Job openings increasing for most dental workers, including hygienists (sort of)

According to the dental job board www.dentalcrossing.com, job opportunities for dental hygienists are “picking up greatly.” The website in September reported 445 dental hygienists job postings awaiting suitable applicants in markets across the United States. Of those opportunities, 303 had been added during the week immediately preceding release of the statistics.

In a news release with statistics and analysis covering all dental jobs, DentalCrossing reported that the dental hygienist job listings confirm the ongoing need for hygienists that has led to the opening of many new dental hygiene schools in various regions of the United States since 2007.

In the release, DentalCrossing also referenced that 80 percent of dental hygienists participating in a 2013 RDH eVillage job benefits survey stated that the new schools were contributing to creating a surplus of dental hygienists, with not all hygienists looking for work being able to find jobs.

DentalCrossing reported that the surplus in certain markets is likely working to the advantage of recruiters who are requiring full-time dental hygienists to work on holidays or who are hiring hygienists to work on only a part-time shift basis. About 3,280 of the 2,311 hygienists participating in the survey reported that they worked full time and worked on many national holidays. Full-time opportunities, according to 80 percent of those surveyed, were hard to come by.

The DentalCrossing news release reported that the dental hygienist job benefits survey identified that employers prefer hiring multiple part-time hygienists to avoid paying benefits, leading to at least one respondent to question why the position of dental hygienist appears on top-10 jobs rankings.

DentalCrossing reported that according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics “Occupational Outlook Handbook: 2012-13 Edition for Dentists,” employment in all areas of the dental profession is expected to grow by 21 percent from 2010 to 2020. This is speedier than the average for all occupations.

The latest job-search data from www.dentalcrossing.com is in line with that growth projection. The website reported 6,390 active dental jobs in the United States that needed to be filled, suggesting that dental work opportunities are abundant in many regions across the country. Dentists have become an important part of the lives of teens, tweens and the elderly, and demand for dental services is growing.

Growing public awareness of studies linking oral health to overall health is supporting the increase in new dental jobs, according to DentalCrossing CEO Harrison Barnes. A preview of this is presented on www.dentalcrossing.com.

It’s not just dentists and hygienists in demand. More than 2,040 dental assistant jobs were posted, including 88 in Texas, 272 in California, 150 in Tennessee, 228 in Pennsylvania and 218 in Ohio.

About DentalCrossing

DentalCrossing is part of the Employment Research Institute, which is one of the most powerful and comprehensive organizations dedicated to helping professionals find jobs that will enhance their careers. Employment Research Institute covers more than 120 industry-specific and 120 location-specific job boards. The service aggregates every job opening it can find into one central location. The website also offers a seventy-two-hour free trial to new members.

(Source: DentalCrossing)

Industry commentary

My journey as a dental hygienist

By: Kareen Wilson, RDH

We all live to be an inspiration to others. At my alma mater, Loma Linda University, there is a statue in front of the dental school that carries the inscription, “To make man whole.” That statue and inscription was there to remind us that it is our duty to inspire and make our patients whole. It can be your children, spouse, loved one or people around you that you want to influence and change their life for the better. As a hygienist, I know that I inspire my patients to live healthy and happy lives.

Through clinical education, I make sure that my patients have all the knowledge to create their happiness through a beautiful and healthy smile. I also strive to use my physical skills to bring joy and relief from discomfort by improving their oral health.

> See JOURNEY, page C2
Crest Oral-B continues to recognize registered dental hygienists who go above and beyond the call of duty with the third year of the Pros in the Profession awards program. These programs acknowledge the pivotal role hygienists play in their patients’ lives in addition to their unwavering personal commitment to promoting good oral health.

“We have seen extraordinary entries over the past two years,” said Dr. Roger Levin, who is president of Crest and Oral-B. “These individuals dedicate countless hours to furthering the oral health cause, so we are pleased to be able to applaud their public service.

In 2014, Crest Oral-B will reward four exceptional dental hygienists who consistently display dedication to their patients and their craft. Winners receive an all-expense paid trip to visit the Procter & Gamble German Innovation Center at Kronberg, Germany; $10,000; a recognition plaque; recognition in print and online periodicals and announcements on the Crest Oral-B for Dental Professionals Facebook page and on the www.dentalcare.com consumer website.

From now until March 2014, nominations can be submitted via a nomination tab on the Crest Oral-B for Dental Professionals Facebook page. For the first time in the program, hygienists may nominate themselves. Nominations can also be submitted by dentists, fellow hygienists, dental assistants, professional colleagues and academic colleagues. Additionally, Crest Oral-B will be present at dental conventions throughout the year, where applications can be submitted onsite.

To be considered for the program, nominees must meet the following criteria: RHD with two or more years of clinical/professional experience, one who has instructed students on nutrition, oral and dental hygiene membership to the ADA. As a participant of the award, that Crest Oral-B has decided to continue rewarding those in our profession,” said Ann Benson Ross. “I’ve learned so much from the experience and have been afforded so many new opportunities, so I encourage all to take part, as I know so many of you out there deserve the honor.

To learn more about Pros in the Profession, including how to nominate yourself or a colleague for consideration, along with rules, regulations and announcements, you can visit the www.facebook.com/professionalcrestoralb or www.prosintheprofession.com. For information about Crest Oral-B products and resources, you can visit the recently updated www.dentalcare.com consumer website.

About Crest and Oral-B

Crest was the first oral care brand to secure the ADA Seal of Acceptance for a clinically proven fluoride toothpaste. Since introducing fluoride toothpaste 54 years ago, it is estimated that Crest has helped prevent more than half a billion cavities in the United States. Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Crest is owned and distributed by Procter & Gamble.

Oral-B is the worldwide leader in the more than $5 billion brushing market. Part of the Procter & Gamble Company, the brand includes manual and electric toothbrushes, mouthwashes, dental floss. Oral-B manual toothbrushes are used by more than any other brand in the United States and many international markets.

About Proctor & Gamble

P&G serves approximately 4.8 billion people around the world with its large portfolio of well-known brands, which include Ace, Always, Ambi Pur, Ariel, Bounty, Charmin, Crest, Dawn, Downy, Duracell, Fairy, Febreeze, Fusion, Gain, Gillette, Head & Shoulders, Iams, Lenox, Mach3, Oral-B, Pampers, Pantene, Prestobarba, SK-II, Tide, Vicks, Wella and Whisper.

The P&G community includes operations in approximately 70 countries worldwide.

You can visit www.pg.com for the latest news and in-depth information about Procter & Gamble and its extensive portfolio of brands.

Source: Crest Oral-B

The profession of dental hygienist has continuously evolved over the years as I know so many of us out there deserve the honor. As a participant of the award, that Crest Oral-B has decided to continue rewarding those in our profession,” said Ann Benson Ross. “I’ve learned so much from the experience and have been afforded so many new opportunities, so I encourage all to take part, as I know so many of you out there deserve the honor.

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Source: Crest Oral-B
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