Pittsburgh is hosting largest gathering of dental hygienists

American Dental Hygienists' Association 93rd annual session is from June 8–14

With the 2016 Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) at the 93rd Annual Session (ASS) quickly approaching, the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) has approximately 2,000 attendees already registered for what will once again be the largest assembly of dental hygiene professionals in North America. To add more excitement and energy to the setting, this years’ convention also coincides with the city of Pittsburgh’s bicentennial celebration.

With the week-long convention taking place at the David Lawrence Convention Center on June 8–14, attendees will not only experience Pittsburgh’s emerging and vibrant downtown, but also the city’s numerous venues for entertainment, including outdoor adventure, art, history, festivals, spectator sports, shopping, and great food and dining.

According to data provided by the ADHA and an event evaluation done by the Destination Marketing Association International, the direct business sales impact of ADHA’s annual meeting is estimated at $2.6 million.

City rolling out ‘red carpet’

“It is an honor for Pittsburgh to be hosting the American Dental Hygienists’ Association this summer,” said VisitPittsburgh President and CEO Craig Davis. “We have been looking forward to this event for some time, and attendees can be assured that we will be rolling out the red carpet for them. This year we are celebrating the bicentennial of the incorporation of our city, and visitors are discovering why Pittsburgh has been labeled a city to have on your bucket list. So conference attendees should come with high expectations, because we are going to work hard to exceed them.”

CLL 2016 at the 93rd Annual Session features a robust schedule that participants will be able to tailor to fit their own personal needs and desires. Highlights this year include:

• Continuing education courses being delivered by more than 50 speakers and covering five different tracks (Clinical Practice, Educator, Professional Development, Research, Public Health)

• Opportunities to reconnect, network and have fun at unique events including the community service day, the In Motion: 5K Run-Walk-Fun, plenary sessions, the IOH benefit/president’s reception, and the Awards for Excellence luncheon.

• EXHIBITS 2016 featuring the latest, state-of-the-art dental products and services on the market.

“CLL is an experience like no other in the field of dental hygiene, and the ADHA could not be more grateful to Pittsburgh for serving as its host,” said ADHA CEO Ann Battrell. “The pride our attendees show for their profession coincides with the pride Pittsburgh citizens have for their city. It’s that passion that makes this event so special. At no other gathering of dental hygiene professionals will you find such an all-inclusive blend of opportunities for both career and personal development.”

This year’s CLL again features a community service day on June 8; a pair of inspiring plenary sessions slated for June 9 and June 11; as well as a product exhibition hall showcasing more than 120 companies involved in oral health and dental hygiene — affording dental hygienists from around the globe the opportunity to view, learn and discover the latest products and technologies over two full days from June 10–11.

“CLL is an event that offers a unique opportunity in the oral health and dental hygiene community,” added Battrell. “All of our attendees benefit from not just the education, but the experience, the networking, the engagement. They have the opportunity to interact with their peers, corporate sponsors and mentors in the field to build their knowledge in oral health and create new career opportunities.”

To learn more about the ADHA’s Center for Lifelong Learning at the 93rd Annual Session, you can visit www.adha.org/annual-session.

(Source: American Dental Hygienists’ Association)
Protecting digital tools: Intraoral sensor care and maintenance

A checklist of dos and don’ts

By Mary Ann Rupertus, Sirona Dental

Technology is one of the biggest investments that a dental practice will make, and intraoral sensors are among one of the first tools dentists invest in before going 100 percent digital. There are many considerations when choosing a sensor size/size, integration, service and support, return on investment, and cost. To protect your investment, ongoing sensor care and maintenance are critical right from the start.

The most common reason for sensor failure is a user’s improper handling of the sensor and/or cable. That is why today’s digital intraoral sensors should be designed to withstand years of normal daily use.

Sensor care

There are many dos and don’ts that both novice and expert sensor users should know, some of which we will explore in more detail. Following is a quick check-list of what you should and should not do with a sensor.

Do:
- Handle the sensor as gently as possible.
- Always use a new sheath with every patient.
- Grasp both connector and interface when disconnecting sensor from interface.
- Store sensor in a holster when not in use.
- Disinfect sensor after each use with only the approved disinfectant.
- Keep sensor off the floor at all times.
- Make sure the sensor is backed by great support.
- Use only the correct positioners.
- Handle the sensor gently.

