint one specific 'lightbulb' moment, but I've always held the conviction that every new generation of dentists should be better than the last. Beyond just keeping up with technology, we have a responsibility to pass on what we've learned 'from the trenches.' As a specialist, I see my role as a support system for general dentists. **Origin Education grew out of that desire to help peers reach new heights, and there's nothing more satisfying than seeing a student gain the confidence to revitalise their own practice and find more joy in their work.**"

Today, that belief is reflected in the way his courses are delivered – focused on building real, practical confidence in a clinical setting.

"My goal is simple: I want my students to leave with the ability to assess and execute techniques with the same level of confidence I have in my own surgeries. To get them there, my teaching has evolved to be much more immersive. We utilise live surgical videos, hyper-accurate bio-models, and a heavy emphasis on individualised coaching. It's about moving past theory and getting their hands comfortable with the reality of the procedure."

But translating that confidence into consistent clinical outcomes relies on more than technique alone. The environment and the tools used within it play a critical role.

"The right equipment is the bridge between theory and successful outcomes. In our courses, we aim to mimic real clinical environments as closely as possible. In fact, I often make our training scenarios slightly more challenging than what they'll face in daily practice. When the materials and equipment is reliable, it allows me to focus on the student's technique in a one-on-one capacity rather than troubleshooting tools, which builds a much faster path to clinical confidence."



This approach is evident in his long-standing use of NSK systems, including the Surgic Pro and VarioSurg.

"RELIABILITY. I've been using the same unit and handpieces since my training days over a decade ago. In a surgical environment, you need tools that feel like an extension of your own hand and perform predictably every single time. That longevity speaks for itself."

That familiarity not only supports his own clinical work but enhances the learning experience for his students.

"Teaching with equipment I know inside and out is a huge advantage. If a student hits a sticking point, I can troubleshoot it instantly because I've spent thousands of hours with these same tools. Students also feel a sense of security knowing that I've tested this equipment in the most challenging, high-pressure scenarios throughout my career."

For many clinicians, the impact of reliable equipment is often understated but significant.



"In surgery, 'no news is good news!' When equipment works seamlessly, it disappears into the background and allows the clinician to focus entirely on the patient. **When I see my students successfully completing procedures and achieving excellent patient outcomes, it's clear the equipment is doing exactly what it was engineered to do.**"

Beyond performance, the level of clinical support behind the systems has been key to delivering high-quality education.

"**The teams at NSK in New Zealand and Australia have been incredible partners. They aren't just manufacturers; they are active supporters of dental education.** They ensure my students have access to top-tier equipment to practice with, which is essential for a high-quality learning experience."

Together, this combination of trust, reliability, and clinical support has formed the foundation of a long-standing relationship.

"Any successful venture is built on relationships and clear communication. Over the decades, working with NSK has been smooth, productive, and genuinely enjoyable. **When you find a formula that works, there's no reason to change it.**"

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