ADHA celebrates profession’s 100th anniversary in Boston

By Patricia Walsh, RDH
Editor in Chief

This time last year I went up to Nantucket Island just off the Massachusetts coast to celebrate the arrival of spring. The daffodil festival is a weekend event benefiting local charities. It allows residents and tourists alike to get a little silly. There are costume contests and goofy hats for both men and women. There’s a dog parade, a kid’s parade and an antique car parade. All of which are adorned with, you got it: daffodils.

A colorful island with traditional cobblestone streets, no matter what the season, a slower kinder spirit prevails on Nantucket. I keep a sticker on my iPad as a reminder of this way of life to offset my sometimes sterile electronic world. The oval “travel” sticker reads “A Random ACK of Kindness” — “ACK” being the code for Nantucket Memorial Airport.

Eva Grayzel spoke at our local hygiene study club recently. A non-smoker who was diagnosed with late-stage oral cancer, she was given only a 15 percent chance of survival. One of the best speakers I’ve ever heard. She inspires us to do what we already know how to do, but sometimes fail to do in between the computer entries, switching plastic on light handles, the wipe down, the missing chart, the perio readings, the referral slip, the cranky last patient. She inspires us to take a deep breath, forget about our “routine” for a few extra minutes, and gather up strength to remember our humanness. More importantly, to remember the humanness of our patient and the fragility of life.

After hearing Eva speak, you get the feeling you really might just be holding your patient’s life in your gauze square. After you tell the patient that you are going to wrap his or her tongue up like a little burrito, did you look underneath the gauze? Did you take the time to document enough details, or better yet — take a photograph? Measurements and positioning can be subjective. When you hear a frightening tale of misdiagnosis and the misery that unfolds afterward, it’s enough motivation to not ever ever allow the patient to self-diagnose. In other words, never saying “let us know if it changes” or “we’ll check it at recall.” Suspicious lesions need to be rechecked at a later date with scheduled appointments. When we specifically tell the patient that we are performing an oral cancer check, we are telling the patient that we care. We are also verbally emphasizing the importance of the exam, rather than just going through the motions. If they go just anywhere, and the exam isn’t done, they will remember your proper oral cancer examination as the gold standard.

Many of us have extra bells and whistles that can be very entertaining to the patient as an adjunct to our exams, but the down-and-dirty is this. There is no replacement for definitive palpations — the human touch.

Taking the time to roll out the lip, feel the floor of the mouth, touch the palate and caress the neck is so very important.

 Commentary
A simple act of kindness

By Patricia Walsh, RDH
Editor in Chief

The ADHA’s annual meeting — The Center for Lifelong Learning at the 90th Annual Session — is being promoted as a celebration of a century in practice, “100 Years of Dental Hygiene: Proud Past, Unlimited Future.” The events run from June 19–25.

With 2013 marking the 100th anniversary of the dental hygiene profession, event organizers anticipate the meeting being the biggest in the organization’s history.

From the first hygienists trained by Dr. Alfred Fones in 1913 to the leading innovators of today, ADHA will extol the progress and accomplishments of dental hygienists in the oral health care field over the past 100 years. Dental hygienists from across the country and around the world are being invited to come together to prepare themselves to be the pioneers that make the next century of practice as successful as the previous one.

CLL at the 90th annual session hosts more than 30 continuing education courses taught by nationally renowned speakers, with six separate career tracks for professionals at all stages of their career, and the possibility of earning up to 20 C.E. hours at one event. Tracks include clinical practice, public health, education, research, professional development, new practitioner and a separate student track. In addition, the exhibition hall features more than 125 companies displaying information and products representing the latest in oral health.

Plenary sessions, on Thursday and Saturday, juxtaposed with a powerful tale of oral-cancer survival — prompt Hygiene Tribune’s editor in chief to reflect on the power of touch in a high-tech world.

