AAO announces seminar

The American Association of Orthodontists is inviting specialists and general dentists to attend its interdisciplinary conference, “Multiple Disciplines, Oral Focus.” Feb 9 to 11, 2007, in Indian Wells, Calif., near Palm Springs.

The meeting will feature experts in orthodontics, periodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and restorative dentistry.

They will share information about the treatment of orthodontic patients who have multidisciplinary problems.

Speakers include program co-chairs Drs. Donald R. Joondeph (AAO president) and Vincent G. Kokich, and Drs. Bjorn Zachrisson, Sverker Toresskog, Gregory A. Kinzey, Jim Janakievi, Dale A. Miles, David M. Sarver and David A. Garber.

Topics are to include evidence-based treatment, interdisciplinary management of gingival discrepancies and interdisciplinary management of vertical discrepancies, an update in oral and maxillofacial radiology, dento-facial esthetics, integrating interdisciplinary care in rural areas, use of maxillary posterior osteotomies to maximize esthetic or restorative results, an update on surgery and the role of dental implant rehabilitation in orthodontic care, and the impact of digital technology on restorative dentistry and materials.

www.aaomembers.org

Orthodontist buys back Halloween candy from kids

WILLISTON, Vt.—Taking a radical approach toward preventive dentistry, a local orthodontist conducted a Halloween candy buyback. Orthodontist Dan Ryan paid trick-or-treaters $1 per pound, made a matching donation to the Committee on Temporary Shelter, and donated the candy to a local food bank.

He says his goal was to promote a healthy Halloween and contribute to the community.

“Halloween is a fun holiday for kids of all ages, but too much candy can contribute to tooth decay,” he said.

Kids wearing braces are especially at risk. Hard or sticky candies, such as the ones with caramel and nuts or gums, can get into braces and prevent the teeth from moving, thus lengthening the treatment, he said.

Ryan urges his patients to eat soft candies, such as peanut butter cups, and brush their teeth soon after eating them. “We understand that kids are going to have candies,” he said.

The campaign was based on an idea from the American Association of Orthodontists, Ryan said. Its members conduct activities nationwide to promote the benefits of orthodontic treatment and to educate the public about protecting their teeth during Halloween, he said. Last year, Ryan collected about 200 pounds of candy that were shipped to Tanzania, where it was distributed by a former patient who was a Peace Corps volunteer.

Kim Gammon of South Burlington brought her three trick-or-treaters, Cooper, 5, Tyler, 5, and Cameron, 1, into Ryan’s office where they sold 6 pounds of candy.

Selling back the candy was a way, “to help others and to make sure they don’t eat all that candy,” she said.

Sources:
http://cvb.boston.com
www.burlingtonfreepress.com