Hygienists in Phoenix, June 13–19

Exhibitors, C.E., networking highlight 89th ADHA session

A number of sessions have already sold out at the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Center for Lifelong Learning at the 89th Annual Session. But plenty of opportunities remain as the June 13–19 meeting approaches.

The Phoenix Convention Center’s west building is expected to be filled with more than 2,000 dental professionals representing various dental-profession sectors and career stages. Certainly the focus is on dental hygienists, but the annual session includes educational and networking opportunities of benefit to all members of the dental-practice team.

Highlights include a two-day-long exhibition hall, two plenary sessions designed to get the days started on fun, inspirational notes and, of course, the three days featuring 28 unique C.E. sessions divided into six tracks: clinical practice, public health, education, research, professional development and new hygiene. There also is a separate student track: A total of 24 C.E. hours are available.

This year’s theme is “Navigating through a changing profession and seizing the opportunities of tomorrow.”


On Thursday, June 14, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. there is a selection of 15 different “Lunch & Learn” sessions, with box lunches for all participants. Each table topic is limited to nine registered participants per table. Quite a few of the choices already are filled up, but others still have slots open. Among the still-open sessions as of mid May: “Calming Dental Anxiety,” “The Role of Inflammation in Periodontal Disease and Rheumatoid Arthritis,” “Minorities in Dental Hygiene,” “Forensic Dentistry—How to Get Involved,” “School-Based Sealant Programs” and “Integrating Preventive Oral Health Measures in Health Care Practice.”

An annual Community Service Day on Wednesday, June 13, provides 50 attendees the opportunity to go to a local senior center to provide oral health and oral cancer screenings, toothbrush prophylaxis, fluoride varnish and oral health education. Pre-registration for this event was required and the registration deadline has passed. It’s sponsored by the ADAIA, the ADHA Institute for Oral Health and DentalEZ Group.

On the “just-for-fun” side of things, a number of area tours are available through the meeting website, including a visit to the Grand Canyon and a tasting tour of area vineyards. There’s even a night vision Hummer tour through the pitch-black Sonoran Desert. A barbecue dinner is included, complete with campfire, cowboy guitarist and a country western band. Many of these group tours sell out quickly so you’re encouraged to sign up soon.

Event registration and details are available via a link on the association’s website, www.adha.org. The association can be contacted at (312) 440-8900.

(Source: American Dental Hygienists’ Association)

‘Pros in the Profession’ winner named

Crest® Oral-B selects fifth of six recipients to be honored in 2012

Crest Oral-B has selected Olga Torres, RDH, of Clewiston, Fla., as the fifth winner of the brand’s second annual Pros in the Profession® award program, which honors registered dental hygienists who go above and beyond the call of duty every day.

Torres has been practicing dental hygiene for five years, holding a dental hygiene degree from Palm Beach Community College. She also works as the sole dental hygienist at the Florida Community Health Center.

Torres frequently works with pediatric patients, sometimes seeing up to 15 children a day for dental cleanings. She has a passion for these patients and dedicates much of her free time to giving presentations to both kids and their parents to teach them about the importance of oral health. She also uses her bilingual skills to communicate with migrant patients facing language barriers in her community.

When Torres is not working or volunteering, she is in school part-time pursuing a bachelor’s degree or spending time with her 16-year-old daughter. She also guest-hosts a local radio show a few times a year, covering a variety of dental health and hygiene topics.

Torres relies on Crest and Oral-B products for maintaining her own oral hygiene, as well as that of her patients. Among her favorite products is the Crest and Oral-B Pro-Health For Me Collection for her pre-teen patients.

Throughout the year, a total of six deserving professionals will be named this year’s Crest Oral-B Pros in the Profession winners.

Winners receive a plaque, a $1,000 monetary award, recognition at an awards cocktail reception at RDH’s “Under One Roof 2012” annual meeting in Las Vegas, tribute in dental trade media news announcements and on www.dentalcare.com, and an exclusive trip to Proctor & Gamble Co. headquarters in Cincinnati.

