YDC: ‘It all starts here’

Yankee Dental Congress expecting 28,000

“It all starts here” is the theme at the 2014 Yankee Dental Congress, where an estimated 28,000 dental professionals are expected to gather with a shared goal of improving and maintaining patients’ oral health — as well as overall health.

Attendees can expect to find a varied selection of continuing dental education courses and a bustling exhibit hall floor featuring some of the most innovative products in dentistry. It all takes place under one roof — at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2.

According to meeting organizers, YDC 2014 will feature more than 300 continuing education courses covering virtually every sector of dentistry, presented by some of the industry’s top speakers. Highlights include:

• Restorative dentistry, presented by John Sorensen, DMD, PhD, and Sam Simon, DDS.
• General health, presented by Bart Johnson, DDS.
• Practice management, presented by Kirk Behrendt, Jennifer Blackmon, Mark Hyman, DDS, Lisa Gualtieri, PhD, Rachel Mele and Chris Scappatura.
• Prosthodontics, presented by William Wilson, DDS.
• Orthodontics, presented by Chris Baker, DMD, RN, and Wick Alexander, DDS.

The YDC also will offer quality continuing education programs, including:
• “The Ninth Annual Conference for Women in Dentistry.”
• “Diagnosis and Treatment of Oral and Facial Lesions — Fast Track.”
• “Master the Skills of Marketing Your Practice: One-Day Marketing Symposium.”
• “New Dentist Itinerary.”

Attendees will be able to connect with some of the brightest minds in dentistry.

See YDC, page A4
Dental infections may play a role in brain aneurysms

While bacterial infections have been associated with a number of serious medical conditions, such as cardiovascular diseases, their role in cerebrovascular disorders has not been fully understood to date. Now, researchers from Finland have suggested that infections due to oral and pharyngeal bacteria could be a risk factor for ruptured intracranial aneurysms.

In the study, the researchers obtained 36 ruptured aneurysm specimens, then examined the presence of bacterial DNA from various oral species. The researchers found bacterial DNA in 21 specimens. DNA from endodontic bacteria was detected in 20 specimens and from periodontal bacteria in 17 of the samples. Bacterial DNA of the streptococcus mitis group, which has also been linked to endocarditis, was found to be the most common. Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans, Fusobacterium nucleatum and Treponema denticola were the three most common periodontal pathogens.

According to the researchers, the study is the first to provide evidence that dental infections could be associated with intracranial aneurysm disease and the rupture of brain aneurysms in particular. The study, titled “The connection between ruptured cerebral aneurysms and odontogenic bacteria,” was published in the November 2013 issue of the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry. It was conducted by researchers at the University of Tampere in collaboration with the University of Eastern Finland in Kuopio.

Sources: University of Tampere and the University of Eastern Finland in Kuopio

Protocol for forensic dental data now same as for DNA and fingerprinting

The Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), whose broad mission is to promote U.S. science, standards and technology, recently added a dental data supplement to its existing standard, “Data Format for the Interchange of Fingerprint, Facial & Other Biometric Information.”

The forensic dental data supplement standardizes the transmission methodology of dental data for forensic use in criminal investigation, including measurement science, standards and technology, for transportation accidents, terrorist attacks and other incidents where dental records are used in the identification process.

ANSI/NIST-ITL canvasses representing more than 60 organizations around the world approved the dental data supplement as now a new forensic voice analysis supplement.

“The dental supplement evolved out of the need to include forensic dental in disaster victim identification,” said Bradford Wing, biometric standards coordinator of ANSI/NIST-ITL. “Communications protocols for dental data now match those for fingerprints and DNA.”

The ANSI/NIST-ITL Dental Working Group worked collaboratively with the American Dental Association (ADA) Standards Committee on Dental Informatics over a period of several years to produce a supplement that uses the ANSI/ADA Standard 1038 – Forensic Dental Data Set as the basis for interaction and interoperability among the various forensic dental repositories and systems deployed around the world. These include the FBI National Crime Information Center Dental Image Repository, the Department of Justice National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), INTERPOL FastID Disaster Victim Identification System, Plass Data software (used by many organizations around the world), WinID Dental Identification System (used in many U.S. disaster recovery operations) and the UVIS Dental Identification Module (UDIM) developed by the New York City Medical Examiner’s Office and also used by some municipalities.

Once implemented, the standard will enable these organizations to not only exchange data but also gather data directly from dental offices, even though each system uses unique encodings that are not mutually compatible.

The dental supplement also covers other items that can be useful for forensic work, such as patterned injury imagery (for example, bite marks), cheiloscopy (lip prints), CT and cone-beam scans, and more.

NIST coordinated the development of these supplements and manages the updates to the standard. For more information about the standard and the standards development process and for a copy of the standard itself, visit www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ansi_standard.cfm, or you can contact Bradford Wing at (301) 975-5663.

(Source: The Information Technology Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology)