For the first time, dental organizations representing African American, Native American and Hispanic dental professionals — and oftentimes underserved populations within those groups — will meet together in a multicultural oral health summit.

Photo/Provided by VOCO, NDA, HDA, SAID

Ethnic dental groups combine their 2012 annual conventions

African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans represented by three U.S. associations at July summit

Three premier dental organizations for ethnic minorities will host a historic joint annual convention July 20-24, in Boca Raton, Fla. The National Dental Association (NDA), Hispanic Dental Association (HDA) and Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID) collectively represent the needs and concerns of African American, Hispanic and American Indian oral health professionals and the communities they serve. The conference theme is: “Multi-Cultural Oral Health Summit: Collectively Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Population to Improve Oral Health.”

Underserved, under-represented

“I am delighted to be a part of this historic undertaking,” said Dr. Sheila R. Brown, immediate past president of the Washington, D.C., based NDA. “Our organizations share a common bond — communities that have been traditionally underserved and providers that have been woefully under-represented in the health professions. I look forward to this collaboration and to future collective efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in America.”

“The Society of American Indian Dentists is excited to continue the collaborating efforts of organizations representing underserved populations,” said Dr. Ruth Bol, president of the SAID. “American Indians continue to live in communities where there is an up-to-90-percent tooth-decay rate. This meeting will be the first of its kind to bring together the very professionals that will help to make the greatest impact on the oral health crises. The SAID, HDA and NDA represent a great wealth of oral health diversity, and this meeting will be a testament to this empowerment of dental medicine for these underrepresented minorities.”

“The Hispanic Dental Association (HDA) looks forward to this monumental event,” said Margo Y. Melchor, RDH, MEd, president of the HDA. “As an inclusive organization, HDA is very proud of the collaborations we have formed with NDA and SAID. This summit will enable the membership of the three unique ethnic dental organizations to unite and focus on the similar efforts of our missions: the elimination of oral health disparities.”

Convention attendees will include dentists, auxiliaries, students, community leaders, corporations and other stakeholders interested in improving oral health. The program will include continuing education seminars and ceremonial events that reflect the rich culture and tradition of each group. This summit will enable all groups to discuss oral health issues that impact diverse communities throughout the United States.

(Sources: VOCO, NDA, HDA, SAID)
MEETINGS

Hong Kong site of FDI Annual World Dental Congress

The next FDI Annual World Dental Congress is expected to attract more than 10,000 experienced and novice dental practitioners from around the world. The event brings together professionals from all fields of dentistry and features a diverse program designed to address the wide-ranging needs of dental professionals as well as others interested in oral health. Participants should expect to leave the Congress challenged and informed about the latest trends and opportunities in the business and practice of dentistry.

The conference venue is the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, located in the heart of the city in the modern and always busy Wan Chai District, overlooking the Hong Kong harbor.

FDI World Dental Federation is an ADA-CERP recognised provider. Delegates who have registered for the congress are eligible to receive continuing education points by attending scientific sessions throughout the meeting.

The number of C.E points available is as follows: Main scientific programs are worth five points per day, with a maximum of 20 over the entire event; early morning seminars are worth one point per day, maximum of four over the entire event; “meet the experts” are worth one point per day, maximum of four over the entire event.

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Greater N.Y. Dental Meeting keeps growing

The Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) has done it again, as it continues to be the largest dental congress and health-care meeting in the United States. In 2011, the GNYDM registered 53,789 attendees from all 50 states and 127 countries.

The Greater New York Dental Meeting offers a choice of more than 300 educational courses including full-day and half-day seminars, essays, hands-on workshops and a “live” 430-seat high tech patient demonstration area. Attendees are urged to not only partake in the many educational courses but also to visit the meeting’s evolving exhibit floor with more than 1,500 exhibit booths and more than 600 exhibiting companies.

There is a never a pre-registration fee to attend the Greater New York Dental Meeting.

The live dentistry arena is always a major hit, with standing-room-only in the ever-expanding arena. This revolutionary concept of treating patients with new materials and high-tech applications takes place in the educational hall right on the show floor with no tuition costs to attendees.

The GNYDM has significantly expanded its international program, accommodating 6,656 international visitors from 127 countries in 2011 and offering programs in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and Russian.

With three major airports nearby [Newark Liberty (EWR), Kennedy (JFK) and La Guardia (LGA)] and special discounted hotel rates for those attending the meeting, it is easy for dental professionals to visit New York City during this most wonderful holiday time of the year.

See all that New York City has to offer during an always-captivating time of the year, Nov. 23 through 28.

(Source: Greater New York Dental Meeting)