Don’t:
- Coil sensor cables.
- Let cable hang where it can be stepped on or become tangled.
- Let the cable hang near a drawer where it can become kinked/crimped.
- Pull on the sensor cable to remove the sheath.
- Tangle cable during use.
- Let the patient bite down hard on the sensor or cable. Ask patient to close gently.
- Clamp a hemostat to the sensor.
- Soak the sensor.
- Autoclave the sensor.
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Using sheaths

Always cover the sensor with the recommended sheath. Simply slide the sensor into the barrier, pushing it all the way to the end making sure that the upper part of the cable is covered. The sheath should fit snugly to provide a secure barrier around the sensor.

The protective sheaths are for single use only and must NOT be reused under any circumstance for obvious reasons. Reuse may result in patient infection or illness. DO NOT place a sensor into the patient’s mouth without a barrier and never use a damaged sheath.

Please be very careful when removing the sensor from the sheath. It is suggested that users wrap the sensor around their wrist away from their scrubs to prevent the sensor from falling on the floor, pinch the barrier off at the top and it should easily slide off the sensor.

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Cleaning and disinfecting
Sensors should be thoroughly cleaned after each use with the recommended disinfectant only. Check the user’s guide to ensure proper disinfectant techniques. For example, Sirona recommends using Cavi-Wipes pre-moistened towelettes to disinfect the Schick 33 sensor. Follow the instructions on the back of the cleaning product, but when wiping down the sensor and cable, make sure to wipe toward the sensor head or the sensor connection to prevent cable damage.

Proper storage
It is best to store the sensor on a wall-mounted holster in a safe and dry location. This keeps it out of the way and minimizes the risk of damage. Place the sensor into the holder and loosely drape the cable around it once to keep it from kinking or coiling. Do not hang a sensor by the cable. This will cause damage that can compromise the sensor’s capabilities.

Finding the right technology for a practice requires research, investment and care. As more dental professionals implement digital intraoral radiography into their practices, dental assistants should be sure to not only become educated on proper use, but also proper care. This awareness will help take the investment that much further.

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Institute for Oral Health plans 5k run/walk

ADHA charitable event, ‘In Motion,’ starts at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 9, in downtown Pittsburgh

As part of the largest gathering of dental hygiene professionals in the U.S., the American Dental Hygienists’ Association will launch a charitable fun run/walk titled In Motion: 5K Run-Walk-Fun on Thursday, June 9, at 8 p.m. in downtown Pittsburgh.

Set to take place during the 2016 Center for Lifelong Learning at the 93rd Annual Session, the race is designed to raise funds for ADHA’s foundation, the Institute for Oral Health, which is committed to empowering, supporting and developing education and research opportunities for dental hygiene professionals.

“The Institute for Oral Health is thrilled to host its inaugural 5K to further our mission of service, research and scholarship,” said Kelli Swanson Jaecks, MA, RDH, chair of the ADHA Institute of Oral Health. “This event will be the highlight of the annual session, and whether you run, walk or shuffle, I invite everybody to participate in what will be the first of many memorable 5Ks to come.”

Scholarships, research, access to care
Proceeds from the fun run/walk will help fund scholarships for dental hygiene students, provide research opportunities for those expanding the field of dental hygiene, and support dental hygienists who donate their services to improve access to oral health care and education in their communities.

Runners and walkers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the event as individuals or in teams. All participants will be treated to an “After Glow Party” immediately following the race.

In addition, ADHA hosted an In Motion: 5K Run-Walk-Fun Song Contest on social media, in which the song with the most votes at the end of the contest is being crowned as the anthem of this year’s race.

“The In Motion: 5K Run-Walk-Fun is an exciting way to engage students, exhibitors, friends, alumni, states, corporate sponsors and districts, all running or walking together for a great cause,” said ADHA CEO Ann Battrell. “With more funds, IOH can increase its presence nationwide and continue to do great work in the field of oral health.”

For 5K registration information, go to www.crowdrise.com/ADHARunWalk2016. To join in the race excitement and stay updated, you can follow the ADHA on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, using the hashtag #IOH5K. You can also visit facebook.com/InstituteforOralHealth.

(Source: ADHA)
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