Boston meeting aims ‘Beyond Expectations’

Yankee Dental Congress organizers are anticipating 28,000 dental professionals to be at the Boston-based meeting from Jan. 28–Feb. 1. The theme for this year’s meeting is “Beyond Expectations,” and the agenda includes some of the dental industry’s top speakers and technology experts. Organizers promise that attendees will “have the chance to explore and discover best practices, products and resources to improve your practice, increase your knowledge and better serve your patients.”

Education highlights include:
- “Tenth Annual Conference for Women in Dentistry” – Join Soo-In Woo, DMD, and Connie Podesta for two days of learning, networking and fun.
- “Fast Track: Immediate Implant Placement in the Esthetic Zone” – Six hours of sessions cover implant planning, the esthetic zone and immediate placement.
- “Interprofessional Symposium” – Join expert physicians from New England’s premier hospitals as they present information on the management of patients with medical issues that a dentist may encounter in daily practice.
- “Clinical Techniques in Pediatrics.”
- “Tenth Annual Conference for Women in Dentistry” – Join Sook-Bin Woo, DMD, and Connie Podesta for two days of learning, networking and fun.
- “Nutrition Update: 2015.”
- “Clinical Techniques in Pediatrics.”
- “Tenth Annual Conference for Women in Dentistry” – Join Sook-Bin Woo, DMD, and Connie Podesta for two days of learning, networking and fun.
- “Nutrition Update: 2015.”

Courses are selling out for the Boston-based Yankee Dental Congress, so organizers are encouraging attendees to register now at www.yankeedental.com.

On Thursday evening you can boogie down to the hits from the 1970s at the “Throwback Thursday Dance Party.” The complimentary event is an opportunity to socialize with colleagues while celebrating 40 years of Yankee.

Many courses were close to selling out at press time, so it’s worth registering soon at www.yankeedental.com.

(Source: Yankee Dental Congress)
Hands-on training abounds at Pacific Dental Conference

More than 150 sessions and courses, March 5-7, in Vancouver

You can experience the true flavor of the West Coast — and earn C.E. credits at the same time — at the Pacific Dental Conference, March 5-7, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The PDC has an expert lineup of local, North American and international speakers.

With more than 130 presenters, 150 open sessions and hands-on courses covering a variety of topics, the meeting should be able to offer something for every member of your dental team.

According to meeting organizers, you will be able to explore the largest two-day dental trade show in Canada and have the year’s first opportunity to see the newest equipment. The exhibit hall features innovative new techniques demonstrated on the live dentistry stage, and attendees will be able to examine products and services from more than 300 exhibiting companies with representatives who are ready to engage attendees in discussions on creating practice solutions.

At the conclusion of the conference, you can take a day to relax and revital­ize by exploring some of Vancouver’s tourist attractions. The ocean is just steps from the Vancouver Convention Centre, and nearby pristine snow-capped mountains offer up choice late-season skiing.

(Source: Pacific Dental Conference)
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Quality location plus quality education plus quality family time equals Smiles in the Sun 2015 in Longboat Key, Fla., April 22–26. Now you can earn C.E. credit while your family has a vacation that you can enjoy with them. All the programs are in the morning — leaving you the balance of your day to spend time with your family. Reduced rates are available at the family-friendly Longboat Key Club and Resort.


Register at smilesinthesus.net, or call (850) 423-5200.

(Source: Smiles in the Sun)

Pediatric dental professionals in Seattle, May 21–24

Pike Place Market, The Space Needle, the EMP Museum and some of the top thought leaders in pediatric dentistry are among the reasons to be in Seattle May 21–24 for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) annual session. Scientific sessions are at the Washington State Convention Center, in the heart of downtown, adjacent to hotels, restaurants, nightlife and shopping. Taking advantage of the location, the welcome reception on Thursday, May 21, features exclusive access to the Space Needle, EMP Museum and Chihuly Gardens.

The keynote, on May 22, features Frank Abagnale with "The True Story of Catch Me If You Can." An authority on forgery, years ago as a world-famous con man, as depicted in his best-selling book, "Catch Me If You Can." Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks starred in a Steven Spielberg film based on the book.

