AAOMS in Philly

Annual meeting takes place
Sept. 12–17 in Pennsylvania

The AAOMS 93rd Annual Meeting, Scientific Sessions and Exhibition will take place Sept. 12–17 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, located at the Philadelphia Marriott. The meeting will include a variety of features such as Anesthesia Update, Maxillofacial Oncology Program, Symposia, Surgical Mini-Lectures and Clinics, Professional Allied Staff Courses, Practice Management Clinics, Lunch and Learn Sessions, Poser and Abstract Sessions, Corporate Forum Sessions, and Faculty and Resident Programs. Speakers will include Daniel R Cullum, DDS; Michael D. Turner, DDS, MD; Joshua Lubek, DDS, MD; Joshua Lubek, DDS, MD; Daniel Buchbinder, DMD, MD; Thomas R. Flynn, DMD; Anthony Sclar, DMD; Steven M. Sullivan, DDS; Bach T. Le, DDS, MD; Paul Tawani, DDS, MD; and many more. For more information, see www.aaoms.org/annual_meeting/2011.

Validating the oral-systemic health connection

By Barry L. Musikant, DDS

How does one go about becoming familiar with an avenue of health improvement that we have in the past paid little or no attention to, at least on a professional level, yet has major impact on our patient’s oral health? I am referring to the nutritional status of our patients (and ourselves) and the implications it has on our general health. The central question is whether or not there is adequate validity in the quantification of our nutritional status as a measure of our health to apply it to our patients. Secondarily, but of obvious clinical importance, is whether or not the technology exists that would allow us to make quantitative measurements.

In terms of answering the first question, one of the first studies that caught my attention was Munoz et al in a paper titled, “Effects of a Nutritional Supplement on Periodontal Status,” published in the May 2001 issue of Compendium. Researchers at Loma Linda University studied the impact of an antioxidant-rich oral supplement on 63 patients ranging in age from 20 to 70 years and diagnosed with gingivitis and Type II periodontal disease during a 60-day double-blind trial. The participants were randomly assigned to two groups — the experimental group, which took two tablets each day of the proprietary blend of antioxidants, and the control group, which took a similar-looking placebo.

Results of the study showed significant improvement in the clinical parameters and measurements of gingival inflammation, bleeding on probing, pocket depth and attachment levels.

“At the 60-day evaluation point, all subjects receiving the experimental treatment had significant reduction in the gingival index, pocket depth and bleeding index.” Treatment with this proprietary nutriceutical appeared to offer patients a noninvasive, systemic, adjunctive protocol to potentiate in-office therapies.