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DENTAL TRIBUNE
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News & People
Meetings & Events
Research & Products
Your Practice

The latest developments and views affecting your profession and profiles of the people making headlines. In this edition: “Smoking Increases Risk for Root Canal Treatment” and “Give Thanks for the Cranberry.”

We will be your source for news emerging from conventions and workshops coast to coast, with on-the-spot coverage of the biggest sessions. You’ll get the complete picture of what happened where and what to expect from upcoming sessions.

Find out about new programs, new findings, case studies and abstracts. Plus, get the scoop on the newest tools of your trade, along with expert reviews. In this edition, learn about the Guttaflow, the A2 Ultrasonic, and VersaBrush.

Learn a variety of new ways to make sure your business runs smoothly and you manage your money. In this edition, industry experts advise you on how to ensure you get paid for the services you provide.

Weekly Roundup

Biphosphonate Drugs
Drugs containing biphosphonates may place those taking them at risk for development of osteonecrosis of the jaws. Such drugs are usually given to breast cancer patients, patients of specific types of bone cancer therapies and those at risk for osteoporosis. This news comes from a literature review and case report in the May/June 2006 issue of General Dentistry, which is a clinical, peer-reviewed journal by the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). The jawbone has a rapid cell turnover rate, so the presence of biphosphonates can mean that it is prevented from healing properly after dental surgery or an extraction because the drugs can remain in the bone indefinitely.

Pregnancy Cravings
Some pregnant women suffer from an eating disorder called pica that causes them to crave freezer frost, ice or even soil. This comes from a study that appeared in the May/June edition of General Dentistry by the AGD. When combined with bulimia, pica can severely affect a mother’s oral health during pregnancy and it can be difficult to diagnose and treat during that time. As a compulsive eating disorder, pica sufferers have an appetite for non-nutritious materials. The connection between pica and bulimia and their causes are not known, but cultural and physiological factors have been suggested, as well as depression or iron and zinc deficiencies.

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I.D. Tech Reaches Dentistry

3,400 Flock to Hawaii Event

The winners of the AAE’s highest honors: Drs. András Jaunberzin, Rafael Milanova, Synguk Kim, Harmon R. Katz, Leif Tronstad, Thomas P. Mullaney, and John M. Nusstein.

AAE ’06 Focuses on “Raising the Bar”

LAS VEGAS—Attendees of the 2006 Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists packed the Honolulu Convention Center from March 29 through April 1 for education and networking surrounding the theme “Raising the Bar—Elevating the Standard of Endodontic Care”. Though inclement weather may have disappointed many Hawaiian visitors, it certainly made for a successful meeting—just over 3,400 AAE members, exhibitors and guests crowded lecture rooms, workshops and the exhibit hall.

This year’s event showcased many new and special services due to the island venue. A shortened meeting schedule offered traditional luncheon events in a breakfast format, and an early end to educational sessions to accommodate immediate member needs and traffic. Door-to-door shuttle service was a daily convenience appreciated by many, and the casual atmosphere reflected in attire and family-friendly activities made the meeting not only logistically smooth but also truly enjoyable.

Things got off to a great start on Wednesday with the Pre-Session Symposium, which addressed the application of research outcomes of new technologies to endodontic practice.

Dental Tribune International
By Daniel Zimmermann

SEATTLE—At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Seattle, USA, scientists from Belgium presented an ID chip that can be implanted into a tooth. The chip carries detailed personal information and was developed to help forensic scientists identify bodies after natural disasters and terrorist attacks with numerous victims. “You put your ID card in your pocket, we put it in a tooth,” said Patrick Thevissen, a forensic odontologist at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. The ID chip can carry information including a person’s name, nationality, date of birth, gender, national ID code and can be read after death even when teeth had been badly damaged.

Dr. Thevissen and his colleagues said that they had adapted an electronic identification tag which vets injected routinely into animals. Similar radio frequency identification (RFID) tags are used by retailers to track stock and supermarkets to gain more detailed customer information. The tags, the size of a grain of rice, use the power from a radio pulse emitted by an electronic reader to send out a code which can be picked up. This code can be linked to a database containing a person’s details or, as Dr. Thevissen suggests, spell out simple information directly.

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 literal translation of the Indonesian word for tooth. Although in vitro activities were performed on human teeth, van Suylen and colleagues pointed out the many possibilities for use of the technology. Special emphasis was given to dentists from Belgium who presented an ID chip that can be Implanted into a tooth. The chip carries detailed personal information and was developed to help forensic scientists identify bodies after natural disasters and terrorist attacks with numerous victims. “You put your ID card in your pocket, we put it in a tooth,” said Patrick Thevissen, a forensic odontologist at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. The ID chip can carry information including a person’s name, nationality, date of birth, gender, national ID code and can be read after death even when teeth had been badly damaged.

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