

Master Cup 2023 Winners Announced

By Kelly Fessel Carr, Editor, Associate Publisher

Patricia Strimb, Denture Technician at Highfield Design in Augsburg, Germany, graduated from dental technology school in February 2023; just nine months later, she took first place in Panthera Dental's prestigious Master Cup competition, triumphing over the nine other finalists!

Taking second place was Evgeny Korneychuk, Technician, Zahntechnik Gross GmbH, Maintal, Germany; Nina Frketin, Lead Prosthetic and Full-Arch Technician at Mango Dental Technologies in Sedgefield, U.K. came in third. Announced at Panthera's October 6 awards ceremony in Quebec City, the winners share more than \$75,000 in prizes from Panthera Dental and its competition partners, VITA, Amann Girbach and LMT.

The challenge for all the Master Cup finalists was to fabricate a full upper and lower case involving two implant bars for a fictitious 35-year-old female from New Delhi, India. She lost most of her teeth at

a young age and has been wearing partial dentures. All her teeth were removed a couple of years ago and she had five implants placed in the upper arch and four in the lower arch. She has good oral hygiene so a compromise between fixed and removable was appropriate for her. She's a talented actress and an up-and-coming star and requested a perfect Bollywood smile.

Panthera received applications to participate in the competition from technicians in 11 different countries, including 12 female entries—a competition record—and then narrowed them down to 10 finalists. The final cases were blindly evaluated based on knowledge, skills, function and esthetics by a panel of judges including Oleg Glozanski, RDT; Sebastien Mioranza, DT, last year's first-place winner; Dr. Michael Tholey; Margaret Wibberly, DT; and John Wibberly, CDT.

"The entire Panthera Dental team congratulates Patricia on her outstanding work. All functional, esthetic and documentation criteria

were skillfully met," says Béatrice Robichaud, Co-Founder and VP Marketing and Customer Experience at Panthera Dental. "Con-

gratulations to Evgeny, Nina and to the seven other participants who submitted impressive work in this edition's very complex case."



Panthera Dental announced the winners of its sixth annual Master Cup competition at an event on October 6, 2023, in Quebec City. From l. to r: Nina Frketin, third-place winner; Patricia Strimb, first-place winner; and Beatrice Robichaud, Co-Founder and VP Marketing and Customer Experience, Panthera. Evgeny Korneychuk, second-place winner, was unable to attend the event. Also announced: Lola Welch from the U.K. won Best Documentation, a new award for this year's competition. To learn more about the 2024 Master Cup competition and to sign up to be notified when registration opens, visit panthera-dental.com/master-cup or follow Panthera Dental on social media.

My Journey to Winning First Place

By Patricia Strimb

"I first learned about the Master Cup at the IDS 2023. It sounded like a challenge, so I decided to give it a shot. I like to put my capabilities to the test, and I knew I would learn a lot of new techniques on my journey, so I was intrigued. I sent in my application just one day before the deadline—and I'm glad I did.

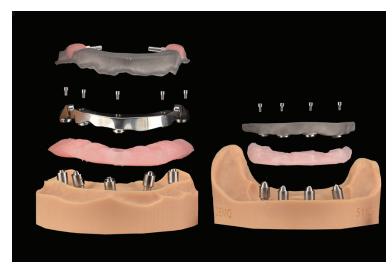
"For such a big case, a step-by-step plan is essential. I approached this case as though I were creating a movie script in which every little movement, sound and object on the set is written and planned in advance. I visualized all the steps so I knew exactly where I was going and would stay organized and avoid complications along the way.

"I created a mental screenplay about this fictional patient, named her Menaka, which means celestial woman, and envisioned her as tall and slender with an Indian mother and English father. This image guided my fabrication process.

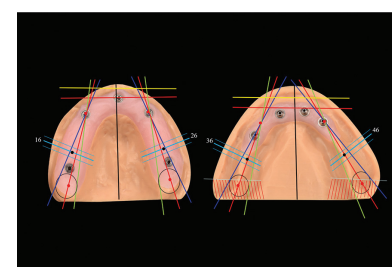
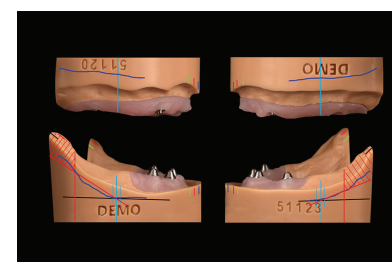
"Here are some of the photos I took during the competition:



"I was excited to be chosen as one of the 10 finalists and receive the box with all the materials and a detailed description of the case."



