The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) will hold its 59th Annual Meeting & Exhibits in San Diego July 27-31, Wednesday through Sunday, at the San Diego Convention Center. The exhibit hall will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

“This meeting is your destination for top-notch continuing education,” says AGD President Dr. Fares M. Elias. “With first-rate speakers, extensive lecture and participation courses and an all-new Shamu show, AGD 2011 Annual Meeting and Exhibits in San Diego will offer you the excellent education and distinctive experiences you have come to expect.”

For the first time in AGD history, dentist registrants will receive access to up to 80 hours of recorded continuing education free with their AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits registration.

Meeting highlights
Dr. J. Craig Venter, the pioneer scientist who uncovered the sequence of the human genome in 2001, is the 2011 AGD Keynote Speaker.

Other highlights of the meeting include the following:

**Welcome Reception**
5 to 7 p.m. Thursday
You’re invited to enjoy foods and entertainment that reflect the San Diego culture during an event that offers attendees, friends and family a first look at the breaking new technologies and products available to general dentists today. The Welcome Reception will feature cash bars, hors d’oeuvres and entertainment alongside the best products in the profession from dental manufacturers, suppliers, labs and service providers.

**AGD Convocation**
One Ocean, Saturday
Everyone is invited to share in the camaraderie as the AGD honors the incredible accomplishments of the 2011 class of Fellows, Masters and Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition (LLSR) recipients at the AGD Convocation Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the San Diego Convention Center.

**Saturday Night Celebration**
6:30 p.m. Saturday
Take the water for an unforgettable evening that all AGD Annual Meeting and Exhibits attendees will treasure, while also celebrating the 2011 class of Fellows, Masters, and Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition recipients. Cruise aboard San Diego’s newest and most magnificent vessel and enjoy the finest in dining, entertainment, and luxury. Guests will enjoy cocktails and a delicious meal, featuring the finest California cuisine. The scenic tour will include panoramic views of glittering San Diego skyline, as well as close-up views of historic San Diego landmarks. Musical entertainment will provide the perfect backdrop to what is sure to be a magical evening on the bay.

**AGD Foundation Fun Run/Walk 5K Fundraiser**
6:30 a.m. Saturday
Enjoy scenic downtown San Diego with an invigorating run or walk through some of the city’s most picturesque settings. The route will take you along the bay and through winding park paths in Embarcadero Park and nearby attractions, including charming Seaport Village. Spend time with family, brainstorm with a colleague, or just get outdoors for a little exercise.

**Educational Program**
The AGD meeting will offer a comprehensive educational program, offering attendees the opportunity to learn and grow. Featured courses include the following:

- **Thursday and Friday:** Academy of Laser Dentistry – Lasers in Dentistry: A Two-Day Standard Proficiency Course, presented by Robert A. Convisser, DDS, FAGD; Omar Kassam, BDS, LDS, RCS; and Shelly Kassam, BDS, LDS, RCS.
- **Friday:** Maximizing Material Performance for Direct Composite Placement, presented by Mark Latta, DMD, MS.
- **Friday:** Creating Solutions With Nano Hybrid Composite Crowns in Less Than an Hour, Presented by Mark L. Malterud, DDS, MAGD
- **Saturday:** A Hands-on Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment Planning of the Geriatric or “Special” Needs Patient, presented by Eric Shapiro, DDS, MAGD, MA, MHA.

**Exhibit Hall**
The exhibit hall will offer meeting attendees the opportunity to view the latest in products and technology. House for the exhibit hall are as follows:

- **Thursday:** 4:50 to 7:50 p.m. (All Attendee Welcome Reception from 5 to 7 p.m.)
- **Friday:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (dedicated hours from noon to 2 p.m.)
- **Saturday:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (dedicated hours from noon to 2 p.m.)

“From sandy beaches to exciting nightlife, family-friendly attractions to exquisite dining, the AGD Annual Meeting and Exhibits in San Diego is one meeting you and your family will want to go to,” Elias says.

“Let’s go to a place where the temperature always hovers around 70 degrees, where the sun is always shining, and where we can take advantage of all AGD Annual Meeting and Exhibits has to offer.”

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**Things to do in San Diego**

San Diego is packed with world-famous fun activities and exciting attractions for kids, adults—the whole family. Here are some of the biggest attractions:

**SeaWorld San Diego**
seaworldparks.com/seaworld-sandiego
Come celebrate the wonders of the sea at SeaWorld San Diego. Experience the all-new Shamu show, One Ocean, and thrilling rides like Journey To Atlantis. Get up-close to beluga whales, polar bears, sharks and penguins. And experience the amazing world of the sea turtle in the brand-new Turtle Reef.

**San Diego Zoo**
www.sandiegozoo.org
The San Diego Zoo is more than a zoo: it is a sanctuary for thousands of animals, a landscape of rare plants from all climates and a living classroom that entertains as well as educates. Learn about animals that lived in Southern California 12,000 years ago and meet their living counterparts at The Harry and Grace Steel Elephant Odyssey.

The new 7.5-acre multispecies habitat features elephants, California condors, jaguars and more and offers guests insight about the Zoo’s conservation efforts to protect wildlife from becoming extinct like the mammoth and saber-toothed cat.

**LEGOLAND California**
www.legoland.com
LEGOLAND California Resort is growing, and there’s a lot to experience. The World’s First LEGOLAND Water Park has seven slides, a 45-foot LEGO tower and the unique Build-A-Raft river. LEGOLAND California is home to more than 60 rides, shows and attractions. And right next to LEGOLAND, SEA LIFE Aquarium is the perfect way to introduce children to the wonders of the aquatic world.

**San Diego beaches**
www.sandiego.org/article_set/Visitors/5
The beach is more than a boundary dividing land from sea, more than a place to swim or sunbathe. In San Diego, the beach is a way of life, a source of pride and joy, a defining influence in people’s lives.

For some, the mere memory of a mid-summer sunset melting into the Pacific is reward enough. Others have a more intimate relationship with the sea: surfing and sailing, biking and running, swimming and diving along San Diego’s many coastal beaches and bays.

(Source: San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau)