There will be plenty of educational choices at the Washington D.C. Convention center during the Nation’s Capital Dental Meeting, including registered clinics, participation clinics and capsule clinics throughout the three days of the event, March 31–April 2.

There are similar offerings on each day as a part of the dental assistant, hygienist and office manager tracks. Furthermore, Judy Bendit, RDH, and Patti DiGangi, RDH, will lead a three-day hygiene mastery program, titled Creating A Flight Plan. The program days begin at 8 a.m. and run until 4:30 p.m. and every letter in the words Flight Plan stands for one of the topics to be covered in the course.

You may register online for the meeting itself and the hygiene program at www.dcdental.org. On the website, you’ll also find assistance when it comes to planning your visit to the Washington metropolitan area. If you own a smart phone, you can augment your visit to the meeting by downloading the Core-Apps “Follow Me” program. You’ll then have the complete on-site program, as well as the option to sign up for real-time meeting alerts. In addition, you may use the program to not only locate exhibitors using an interactive floor plan, but also to communicate with exhibitors as well.

The Core Apps Follow Me program is a part of the District of Columbia Dental Society’s effort to go green. There is an option on the printed registration for you to indicate that you will use the digital program and do not require a printed one.

Special events
On March 31, there will be wine and cheese available during the President’s Reception in honor of Dr Patrick Grogan, president of the District of Columbia Dental Society in the reception area of Exhibit Hall A. The event, which is from 4:30 to 6 p.m., only requires a badge for admittance.

In addition, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day, you won’t want to miss the Wall of Wine in Exhibit Hall A. Paying $25 will allow you to pull a bottle of wine from the wall, some of which are valued at $500. Even if you don’t get one of the most expensive bottles, you’ll still walk away with a bottle of wine that is worth $25.

All proceeds from the Wall of Wine will benefit the D.C. Dental Society Foundation in its efforts to promote oral health to the local community. The “pulling” of wine bottles from the wall will occur from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every day, so even if you are unable to participate, it might be fun to watch the pulls take place.

Washington D.C.’s wilder side
If you are looking for things to do outside the convention center that are a little bit off the beaten path, we have a few suggestions.

National Museum of Crime & Punishment; 575 7th St. NW; (202) 621-5550; www.crimemuseum.org
Fancy a stroll through a shooting gallery? Alternatively, perhaps attempting to crack open a safe is more your style? Maybe a little computer hacking seems worth a try? Well you can do all this and more at this unique museum. You can even place your hands and head through the pillory and get your picture taken.

Visit this museum before it closes on April 3, which is when it will be moved to Silver Springs, Md. Although it has a rotating collection of exhibits, some of the permanent exhibits are unique as well. For example, it is one of a small number of museums in the United States that actually collects and exhibits human remains.

Thus, the Anatomical Collection includes: anatomical and pathological skeletal specimens; fluid-preserved gross anatomical and pathological specimens; medical research collections that include slides, tissue blocks and documentary materials; as well as miscellaneous materials.

Current exhibits include: Abraham Lincoln, the Final Casualty of the War; Trauma Bay II, Balad, Iraq; Resolved: Advances in Forensic Identification of U.S. War Dead; Battlefield Surgery 101; From the Civil War to Vietnam; To Bind up the Nation’s Wounds: Medicine During the Civil War.