Patricia Walsh, RDH
Superior visualization can mean superior outcomes for patients

Orascoptic has loupes designed specifically for dental hygienists

For more than 30 years, Orascoptic has been designing and manufacturing award-winning dental loupes with the goal of improving the overall performance, safety and comfort of dentists and dental hygienists around the world. Orascoptic’s vision is to see every health care procedure in the world performed with superior visualization, under the best ergonomic conditions for the clinician, in order to drive the best patient outcomes.

The company strives to achieve its vision through the products it brings to clinicians. Much of the inspiration behind Orascoptic’s innovative products stems from its willingness to keep challenging the status quo.

Company representatives say that as long as health care professionals need superior visualization to deliver superior patient care, Orascoptic will be on the forefront of the technology that delivers such superior visualization.

Orascoptic is aware of the specific needs of hygienists. It maintains a certified hygienist on its staff to support new product development and help developers understand the challenges that hygienists face throughout their careers.

Company representatives say they realize that dental professionals want to provide the best possible care for their patients, and the company’s goal is to empower the dental team with quality crafted products to support that goal. The company also understand the repetitive stress and strain that a dental profession’s body is subjected to on a daily basis.

Magnification — loupes

Orascoptic is the No. 1 louver in dental hygiene, according to the company. It invites hygienists to experience the difference that high-quality optics can make for procedures.

Orascoptic’s award-winning loupes set the industry standard for high definition loupes, according to the company. Known for quality craftsmanship, Orascoptic loupes deliver clear resolution over a deep and wide viewing field. The repetitive stress and strain that your body is subjected to on a daily basis can take its toll — and Orascoptic loupes are designed to help you practice in comfort. Research has shown that the use of loupes has been associated with decreased back and neck pain, as well as reduced eye fatigue. Each Orascoptic louver is custom-manufactured for your unique working distance, angle of declination and facial geometry. You will be practicing in maximum comfort all day long with loupes built just for you.

The company is so sure that clients will love their Orascoptic loupes that it offer a 45-day money-back trial period. All Orascoptic telescopes are also backed by a lifetime warranty, giving purchasers peace of mind — and helping to ensure that its clients will be enjoying their loupes throughout their careers. You are invited to choose the magnification that is right for you.

Orascoptic’s award-winning Hilites 2 is recognized as the top-selling dental loupe in the U.S. and sets the standard for high-definition loupes, according to the company. The top-selling, award-winning 2.5x loupe boasts lightweight, high definition optics and a generous field size.

While many loupes for hygienists compromise resolution near the edges of their viewing field, the Dimension 3 set the standard for edge-to-edge resolution over a decade ago. The company describes the 2.5x power loupe as being economically priced and “tried and true.”

Illumination — LED headlights

An Orascoptic LED headlight could be the perfect companion to your loupe system. The company’s headlights are designed to make it easier to navigate your work area and see the critical details that can be missed with the naked eye. Your patients can expect a more thorough exam, and in turn, better oral health.

Dental LED headlights provide even, shadowless lighting across the oral cavity to enhance visualization, improve depth of field and reduce eye fatigue.

Orascoptic used the latest in advanced technology to create the award-winning Endeavour headlight, a high-resolution LED headlight system.

Endeavour is the company’s lightest and smallest light system. It combines power, comfort, and increased illumination, delivering up to 4,000 foot-candles of white light, while being lightweight to ensure.

• See VISUALIZATION, page D4
Shattering the status quo

The world’s FIRST wireless loupe + headlight in one

Come by Booth #211 to be among the first to see the Brand New XV1 from Orascoptic
extra comfort. The device’s low heat output ensures the safety of both practitioners and patients. It features a “gumdrop” miniature light that delivers a high-quality focused beam for better visibility, as well as advanced “Capacitive Touch” controls that enable easy adjustment.

XV1: World’s first and only wireless loupe and headlight in one
The XV1 is the world’s first and only wireless loupe and headlight in one, providing superior visualization through superior magnification and illumination, according to the company. This new innovation seamlessly combines Orascoptic’s award-winning loupes with its award-winning headlight, and enables dental professionals to deliver superior procedural outcomes with greater ease and less strain on their bodies.

