Thousands attend GNYDM

NEW YORK – The 82nd session of the Greater New York Dental Meeting featured a celebrity lunch-athon with political insiders James Carville and Mary Matalin, a president's luncheon at which Dr. Michael C. Alfano won the Irving E. Gruber award, and a variety of children's events.

More than 75,000 attended the session, which featured displays and demonstrations by more than 520 U.S. and international companies, at the Javits Center in New York City from Nov. 24-29.

“This year, the meeting received two awards in the United States,” said Dr. Robert Edwab, executive director of the GNYDM. “We became one of the Top 200 trade shows in country, and at the same time, we are one of the fastest-growing trade shows.”

Exhibitors said the number of visitors was much higher than they expected.

“We already have a one-hour waiting line for our show presentations,” said Leigh Reeves, trade show manager from Philips. “The traffic here is phenomenal compared to any other show I have been to in the United States.”

At the president's luncheon Nov. 27, Alfano won the Gruber award for excellence in the advancement of dental education. Alfano served as dean of New York University's dental school from 1998 until his recent promotion to executive vice president of the university. During the luncheon, keynote speaker Jeff Greenfield addressed the recent congressional victories by the Democrats, calling them a "landslide for moderates.""
FDA panel recommends approval of Medtronic’s Infuse Bone Graft

By John Hoffman, News Editor, Dental Tribune

The Food and Drug Administration’s dental products advisory panel has unanimously voted to recommend approval of Medtronic Inc.’s Infuse Bone Graft for certain oral and maxillofacial bone grafting procedures. This is the third premarket approval endorsement that the panel has granted to the product since 2002.

For dental procedures that require bone augmentation, bone is traditionally taken from elsewhere in a patient and implanted where needed. Improved imaging technologies, such as cone beam computed tomography, allow bone grafting procedures to be performed in the U.S. currently. FDA approval of Infuse for its latest indication would allow patients, dentists and other healthcare professionals an alternative to the cost and pain of harvesting bone graft. However, the FDA panel recommends that Infuse’s label acknowledge that it has not been tested in molar extraction sites or in the lower jaw.

Infuse Bone Graft is recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2 (rhBMP-2) applied to an absorbable collagen sponge carrier. The protein, which occurs naturally in the body, stimulates bone formation. It has already received FDA approval for use in certain lumbar spine fusion and tibial fracture repair procedures. Implanted into a bone-deficient site, Infuse helps the body induce normal bone formation.

Medtronic says the premarket approval submission was based mainly on data from clinical trials involving 521 patients. The patients were evaluated for 36 months, including evaluations at the time of bone grafting, implant and prosthetic placement, and the longer-term performance of the dental implants.

“We are pleased by the panel’s endorsement of this product for this new indication. The clinical and scientific evidence supporting Infuse Bone Graft has been validated in its proven success in spine and trauma applications, and we look forward to providing this product for oral surgeons and patients,” says Pete Wehrly, senior vice president and president of the spinal and navigation business at Medtronic.

The company hopes to bring Infuse to the dental market within half a year.

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More than 15 delegations were recruited to attend the show, including groups from China, Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, Switzerland, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

“The Great New York Dental Meeting has evolved into an outstanding international congress, with visitors from 77 countries,” noted Dr. John S. McIntyre, general chairman. “The International Ryder program supports and facilitates international purchasers of U.S. export products and provides onsite multilingual personnel for assistance.”

The meeting wasn’t all business and no pleasure, however. Children brought by attendees were treated to hours of fun on opening day, with a magic show by David Levitin and a face-painting session. A carnival offered a variety of activities, as well as ice cream and cookies.

Dental implants, planning and guided surgery

By Sascha A. Jovanovic, Editor-in-Chief, Implant Tribune

As the field of osseointegration keeps advancing, new technologies are being introduced to the dental practice and the treatment of patients. In this editorial, guided surgery is presented, and its uses in practice explored.

One of these new treatments is the use of preplanning the patient through advanced 3-D scan technology and using this information to increase the presurgical information for the practicing team. The use of advanced technology in planning studies has been evolutionary and it is not possible to cover every aspect of its development. Why is this considered new technology? CT-generated information has been around for more than 15 years in the implant practice and has been used by many for diagnostic purposes already.

The news is that today a trio of advantages have been introduced, including improved imaging technology, user-friendly software programs and more value to the clinician and patient with a better implant result due to this technology. IT has moved on rapidly from a time when the desk top PC was used solely for word-processing.

First, CT-scan imaging research introduced cone beam technology which resulted in significantly less radiation to the patient at a lower cost and with excellent imaging quality. Secondly, new software programs introduced a user-friendly interface, which can deliver precise planning of implant placements in the computer and then a remote or inhouse fabrication of a surgical guide template and an implant prosthesis. Thirdly, the value of all this has increased to the clinician as more and better diagnosis leads to improved results in less time and more comfort and predictability to the patient.

A good example of this total treatment value to the patient is today’s implant surgery and prosthetic restoration is fabricated prior to treatment time and delivered on the day of implant placement with utmost precision and comfort to the patient. This reduces overall time involvement to the clinician and decreases down time or discomfort to the patient. With implant treatment becoming more mainstream, this might be an additional advantage to this treatment option.

The downside today is as with any new technology that software improvements are continuous and steps done today might be obsolete or significantly improved tomorrow. Another disadvantage is that there are no set regulations which imaging companies can be measured to so the clinician is left to his/her own research, opinion and research which one to use. Developments always require to be further subjected to trial and evaluation.

But overall, I warmly welcome this new technological advance as in my opinion the clinician can never do too much diagnosis and preplanning as long as the team benefits from it. This month’s interview with Dr. Patrick Henry will present you one of the world’s leaders in osseointegration and his experience using this new technology in his practice. Have a good end of the year and a beautiful holiday season.

Sascha A. Jovanovic was formally trained in periodontics at UCLA School of Dentistry, in implant dentistry at Loma Linda University and in prosthodontics at University of Aachen, Germany, and holds a master’s degree in oral biology from UCLA.

He restricts his clinical work to dental implant therapy and bone & soft tissue reconstruction, is lecturer at UCLAL Continuing Dental Education, is professor (Hon.) at Univ. of British Columbia, Division of Periodontics and Implants, Vancouver, is assoc. prof. (Hon.) at the University of Hong Kong, Department of Oral Surgery, and is director of the Web-based Global Institute for Dental Education.

He is the past president of the European Association for Osseointegration and a past board-member of the Osseointegration Foundation. He lectures extensively worldwide and has published more than 60 articles and book chapters, and one textbook titled “Color Atlas of Implantology” (Thieme Publ.). He is on several editorial boards for scientific journals and has published a DVD education series titled “Advanced Implant Therapy.”