Florida sends you on a flight to success

2010 FNDC, to be held June 10-12 in Orlando, offers three days of education, new technology — and fun!

By Fred Michmerhuizen, Online Editor

The 2010 Florida National Dental Convention (FNDC) will be held June 10 to 12 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando. The theme of the meeting is “Approach to Success: Piloting Your Way to Dental Excellence.”

Organized by the Florida Dental Association, the meeting offers three days of education not only for dentists, but for administrative staff and hygienists as well.

“The FNDC Committee plans years in advance for each FNDC, and I think we have a great slate for 2010,” said Neil E. Torgerson, DMD, general chair of the Committee on the Florida National Dental Convention.

New at this year’s FNDC is a Dental Assistant Roundtable, a course in which dental assistants will be introduced to new products and techniques.

And for practitioners who have always wanted intensive training but haven’t been able to commit to a weeklong residency, the FNDC has established mini-residencies in the most sought-after areas.

The FNDC is offering three-day mini-residencies in implants and endodontics. The FNDC is also offering a two-day anatomy and dissection course.

Educational highlights

The meeting will offer 115 continuing education courses, including 81 lectures, 25 workshops, three mini-residencies and two master series.

“This year’s meeting has everything you and your team need to sharpen and hone your skills,” said Charles Llano, DDS, program chairman of the meeting.

“As I planned this program, I kept in mind the need for all of us to continue to grow and educate ourselves in order to be the best in our profession. Getting a dental degree is just the beginning — the learning continues throughout our career.”

Some of the educational highlights include the following courses:

• Successful Implants Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This mini-residency, led by Dennis Thompson, DDS, MS, will prepare participants to implement the use of a system that prevents bone and tissue loss around anterior implants.

In addition, it will allow participants to utilize a single implant to attach to natural teeth (an implant/tooth bridge).

The cost of this course is $1,895.

• Hi-Tech Endodontics in the 21st Century Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

In this course, led by Samuel O. Dorn, DDS, PA, and Kenneth J. Zucker, DDS, MS, participants will be introduced to the usage of many new endodontic techniques and instruments from a variety of manufacturers.

Participants will have exposure to many of the most popular nickel titanium instrument systems as well as several different apex locators, ultrasonic, irrigation and obturation devices.

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to complete endodontic procedures on extracted teeth, plastic blocks and anatomically accurate acrylic teeth models using the dental operating microscope, and visualize the final results using digital radiography.

The cost of this course is $1,895.

• The TEAM Approach to Implant Dentistry Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This mini-residency, led by Will Martin, DMD, MS, and James D. Ruskin, DMD, MD, is intended for dentists who desire to increase their knowledge of the restorative and surgical phases of implant treatment for their patients.

The clinical management of the patient from consultation, treatment planning, surgical placement of implants in the mandible and maxilla, peri-operative and postoperative care and complications will be reviewed.

The cost of this course is $1,895.

Other educational tracks

In addition to the course highlights mentioned above, the meeting will also offer educational tracks for administrative assistants and dental hygienists.

“Whether you come for one day, or all three, the courses are there to help you master your profession,” Llano said.

FNDC Exhibit Marketplace

According to meeting organizers, nearly 450 exhibitors will share their knowledge and expertise, as well as the latest and most innovative products, services and dental technologies, in the FNDC Exhibit Marketplace.

“Our exhibitor hall is filled with exhibitors waiting to show you all the latest in technology and materials for your practice,” said Torgerson. “It is a one-stop shopping experience for all that dentistry has to offer.”

Meeting attendees are encouraged to take advantage of convention specials, learn about the latest products and place on-site orders.

In addition to hundreds of presentations, demonstrations and products, the FNDC exhibit hall will also feature table clinics, C.E. verification stations and a variety of fun activities.

The exhibit hall hours are as follows:

• Thursday, June 10: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

• Friday, June 11: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

• Saturday, June 12: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday in Paradise

The FNDC will also offer plenty of fun. A “Friday in Paradise” event will be held in the Gaylord Palms atrium on Friday afternoon and evening.

There will be live music, dancing and entertainment for kids — including stilts walkers and balloon artists. Everyone is invited, and the tickets are free.

More information about the meeting is available online, at www.floridadentalconvention.com.