The Crest Oral-B Pros in the Profession program recognizes registered dental hygienists who go above and beyond the call of duty every day. Throughout the year, Crest Oral-B rewards a selection of deserving professionals, as nominated by their peers, who truly make an impact on patients and the oral health cause.

To learn more about the program, visit www.prosintheprofession.com. For information about Crest Oral-B products and resources, you can visit www.dentalcare.com.

(Source: Crest Oral-B)
Hygienists help in forensics

By Patricia Walsh, RDH, Hygiene Tribune Editor in Chief

The Rhône Island fire of 2003 was the fourth deadliest in U.S. nightclub history. Ninety-six people perished on the night of the fire, four more in the hospital later on. The staff of the local medical examiner’s office was completely overwhelmed. The services of many dentists were needed to help bring peace and closure for the families of the victims.

Without a standing local identification team, matching dental records was a call 24/7 and works closely with the American Society of Forensic Odontology. Dr. Brady had many years of service as a police constable to add to our response team knowledge base. Each year, as members of one of the three teams (forensic dentists, postmortem, comparison), we continue our training in disaster preparedness.

The annual American Society of Forensi - odontology meeting is routinely held the third week in February and attracts dental professionals from around the world. During a course entitled “Beyond Odontology (sic)”, I had the privilege to be seated next to the only forensic odontologist from the nation of Senegal. This particular dentist, an army colonel, had made the trip for continuing education for the past five annual meetings. I noticed that several of his uniform insignias were against a purple velvet back - ground. They reminded me of the purple velvet ribbon that graced my nursing cap from the Fones School of Dental Hygiene. I suppose it’s something common to soldiers and nurses.

While my focus was on community preparedness, there were other areas covered at the meeting as well. These specialties included preparation for court testi - mony in civil litigation, child or spousal abuse evidence and professional fraud.

The director of our state forensic team is Dr. Carl E. Misch. He was after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. She may be contacted at n,john殊什什牙政府nusa@dentalthrough.com.

Left, a typical WinID examination chart used in medical examiner offices in the United States. Right, example of remains identification. Below, X-ray documenting unique dental characteristics. Nick: Photos Provided by Dr. Adam Freeman

RDHs critical in documenting patients’ unique, permanent oral characteristics

Many odontologists need to document what makes them unique, permanent oral characteristics. Meticulous record keeping and documentation can be identified. Hygienists play a critical role in the documentation of a patient’s unique permanent oral characteristics. Meticulous record keeping and up-to-date quality radiographs are essential to assist law enforcement or disaster response teams. Beyond the charting of missing and existing dentition, dental hygienists need to document what makes each and every patient truly “different.” Is it their cusp of carabelli, rotated bi - cuspid, peg lateral or large tori? Is there an oddly positioned impaction, macrodontia or microodontia? Hygienists can ease the burden of those working long hours, often in a difficult environment, by simply doing their day-to-day job well.

Mass casualty situations are emotionally tiring and difficult times. Response teams should not have to waste precious hours trying to understand chart nota - tions or searching for good radiographs. A decrease in the use of amalgam only augments the need for detailed patient records. Hygienists are ideally suited for assisting authorities with antemortem (predeceased) information on dentures, ortho appliances, or dental photographs.

All persons possess an identity during their lifetime, and the dignity of confirming and maintaining this identity after death is a strong compelling societal need. Hygienists, as compassionate health care workers, are ideally suited to play an integral role in forensic organiza - tion and record keeping. We are already trained, well-educated observers of the human condition.

Hygienists wishing to learn more about forensics can go to the following sites:

• American Society of Forensic Odontology (www.asfo.org).
• National Disaster Medical System (www.ph.e.gov/preparedness/responders/ ndms/Pages/default.aspx).

References

2. www.circle.ubc.ca/hands/on/dng/0207/ The effect of individual characteristics on forensic DNA evidence from human teeth, Gaymynn.

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