Now’s the time to plan for AAO Annual Session

During the past two decades, the number of malpractice cases in China involving orthodontic issues has risen dramatically. The large settlements associated with these cases have gained the attention of health care professionals and the public.

This situation is related to the current status of orthodontics in China. The development of orthodontics in China began almost 50 years later than in the more developed countries. The gap in proficiency between China and the developed countries is profound.

In late 1970s, only four orthodontic departments were established in China. The number of orthodontists was less than 30.

By the year 2000, 37 schools of stomatology had established orthodontic departments, but of the more than 2000 graduates, only one-third are in the exclusive practice of orthodontics.

During the 109th Annual Session of the American Association of Orthodontists, being held May 1-5 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

This year’s meeting, built on the theme “Orthodontics Heard ‘Round the World,” promises to feature an array of leading clinicians and researchers, along with an exhibit hall full of the newest technologies and products.

Some of the highlights include:
- Clinical simuclasts taking place during the Joint Doctor/Staff Program. All three sessions — featuring presentations on TAD placement, laser surgery and lingual indirect bonding — will have a presenting doctor and dental assistant working live on a patient. These sessions will be offered Sunday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 5.
- A dedicated two-hour block daily, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., reserved for attendees to experience all the exhibit hall has to offer. No other sessions or events will be scheduled during this time.
- A Life Enhancement Program, featuring several best-selling authors, including a well-known authority on nutrition, a political editor/commentator and experts in financial management. This program is free of charge to all attendees.
- Jason Alexander, best know as George Costanza in “Seinfeld,” providing entertainment during the Excellence in Orthodontics Awards Ceremony on Sunday,

Recession proof your practice

You take cost-cutting measures in your personal life when things get tough. It’s time to do the same with your practice. Here are some tips — from cutting back on gifts to doing your own cleaning — that can help you make it through the down economy in one piece.

Sneak peek

With the AAO coming up, now’s a great time to start checking out some of the newest products on the market. From steam indicator tape to ceramic brackets to video games, we have you covered.

Medical disputes in Chinese orthodontic treatment

By Youjian Peng, DDS; Kun Lv, DDS; Xiangrong Cheng, DDS; Xiao Ma, DDS; Qiming Teng, DDS; and John E. Bilodeau, DDS; all of School and Hospital of Stomatology, Wuhan University, China

The future of ortho

Are the days of orthodontic specialists on the way out? One parent shares his thoughts on where orthodontics is today, how it got that way and what needs to be done to keep the patients going to specialists and not the GPs.

Disputes

Cross bite was treated inappropriately into bimaxillary protrusion.