From 1981 to 2021, BISCO has dedicated time, resources, and talent to improving restorative dentistry, with products proudly made in the U.S.
A Growing Legacy

A reflection on BISCO’s humble origins and bold innovations

By reputation, BISCO is well known as an industry-leading dental manufacturer that revolutionized bonding with the release of All-Bond Universal, a one-bottle dental adhesive. Now in its 50th year of innovation, BISCO continues to release products that are making a profound impact on adhesive dentistry, while also expanding its reach into new categories.

In commemoration of BISCO’s milestone anniversary, we’re taking a closer look at the company and the people behind it, including the man behind BISCO’s science, research and success—and the company name itself—Dr. Byoung I. Suh. This is a story about how one man’s vision led to building a ground-breaking company, with admirable core values as the lifeblood.

One Man’s Journey Begins

As a young man, Dr. Suh wasn’t set on becoming an entrepreneur. For that matter, he hadn’t yet realized his vision for revolutionizing adhesive dentistry. However, he did have a better vision for his life than the one he had known while growing up on the Korean Peninsula, post-WWII. During this period of tension and poor conditions in Korea, Dr. Suh worked as a bellhop, busboy, and a teaching assistant. After receiving his master’s degree in 1968, he worked as a research chemist in Chicago, developing a restorative composite that became widely used by dentists. In discovering dental materials and chemistry, Dr. Suh found a calling to offer more to the industry through his own venture.

“I was motivated to find a solution in dentistry to bond to tooth structure and metals. I knew I could do this working for another company, or take the risk and start my own company,” Dr. Suh recalled. After consulting with his wife, he took the leap in 1981.

The first few years were dedicated to research and development. In 1985, BISCO developed an industry-first reinforced nanofill composite, BisFil-M, which became a foundation for future composites. All-Bond was introduced in 1990, followed by All-Bond 2, the first successful universal dental bonding system, in 1991. Duo-Link Universal, a dual-cured composite luting cement, followed in 1994, and in 1995, One-Step, a single-bottle bonding agent.

BISCO was well on its way to becoming a dental industry leader.

Overcoming Challenges

Any growing company is sure to have both struggles and triumphs. How it started, when asked about his most memorable moment to date, Dr. Suh identified TheraCal LC, a resin-modified calcium silicate liner.

“It was actually developed in 2003 but it took many years to solve some of the stability/separation issues before we finally were able to launch it in 2011,” Dr. Suh recalled.

Another challenge was making a 2-part adhesive easier for customers, and much time and money was spent on a dispenser that was ultimately obsoleted. The team’s perseverance eventually paid off with the 2012 introduction of All-Bond Universal. However, when asked about his most memorable moment to date, Dr. Suh identified its predecessor All-Bond, “truly a novel, ground-breaking idea for dentistry” that involved etching dentin at a time when it was still considered “taboo.”

Earning & Keeping a Reputation

Aside from BISCO’s high level of innovation, what continues to set the company apart is its core values — respect, positive, a team player, and a practical achiever. These core values trickle down from R&D to the sales and customer service teams, who go above and beyond for virtually every call received.

“Whenever we get a doctor on the phone who is having an issue, whether they are the most knowledgeable about their products, in adhesive dentistry, bioactive materials, and self-adhesive materials, that will enhance the future of restorative dentistry.” — Dr. Byoung I. Suh

Did You Know?

The BISCO logo is comprised of 5 benzene rings which represent the company’s foundation built on chemistry. Each benzene ring symbolizes 1 of the 5 divisions of the BISCO family:

- Research & Development
- Quality & Regulatory Affairs
- Sales & Marketing
- Manufacturing Operations
- Finance & Administration

The benzene rings are shown bonded together, as all 5 divisions must work together to carry out BISCO’s success. The color blue represents the company’s integrity and dependability, while the color red signifies passion for science and innovation.

A reflection on BISCO’s humble origins and bold innovations

1. Bisco BYOE by Youn In Suh’s Company

2. How It Started...How It’s Going

Dr. Suh (far right) on staff at LITEA Fertilizer Corporation, Chungju, Korea, 1962

Dr. Suh outside of his own company, BISCO, in Schaumburg, IL, present day

3. BISCO 40th Anniversary

4. Did You Know?

5. Did You Know?

6. Did You Know?
Peer-to-Peer

In Dental Product Shopper’s history of interviewing clinicians and product evaluators, BISCO earns loyal customers because of exceptional product chemistry and excellent customer service. Below, Sean Sunyoto, DDS, of Pasadena, CA, and George D. Reskas, DDS, FAADC, of New York, describe their experiences with BISCO.

Q: Dentists have countless adhesive products to choose from. Why BISCO? What sets them apart?
Dr. Sunyoto: To me, BISCO sets themselves apart by having a readily accessible website that is user-friendly with a low barrier to ordering. Meaning, I can take advantage of discounts and ordering by myself without going through another vendor.
Dr. Reskas: The consistency of their products is what sets them apart. They are easy-to-use and remarkably effective.