Attendees must register for the meeting prior to making hotel reservations to get the meeting rate. Hotels in the AAPD critical block are the Sheraton Seattle (headquarter hotel), the Grand Hyatt Seattle, the Hyatt at Olive 8, the Fairmont Olympic, the Crowne Plaza, the Hilton Seattle and the Renaissance Seattle.

Three-day exhibit hall

Products and services in the meeting’s exhibit hall will be geared toward pediatric dental practices. An AAPD booth will have a bookstore, which will have copies of the Coding Manual, the new pediatric dentistry handbook. Also in the exhibit hall will be the Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Donor Lounge, where you can learn more about Access to Care Grants and donate to its supporting foundation.

The exhibit hall schedule provides attendees plenty of time to explore without conflicting with education courses, while also leaving time to enjoy the city. A hospitality area on the exhibit hall floor will offer a continental breakfast and there will be complimentary beverages each morning and afternoon and lunch available for purchase. You can register for the meeting online at www.aapd.org/annual.

(Source: AAPD)

Montréal hosts JDIQ, May 22–26

The Journées Dentaires Internationales du Québec, Canada’s largest bilingual dental meeting, according to organizers, is from May 22–26 (Friday through Tuesday) in Montréal. Online registration is available at www.odq.qc.ca.

Meeting apps for Apple and Android phones and tablets can be downloaded through www.odq.qc.ca, the app store or the Play Store. Onsite at the meeting, free WiFi will be available to all delegates and exhibitors at the venue, the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

The meeting’s educational program has more than 125 prominent speakers from Canada, the United States and Europe presenting approximately 175 educational sessions in English and French during the five-day convention. Among the educational sessions: "Lights, Camera, Action! Patient Photography Made Easy — A Hands-On Workshop," “Endodontics for General Dentists: Advanced, Comprehensive and Practical Hands-On Training,” “Oral Surgery for the General Dentist: Faster, Easier, and More Predictable” and “Hands-on Infection Control Workshop.”

Many other lectures and workshops are scheduled, with details in the program online.

The exhibition hall will feature more than 225 companies in 500 booths in the 133,563-square-foot space.

Saint-Paul Street in Old Montréal is one of many sights awaiting attendees of the 2015 Journées Dentaires Internationales du Québec, May 22–26.

(Source: JDIQ)

More than 2,000 company representatives will be on hand to help you see, compare and make decisions on new furniture, equipment, instruments, techniques and other products and services — all under one roof.

One C.E. hour per day can be earned by visiting the exhibit hall. Just be sure to have your badge scanned at the entrance. The exhibit hall hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, May 25 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26.

The organizers invite you to join the more than 12,000 expected delegates to meet, learn, share and enjoy this gathering of friends and colleagues.

(Source: JDIQ)
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American Academy of Oral Health Dieticians

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Certified
Clinically relevant and appropriately sized tips help improve implant maintenance

By LM-Dental Staff

The clinical challenge: Instruments (tips) intended and used for implant maintenance are too bulky, especially in cases when patients have healthy, tight tissue around the implants.

Proposed solution: ErgoMix Mini Implant Instruments from LM-Dental.

Reasoning supporting the solution: According to LM-Dental, dental practitioners were frustrated with the tip sizes of implant hand-instruments. They approached LM with their frustration and shared improvement suggestions. In response, LM, a market-leading instrument manufacturer in Europe, known for being sensitive to practitioners’ needs and passionate about clinical relevance, designed a series of titanium implant instruments with mini-sized tips. These LM ErgoMix implant instruments are made of softer-than-standard titanium alloy that is gentle on implants yet effective for calculus removal. ErgoMix implant instruments also feature replaceable tips and large diameter (12 mm) silicone surfaced handles that, according to the company, improve comfort. The ErgoMix replaceable tip mechanism is engineered so that no tools are needed to change the tips. That means there is no wrench tool to lose—guaranteed. The tips line up perfectly to the handles, making ErgoMix technology the 21st-century version of the outdated cone-socket system, according to the company.

