Museum showcases the latest technology for dental practices

By Fred Michmersruzhzen, Online Editor

Now Here’s Something To SMILE About!

There’s no doubt that any dentist who has been to a dental meeting recently knows a lot about new technology. Now, thanks to a new exhibit at the National Museum of Dentistry, members of the general public will get to see much of this new technology as well.

The new exhibit showcases some of the most technologically advanced dental treatment systems available for dental offices — from digital X-ray systems that expose patients to less radiation to foot-operated computers that improve the delivery of procedures, reduce patients’ time in the office and improve oral health.

“The ‘Tomorrow’s Dental Office ... Today’ exhibit gives us an opportunity to feature some of the latest advances in dental care, showing how far the techniques of modern dentistry have come and their positive impact on the public,” said National Museum of Dentistry Executive Director Jonathan Landers, in a press release announcing the new exhibit.

The exhibit is made possible through the support of Benco Dental, a privately owned, full-service distributor of dental supplies, dental equipment, dental consulting and equipment services.

“We were honored to be selected to put together the ‘Tomorrow’s Dental Office ... Today’ exhibit for the National Museum of Dentistry,” said Benco Dental President Charles Cohen. “It’s an exciting venture, bringing dental technology to the general public.”

The “Tomorrow’s Dental Office ... Today” exhibit includes the following:

• Dental operator equipment from 4-dec that was developed to optimize patient care and comfort in the treatment room while enabling dentists to perform more efficient dentistry.

• The 4-dec 500 dental chair, featuring a slim headrest and backrest to give the dentist more legroom under the chair for the patient, the anatomically formed backrest and seat cushion reduce pressure points.

• The A-dec 5300 treatment console and storage unit, made of water-resistant materials to allow for the efficient storage and delivery of supplies while providing a flat-panel monitor, pivoting work surface and assistant’s instrumentation.

• The PaX-Duo3D Cone Beam CT unit from Vatech, featuring switching technology for digital panoramic radiographs or CT scans. The unit has dedicated sensors for each system and an imbedded camera for proper patient positioning.

• The LAYA Chairside Oral Radiography System from Acteon that automates the curing process through a complex ultrasonic vibrations and an array of tips for tooth cleaning, root canal procedures, periodontal surgeries and cavity preparation. The LED lights provide illumination for procedures in the back of the mouth.

• The SIROLaser Advance from Sirona, providing preset therapy programs for laser applications in the fields of periodontics, endodontics, surgery and pain relief.

• The SWERV3 Magnetostrictive Ultrasonic Scaler from Hu-Friedy, delivering a full range of power for efficiently removing calculus on the teeth while still providing patient comfort.

• The SmartLife PS by DENTSPLY, used by the dental team to curry a variety of dental products ranging from cements and adhesives to composites.

• The NOMAD Pro handheld X-ray unit by Aribex, the first for intraoral use. The unit’s light weight and rechargeability allow for its use on humanitarian missions in remote areas and for dental forensic identification following mass disasters. The internal shielding and external backscatter shield protect the operator, making it extremely safe to use.

• The Dental R.A.T., a foot-operated computer mouse and keyboard for hands-free computer use. Developed by a frustrated hygienist to allow for single-person periodontal charting, the unit has become even handler as more patient information is recorded and stored digitally.

At the museum, visitors can also see for themselves how dentistry has changed dramatically over time. Galleries include some of the hand-forged iron tools of the early American dentist on horseback, to the 19th-century office of G.V. Black, known as the “Father of Dentistry,” to the cutting-edge dental equipment available today.

In short, the museum shows how dental care has evolved and oral health has improved through the ages.