Q: BISCO is widely considered a leader in product chemistry. What does “chemical compatibility” mean to you, and why does it matter?
Dr. Sunyoto: Chemical compatibility to me means that my products are all working together. I have confidence my BISCO products work well together—whether it be my products are all working together. I have confidence that is user-friendly with a low barrier to ordering. Meaning, I can take advantage of discounts and ordering by myself without going through another vendor.
Dr. Reskas: I simply do not have post-operative issues, which is a superb practice-builder. Let’s face it: patients don’t want it to hurt, and don’t want it to fall out! BISCO helps me achieve that consistently.

Q: How has BISCO’s product education and customer service been for you?
Dr. Sunyoto: Ordering is easy via their website. If I have any issues, calling them is not a hassle at all. There is barely any wait time and their reps are very friendly.
Dr. Reskas: I’ve had an excellent customer service experience, which is so rare these days—it’s refreshing.

Efficiency Boosters

All-Bond Universal
“Every other bonding agent has at least one caveat. Some require an ‘activator’ when used in combination with dual-cured materials like a core build-up material or resin cement. Some must be used in conjunction with other products from the manufacturer. There is no fine print with All-Bond Universal.”
— Todd C. Snyder, DDS, FAACD

Duo-Link Universal
“You can use Duo-Link Universal with a variety of products, whether you want to cement to metal, composite, alumina, zirconia, or porcelain restorations. It also works with bridges, inlays, onlays, and CAD/CAM restorations.”
— Byron Davis, DDS

MVPs: Most Viable Products

Meet the other key players in BISCO’s current lineup

Latest Additions

TheraBase is a dual-curing, calcium-releasing, self-adhesive base/liner, offering handling and delivery benefits as well as high resistance to fracture and compressive strength to absorb and withstand stress and shock.

FluoroCal is a 5% sodium fluoride varnish with tri-calcium phosphate. FluoroCal provides immediate sensitivity relief to hypersensitive teeth through mechanical occlusion or the “blocking” of dentin tubules.

Primed to Perform

Offering high-bond strength in any curing mode, 2-Prime Plus enhances the adhesion between composite resins and indirect restorative materials as a single-component priming agent for metals, alloys, composites, and endodontic posts, as well as zirconia and alumina metal oxide ceramics. ZirClean is a non-abrasive cleaning gel for zirconia bonding surfaces as well as other prosthetic restorations after intraoral try-in.

Resolving Core Challenges

Core-Flo DC core build-up material is versatile and dual-cured, offering good flexural and compressive strength to cement posts and build up the core, with only one application. Core-Flo DC Lite is a lower-viscosity version of the original Core-Flo DC, offering good extrusion and flow, and dispersed with an auto-mix dual syringe.

Meet the TheraFamily

TheraBase joins the award-winning Thera Family, which includes 3 other products:
• TheraCal LC — a light-cured resin-modified calcium silicate pulp protector/liner
• TheraCal PT — a biocompatible, resin-modified calcium silicate designed for pulpotomy treatment
• TheraCem — a dual-cured, calcium- and fluoride-releasing, self-adhesive resin cement indicated for luting

Timeline of Modern Innovations

2009
• Launch of 2-Prime Plus for bonding to zirconia, alumina, and metal

2010
• Launch of Core-Flo DC — a flowable dual-cured, radiopaque core build-up composite

2011
• Interox HV Etch, a high-viscosity etchant with benzalkonium chloride (BAC), is introduced
• Launch of TheraCal LC — a resin-modified calcium silicate liner

2012
• Introduction of All-Bond Universal

2013
• Duo-Link Universal Gets better with easy handling and delivery benefits

2014
• ScEMENT introduced as one kit for lithium disilicate restorations

2015
• Introduction of Universal Primer for dual-cured adhesive procedures
• Core-Flo DC Lite — a self-leveling core build-up material is launched

2016
• Next generation cement TheraCam arrives

2017
• Launch of Reveal HD Bulk, a light-cured bulk-fill composite

2018
• Introduction of Pro V C&B temporary crown-and-bridge material
• Launch of ZirClean zirconia restoration cleaner

2019
• Thera family grows with launch of TheraCal PT for pulpotomy treatment

2021
• Launch of TheraBase, dual-curing, calcium-releasing, self-adhesive base/liner
• FluoroCal, a 5% sodium fluoride varnish with tri-calcium phosphate, is marketed.
Additional Resources

Video Testimonial

“Over the years, I have tried other products, but I’ve never really found any products that worked as consistently in my hands and showed me the same results as any of the BISCO products I have.”
- Adamo Notarantonio, DDS, FICOI, AAACD

E-Books

- Understanding Cements
- Universal Adhesives
- The Thera Family
- One Practice, Two Dentists, A Core Group of Products

How To Reach BISCO

Show BISCO your best case so they can share your work! If you used a BISCO product in your case, post the case in your Instagram story, tag @biscodental and #mybiscocase, and let them know which products you worked with!