The implant series includes four instrument patterns: Mini Gracey 1/2 – anterior (gray); Mini Gracey 11/12 – mesial (orange); Mini Gracey 13/14 – distal (blue); and Mini Universal – universal, all surfaces (red). They are available as a kit, containing one of each instrument and a cassette, or they may be purchased individually.

Big praise for small implant attachment

Italian company Rhein’83 is a leader in production of castable attachments with elastic retention and implant components. In 2012, its new implant attachment, OT EQUATOR, was rated 4.7 by Dental Product Shopper. In December 2014, Rhein was spotlighted at the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics event, where Drs. Adawi, Flinton and Di Pede presented a poster, entitled “Conservative approach to management of a partial edentulism in a medically compromised patient,” using the OT EQUATOR because of its functionality and reduced dimensions compared with other attachments. On Dec. 8, Rhein’83 Vice President Technology Gianni Storni lectured at New York University on removable prosthesis applications.

This year, many activities will be organized, including presentations on the latest technical innovations at the Chicago Midwinter Meeting, Feb. 26–28. On Thursday, Feb. 26, Rhein’83 USA will be at the Cal-Lab 89th Annual Meeting (oldest laboratory organization, founded in 1926). On Friday, Feb. 27, and Saturday, Feb. 28, Rhein will be at Lab Day at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago. Storni and Rhein’83 USA owner Joe Tambasco will be at the Rhein booth to present the latest innovations designed in Rhein research and development laboratories. For more information, you can visit www.rhein83usa.com, email info@rhein83usa.it, or phone (877) 778-8383.

(Source: Rhein’83)
Edentulous arch restored with BruxZir Full-Arch Implant Prosthesis

By Michael McCracken, DDS, PhD, and Jonathan P. Ouellette, DMD

Fixed hybrid dentures have been used to successfully restore fully edentulous patients for decades. Their durability, however, leaves room for improvement. There are three issues that can complicate the long-term success of the traditional fixed hybrid denture: The acrylic teeth tend to wear; the teeth can fracture or dislodge from the acrylic base; and the acrylic base itself can fracture. The BruxZir® Full-Arch Implant Prosthesis (Glidewell Laboratories, Newport Beach, Calif.) eliminates these issues, providing a restoration that is more durable in the long term, while sacrificing nothing when it comes to esthetics.

Milled from a single block of BruxZir Solid Zirconia — an exceptionally fracture-resistant material that exhibits flexural strength up to 1465 MPa — this fixed prosthesis utilizes advanced staining and glazing techniques, coloring the prosthetic teeth to closely mimic natural dentition and the gingival areas to match the shade of the patient’s soft tissue.

Case report

The patient is a 58-year-old male with no contraindications for implant treatment. The patient had a total of 11 BioHorizons® Internal Hex implants (BioHorizons; Birmingham, Ala.) placed, including six in the maxilla and five in the mandible (Figs. 1a, b). The implants integrated for more than six months, and the patient presented for restoration of his edentulous arches.

Preliminary impressions of the implants were made. Healing abutments were removed, then closed-tray impression copings were seated. The impressions were made in stock plastic trays, and the copings were placed back into the impressions before the case was sent to the laboratory. The laboratory poured casts from the initial impressions and fabricated bite blocks and occlusal rims for the centric jaw relationship (CJR) records. Each bite block contains two screw-retained temporary cylinders that allow the wax rims to be screwed down, producing a very accurate CJR. The contoured rims were returned to the laboratory with the initial casts.

Upon receiving the wax rims and jaw relation records, the laboratory and dentist decided that the patient required four multi-unit abutments in the anterior maxilla to ensure that the screw access openings were within the confines of the planned prosthesis, so at the next appointment, the patient’s healing abutments were removed, and the multi-unit abutments were transferred to the patient’s mouth and torqued into place.

Later, wax setups were tried in and evaluated for proper esthetics, phonetics, contours, occlusion and tooth arrangement. The implant verification jig (IVJ), which precisely captures the depth and angulation of the implants in the final impression, was seated and tightened into place. After bonding the individual sections of the IVJ together, a final impression was made using an open-tray impression technique and the custom tray provided by the lab. The lab produced a fixed provisional appliance using precise CAD/CAM technology and effectively preserved the doctor-approved setup. The provisional implant prosthesis enabled the patient to evaluate the proposed restoration for esthetics and function for a few-week trial period (Fig. 1). The final restoration was fabricated using the CAD design that was confirmed during the provisional trial period.

