lectures will focus on numerous clinical and practice-management topics.

Featured speakers include Dr. Laura Berman, a world-renowned sex and relationship educator and therapist, TV, radio and Internet host, and assistant clinical professor of ob-gyn and psychiatry at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Berman has helped countless couples build stronger relationships, improve their sex lives and achieve more intimacy through her TV and radio shows, books, columns and website, along with her private practice based in Chicago. She serves on the advisory board for “The Dr. Or Show” and is a regular guest on The Steve Harvey Show. Her session is "The Passion Prescription.”

Sixteen Pacific Rim speakers will lecture on topics such as management of third molars, photobiomodulation and lingual orthodontics using mini-tube appliances (MTAs). A wide variety of other educational sessions are available, including:

• “Lessons Learned in 35 Years of Treating Obstructive Sleep Apnea” with Harry Legan
• “Efficient Mechanics with TADs to Manage Complex Orthodontic Problems” with Ravindra Nanda
• “Digital Orthodontics: Efficiency and Effectiveness of Tooth Alignment with the SureSmile System” by Anthony Puntillo
• “Micro-perforations: Indications and Application in Your Daily Orthodontic Practice” with Mani Alikhani
• “Surgery-facilitated Orthodontic Tooth Movement: What is the Evidence and How Does It Work?” by Yijin Ren

On top of all of the learning opportunities, this year’s AAO session is also jam-packed with a bevy of interactive and social events attendees won’t want to miss. Some of these include:

• Opening ceremonies on Saturday, May 16, from 5:57 p.m. featuring legendary rock ‘n’ roll band Huey Lewis and the News. Tickets are $25.
• UK Fan Run and Walk on Sunday, May 17, from 6:30-8 a.m. $25 per person and includes T-shirt.
• Excellence in Orthodontics Award Ceremony, noon to 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the Moscone Center. It’s $60 per ticket and includes lunch (or $55 ticket for awards/speaker, not including lunch). Keynote speaker Jay Leno is sure to make this a fun and exciting event.

Finally, attendees will definitely want to check out the 300,000-square-feet AAO Exhibit Hall featuring more than 300 exhibitors all gathered under one roof. If you have questions about a new product or want to learn what technology is best for your practice, you will want to save some time to browse the hall.

To learn more about the AAO’s Annual Session, visit www.mychildrensteeth.org or download the AAO mobile app on your phone.

Patrick Corbin teams up with the AAO to promote National Facial Protection Month

Thoroughout April, the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) partnered with Arizona’s starting pitcher, Patrick Corbin, to promote National Facial Protection Month.

An all-star example of safety on the field, Corbin consistently wears a mouthguard for his position on the pitching mound and while at bat.

Corbin is dedicated to facial protection, and created a radio public service campaign to encourage athletes of all ages to cover their bases when it comes to protecting their mouth, teeth and face. His goal is to remind players of the importance of wearing a mouth guard and the serious repercussions of an injury to the teeth.

National Facial Protection Month is an annual initiative that reminds athletes to play it safe during recreational and organized sports by wearing a mouth guard and appropriate safety gear at every practice and every game.

Corbin, all-star starting pitcher for Arizona, is a prime example of a professional athlete who takes protecting his teeth seriously. When baseballs can hit at speeds of more than 100 mph, Corbin protects himself on the pitching mound by always wearing a mouthguard.

"Wearing a mouth guard on the field is just as important as any other protective gear," Corbin said. "In baseball, a line drive can come at you when you least expect it, and it’s crucial to be protected at all times."

About National Facial Protection Month

National Facial Protection Month is sponsored annually during the month of April by the American Association of Orthodontists (www.mylifefomsmile.org), the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (www.aaaoms.org), the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (www.mychildfendenethal.org), the Academy for Sports Dentistry (www.academyforportsdentistry.org) and the American Dental Association (www.mouthhealthy.org).

About the American Association of Orthodontists

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) is the world’s oldest and largest dental specialty organization.

It represents 17,000 orthodontist members throughout the United States, Canada and abroad. The AAO encourages and sponsors key research to enable its members to provide the highest quality of care to patients.

For more information, visit www.mylifefomsmile.org.

(Source: American Association of Orthodontists)

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Science of quality improvement, where the approach to improve quality and assess this attitude has brought us, in spite of contradictions and paradoxes. A paradox is a statement that apparently contradicts itself and yet might be true. Most logical paradoxes are known to be invalid arguments but are still valuable in promoting critical thinking.

Examples of a paradoxical effect or reaction might be when: (1) people with unrelenting or ominous disabilities report experiencing good or excellent quality of life but to many outside observers, these individuals seem to live an undesirable daily existence; (2) effects of a certain drug are opposite to what is normally expected, such as allergy or even anaphylaxis; (3) a pain-relief medication causes increased relief medication causes increased relief medication causes increased comfort; and (4) a surgical procedure produces a scar, such as a keloid rather than perfect incision closure; and (5) an orthodontist expects his or her treatment to produce a certain reaction or tooth movement, but the resultant outcome is contrary to what is expected, such as relapse or resorption.

These are the aberrant, abnormal consequences rather than the normal, expected results ... or rather the paradoxes of quality of treatment, they are the "scars" of medicine, dentistry and orthodontics. Can they be predicted? Does it mean that the treatment was improper? Sometimes yes but most times no. It is up to the clinician to diagnose properly and even poor results can occur in spite of good judgment, proper treatment and excellent diagnosis. Unfortunately, our profession is not an exact science, this is not an excuse, but a fact!