Nobel Biocare welcomes more than 1,500 periodontists, general practitioners, prosthetists, lab technicians and other dental professionals to the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City for its global symposium, a three-day event offering valuable education, technology and networking. The meeting was held June 24-25.

The symposium was opened by Domenico Scala, CEO of Nobel Biocare, and by Jonathan Ferencz, chairman of the scientific committee, who announced the five key educational themes for the following three days: immediate function; soft-tissue health and long-term predictability; new technologies for prosthetic success; treatment for edentulous patients; and advanced treatment planning.

The format of the meeting consisted of main programs in the grand ballroom, along with parallel sessions, master classes and hands-on training. Between sessions, attendees were able to walk through the exhibit area and view products and demonstrations and to meet with representatives from Nobel Biocare who specialize in particular products.

Attendees at the meeting also had the opportunity to visit the training and manufacturing plant Nobel Biocare hosts symposium in N.Y.

BioHorizons files for $100M IPO

Dental implant maker BioHorizons filed a registration statement in late June for an initial public offering worth up to $100 million.

The Birmingham, Ala., company makes products such as tooth prosthetics, implants, abutments and bone and tissue grafts. It also sells medical instruments.

The company uses lasers to cut tiny grooves into its Laser-Lok implants, and the company asserts those grooves attract connective tissue and reduce bone loss around the implant.

BioHorizons did not disclose how many shares it might sell or when it might go public. Its proposed ticker symbol is “BHZN.”

The company’s main business was founded in November 1995, and BioHorizons was incorporated in May 2006. Private equity firm HealthpointCapital LLC bought its primary business in August 2006.

BioHorizons reported an operating loss of $6 million in 2009 on $69 million in sales. It said its revenue grew 15 percent in the first quarter of 2010 to $19 million.

The company currently markets its products through a direct sales force of more than 70 representatives in North America and through offices in Australia, Chile, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom. Through a network of third-party distributors, BioHorizons sells its products in more than 80 countries.

Last year, the company was the sixth-largest dental implant company based on sales in North America, according to market researcher iData Research.

The company’s competitors include BIOMET 3i, Zimmer Dental, DENTSPLY and Astra Tech.
im Mahwah, N.J., where assembly lines are capable of producing crowns 24 hours a day. (The company also operates two other such facilities in Stockholm and Tokyo.) Attendees at the site visit were able to learn from the assembled global brain trust behind NobelProcera, witness the assembly process—and even use the software to design an actual crown and send it into production.

Participants used optical scanners featuring conoscopic holography technology to input an image of a tooth impression. Then, using software installed on laptop computers, participants learned how to create a file for a crown.

The software was so easy to learn that attendees were able to get up and running in minutes. Files were then sent to the production facility in the adjoining room. It was a rare opportunity for meeting attendees to observe firsthand the manufacturing process itself.

The next Nobel Biocare Global Symposium will be held in August 2011 in Tokyo.

Between sessions, meeting attendees were able to take the opportunity to learn more about products.

“Past, Present and Future of Dental Implantology.”
Past attendees have had hearty praise for the event:

- “Great presentations delivered in a format that encouraged discussion,” said Dr. Lyle Pidzarko.
- “Good variety of topics related to implants and nice short lectures,” said Dr. Grant Woo.
- “A wide diversity of subjects were presented that will enhance my dental implant practice. Nice social function,” said Dr. Bob Kiniburg.

For more information on the BIODENIX Implantology Forum, see www.biodenix.com.

Next year’s event will take place Sept. 22-24 in Venice, Italy.

Tell us what you think!

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