The final prostheses were delivered without complication, exhibiting excellent fit, occlusion and esthetics (Fig. 3). The patient was exceptionally pleased with the function offered by this fixed restoration, which he should be able to enjoy for a great number of years given the extraordinary durability of BruxZir Solid Zirconia.

Fig. 1a, b: Patient presents with six maxillary and five mandibular implants that were fully integrated and ready for restoration. Fig. 2: Provisional prostheses fit well, providing a trial period to evaluate proposed restoration for esthetics and function. Note gingival shade is adjusted for the fabrication of final restoration. Fig. 3: Patient is extremely satisfied with function and esthetics of final restoration, which fits perfectly thanks to the precision of the CAD/CAM-design process and the confirmation provided during the provisional trial period.

Photos/Provided by Glidewell Laboratories
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Final comments submitted on proposed standards for dental therapy education

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) recently submitted its comments to the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) regarding the proposed accreditation standards for dental therapy education programs. After asking communities of interest to provide comments, CODA received responses from a variety of stakeholders — including remarks from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), whose comments to CODA paralleled many of the same points that were included in ADHA’s remarks, and in which the FTC urged CODA to expeditiously adopt accreditation standards for dental therapy education programs.

ADHA comments noted, “CODA’s mission is to serve the oral health care needs of the public through the development and administration of standards that foster continuous quality improvement of dental and dental-related educational programs.” ADHA President Kelli Swanson Jaacks, MA, RDH, said: “The ADHA is focused on improving the public’s access to quality oral health care, which is an essential part of overall health. The comments we provided to CODA highlight the focus and commitment our organization has on improving access to care through the process of an accredited education program for dental therapists.”

The FTC has commented to CODA before on the need to revise the standards that were first proposed in 2013, and ADHA has expressed support for the FTC efforts to help ensure better access to care and enable dental therapists to operate to the full scope of their practice.

FCC: Time to enhance competition

ADHA Executive Director Ann Battrell, MSDH, said: “We were very pleased to see the FTC weigh in on this proposal by the dental therapy education programs.” Chairwoman Edith Ramirez has been steadfast in her continuing effort to promote competition in the oral health care industry for the benefit of the public. Battrell also noted that the FTC’s comments referenced that timely adoption of standards has the potential to enhance competition by supporting state legislative initiatives to create dental therapists, and that national standards will help facilitate the mobility of dental therapists from state to state to meet consumer demand for services.

The FTC’s comments noted that competition provides opportunities for the public to receive greater access to needed oral health care and opens doors for professional advancement to those practicing dental hygiene.

In addition to any remarks supplied to CODA during the comment period, commissioners were able to hear comments directly from ADHA members this summer at an open hearing at ADHA’s annual session in Las Vegas, and ADHA President Swanson Jaacks, among others, addressed CODA at the American Dental Association’s hearing on the standards, held in conjunction with the ADA’s annual meeting in San Antonio in October.

CODA is scheduled to meet on Feb. 6 in Chicago, where it is expected the commission will have further deliberations on the proposed standards for dental therapy education programs. The American Dental Hygienists’ Association is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of more than 185,000 dental hygienists across the country.

For more information about the ADHA, dental hygiene or the link between oral health and general health, you can visit ADHA’s website at www.adha.org.

( Source: ADHA)
starting to feel like my old self again. I ea-
grely awaited climbing Mayan pyramids in
Belize with my newfound zest for life.
Halfway up a hill to the Xunantunich ru-
in, my guide stopped to pull a leaf off a
tree and asked, “Anybody know what this
is? Here, taste and see if you can tell me.” It
was allspice, but nobody in the group had
guessed it. The Mayans used this leaf to
cure toothaches. They tucked it between
the gum and the tooth to relieve pain.

“’Scuse me, ’scuse me,” like that annoy-
ing apple polisher we all once sat next to
in grammar school. But I was on vacation.
And I wondered, “Was there no escape
from teeth for me this week?”