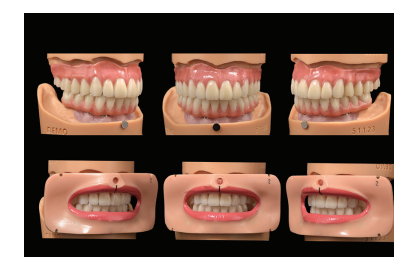
"Panthera Dental also sent the models, bars and bite registrations."



"The model analysis was important to achieve the precise placement of the teeth. My boss always says: 'Remember that beautiful gums don't compensate for function or reduce the risk of inflammation! A pretty gingiva doesn't help the patient to chew.'"



"As part of my mental screenplay, I also created a list of Menaka's esthetic criteria so that her dentures would work with her slightly darker complexion: no bluish/translucent incisal edges, mamelons or growth ridges. Instead, I envisioned longitudinally running surface structures to emphasize the slimness of her face. I used VITA Lingoform teeth for optimal placement and function. I selected a purely uniform A1 shade close to the VITA shade guide with small, subtle irregularities in the incisal edges and a harmonious, straight tooth arrangement with no irregularities. The red lines on the teeth indicate the optimal relationship and contacts between the upper and lower molars so when Menaka chews, her denture works like a mortar and pestle (shown in the middle of the photo)."



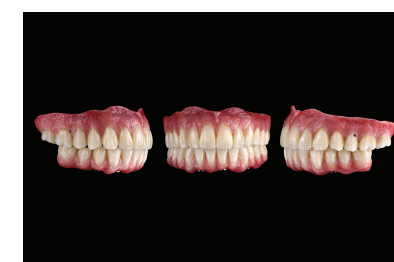
"I placed the bars and used plastic lips to visualize her denture and face." (Patricia, is editing OK?)



"I modelled the gingiva in wax, made a negative form out of silicone, removed the wax and put the silicone form on the teeth and the frameworks, and filled the silicone form with PMMA to replicate the gingiva. I minimally reduced it and then layered with VITA gingiva composite to characterize the base." (Patricia, is editing OK?)



"I like to keep my workspace organized and orderly to maintain a system-oriented mind."



"My finished case. I tried to mimic natural gingiva as much as possible. The gingiva can be viewed in three parts, each having different characteristics: the mobile part which is not attached to bone, the gingiva part which is thinner and attached firmly to the bone of the maxilla or mandible and the papilla which moves slightly and runs along the teeth.



Bollywood movie stars tend to have elaborate jewelry full of gemstones so in keeping with my vision of Menaka, I incorporated a gemstone in tooth #10."



Patricia Strimb



"On October 6, 2023, I attended the Master Cup ceremony at the Panthera Dental headquarters in Quebec where I was named the first-place winner! In addition to prizes from the sponsors, I won a personalized Panthera ring (right photo). I highly recommend participating in this competition. It's a great challenge for people who want to learn more or improve their abilities. It's not easy so be prepared to put in your blood, sweat and tears. But as Confucius said, 'the journey is the goal,' so enjoy the process!"

Coming in Second and Third...

Evgeny Korneychuk, Technician, Zahntechnik Gross GmbH, Maintal, Germany, took second place in Panthera's Master Cup competition. Like first-place winner Patricia Strimb, he believes model analysis is one of the most important steps when working with a completely edentulous patient. "Thanks to the anatomical landmarks, the technician can collect a lot of information. For this reason, it should be carried out with great care and attention. Inaccurate analysis of the model can lead to incorrect setting of teeth, poor stabilization and fixation of the prosthesis during dynamic jaw movements," says Korneychuk.

In his detailed documentation, Korneychuk offered a message of respect to all his fellow technicians. "I wish you success in all that you do. After all, we don't just create prostheses, we give people a new smile, add to their confidence and change their lives," he wrote.

For third-place winner **Nina Frketin**, the Master Cup competition was a personal challenge. "I wanted to prove to myself I'm good enough and I also wanted to inspire my fellow female technicians to step forward and embrace such challenges. Time for us to shine!" says Frketin, Lead Prosthetic and Full-Arch Technician at Mango Dental Technologies in Sedgefield, U.K.

To prepare for the competition, she focused on learning lingualized occlusion, studying the technique to make sure she understood it well. She used VITA Excell, mold T47. "They fit right with the bite block measurements. VITA teeth are my go-to in my everyday workflow. Their natural appearance, high abrasion resistance, ease of setup and consistent shades makes my work a breeze."

Born in Croatia, she is proud to call the U.K. home for the past 13 years and has 20 years of experience in the industry. ■