The XV1 features a lightweight and completely cableless design; and by removing the heavy and bulky belt packs of past headlamps, the XV1 is ergonomically designed for comfort, function and style. All electronics are completely contained within the custom-built frame itself, so there are no visible wires or cables. Rechargeable batteries power the XV1 for a full day’s work, delivering up to 4,000 foot-candles of light. XV1 features “Capacitive Touch” controls on both temple arms to eliminate the need for knobs or buttons that can be bacteria traps. The lightweight counterbalance design enables clinicians to practice in comfort all day long, delivering superior patient care.
Some will thank you for the massage.
Some may not like having their tongues depressed to see the tonsillar area. Try to remember Michael Douglas. Beyond the tongue is where his tumor was hidden from routine view.

The rise of HPV lesions is in all the news and statistically lumped into the "oral cancer" category. The fact remains that its occurrence is usually down beyond the soft palate in "WNL never-never land" (We Never Looked).

Not long ago, I had an appointment with a well-respected ENT. For the first 10 minutes of the appointment I don't think the doctor ever looked up once from his iPad while tap-tap-tapping his initial exam and interview notes. It was obvious he was enjoying his new toy. Electronic data entry is a wonderful thing, but it needs to be injected with the right amount of eye contact.

Fortunately, my throat issue had a simple solution. When you hear a gut-wrenching tale of survival from an oral cancer survivor such as Eva, it makes you cherish the human touch over medical or electronic devices. Too, it's important for us to remember that a computer is only as good as the person entering the information.

I hope that any patients of mine who may find themselves on the long and rocky road through oral-cancer treatment and recovery will think of me as a hygienist with compassionate eye contact who sometimes lovingly tapped on their arm—not an iPad.

I want patients of mine to remember me as someone who relied first on her knowledge of normal head and neck anatomy and secondly on the dazzle of adjunct oral cancer detection-assistance measures. The human touch should not be obsolete.

Twenty-five years ago, the dentist I worked for was absolutely giddy over his new intraoral camera. He printed out two pictures of a new patient's broken tooth. He placed one in the chart and handed the other to the baffled patient. Her response was, "I didn't want a picture of my tooth; I wanted my tooth fixed." I felt sorry for the both of them. Whatever latest tests and devices show up in our offices to assist us in oral cancer detection, we should not be distracted away from the time needed for our actual physical "hands-on" examinations.

For further information about Eva Grayzel and her six-step screening program for oral cancer, please go to her website, www.sixstepscreening.org.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

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Keystone Industries’ newly reformulated Gelato Prophy Paste has received positive reviews from the dental field.

The Gelato Paste was recently evaluated in more than 2,500 uses by 35 consultants. Overall, the paste received a 91 percent clinical rating. Forty percent of consultants found Gelato Prophy Paste better than other prophylactic pastes they had used, and 43 percent found it to be equivalent. Sixty-three percent of consultants would switch to Gelato Prophy Paste, and 80 percent would recommend it.

Reviewer comments included "easy to rinse" and patients "liked the flavor variety." One tester said it "does not feel gritty in the mouth." Keystone Industries considers the review to be significant because it strives to provide the best product possible.

According to the company, Gelato Prophy Paste provides smooth, pliable and splatter-free application. The 1.23 percent fluoride ion Gelato paste is described as being effective for high-luster polishing and stain removal, while remaining gentle on the enamel with minimal enamel loss.

For convenient use and to eliminate cross-contamination, Gelato Prophy Paste comes in boxes of 200 individual disposable cups. The cups include a prophylaxis ring for ease of application on the patient's teeth. For more options, the paste comes in 12-ounce jars (exports only).

The paste is available in four different grits (fine, medium, course and x-course) for various stain removal needs. Typically, hygienists use the fine grit for routine use and the medium grit gives a little more stain removal power. The coarse pastes are required for removing moderate-to-heavy stains.

For information on any Keystone product, contact Keystone Industries at (800) 333-3231 or visit www.keystoneind.com.

(Source: Keystone Industries)