When I returned home, I decided to write
about my exciting trip and all of its dental
anecdotes. Just as I started, I noticed a lady-
bug land on my keyboard. I remembered
my grandmother telling me it was good
luck to have a ladybug land on you (in spite
of the fact that the bug’s house was on fire
and her children all gone). I looked up the
origin of the children’s rhyme. I found out
more than I wanted to know. And what I
found made me wince and smile at the
same time. Ground up ladybugs were once
used to cure toothaches. They were placed
inside the cavity. Seems I don’t know ev-
everything there is to know about teeth after
all. And there is no escaping the wonderful
joy of our odd little niche of knowledge.

Dr. Patricia Walsh, RDH, BS, has been a clinical dental
hygienist for more than 20 years. She is a graduate of
the Fones School of Dental Hygiene, University of
Bridgeport in Connecticut. She has an extensive history
in international volunteer work in oral health, including being instrumental in the
creation of The Thailand Dental Project, a
volunteer program focused on providing
educational, preventive and restorative dental care
to children in a tsunami-affected region of Thailand.
Contact her at patwshrdh@uberhygienist.com.
Designs for Vision is excited to be presenting several new products at the Yankee Dental Congress.

“Designs for Vision was started by my father, Dr. William Feinbloom, as an optical company, and during the 1970s our magnification and illumination products found applications in operating rooms and in operatories,” said company President Richard Feinbloom. “This year we are featuring our ULTRA Mini 2.5x Telescopes, Nike® Retro and DVI Sport frames, and the NanoCamHD™ loup-mounted video camera.”

A pair of ULTRA Mini Telescopes weigh as little as 34 grams (1.2 ounces) and are 40 percent smaller than regular telescopes, thus allowing for easier peripheral vision.

“The ULTRA Mini Telescopes,” Feinbloom said, “like our world renowned Dental Telescopes, provide 2.5x magnification that is fully customized to the individual user, providing ergonomic advantages to our customers. Designs for Vision matches the focal length of each telescope to the ideal working distance of our customers. This way the depth of focus surrounds their ideal working distance, instead of adapting to a pre-set focal length.

“We have been working with dentists and hygienists who required true 2.5x magnification, but desired a lighter, smaller device for all-day use. Designs for Vision wanted to design and engineer a full feature system that offered all of the features our customers expect of a Designs for Vision product. The lens system uses the same precision-coated optics as our traditional magnification systems. We can also accommodate eyeglass prescriptions into the ULTRA Mini Telescopes.”

Exclusive Nike Retro frames

The Nike Retro frames are exclusive to Designs for Vision. Available in tortoise shell, black and translucent gray, the Nike Retro has a classic look. The DVI Sport frames can be used for all magnifications and can incorporate eyeglass prescriptions — providing the protective wrap without any distortion.

Designs for Vision’s new NanoCamHD records digitally at 1080 high-definition resolution. The NanoCamHD records magnified HD images from the user’s perspective. The complete system includes 2.5x, 3.5x and 4.5x lens systems to match the typical magnifications, providing a true user’s point of view.

As an added feature, still photographs can be taken from live video feed or during playback mode. The video or still images can be uploaded into a patient file, included in a presentation or course, or shared with a colleague or laboratory for collaborative consultations.

The NanoCamHD complete system includes a color corrected ULTRA Mini LED DayLite® headlight. The combination headlight/NanoCamHD can be attached to loupes or can be worn on a lightweight headband.

The system also includes a foot pedal to enable hands-free operation of the NanoCamHD. Record/pause, mute/unmute and still photography are controlled by the operator hands-free via the pedal.

For best results, combine the NanoCamHD with Designs for Vision’s dental telescopes. Matching true magnification levels of 2.5x, 3.5x or 4.5x can produce realistic simulation from the user’s perspective. The NanoCam can also be attached to the new Nike Retro frames or the new DVI Sport frames.

Visit Designs for Vision at the Yankee Dental Congress at booths Nos. 1000 or 1827 to see the “Visible Difference™” yourself.

(Source: Designs for Vision)
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