Changes, Challenges, Choices are three things you likely face on a daily basis, whether you are a clinician or a staff member. You’ll find more of all three when you head to Chicago for the AAO Annual Session, taking place May 13-17. With so many educational and social events to choose from, the challenge of even planning out a schedule might prove difficult.

The 2011 AAO Annual Session offers new educational and social events to add to your schedule. To help in that cause, here are some highlights that await you.

Make your choices

The city of Chicago (Photo illustration/Provided by stock.xchng)

Scientific program
This year, annual session lecture categories include such topics as craniofacial growth and tissue engineering, advances in anchorage control, appropriate use and value of aligners, treatment of the complex patient, Class II and Class III treatment, esthetics and orthodontic orthodontics, advances in anchorage control, appropriate use and value of aligners, treatment of the complex patient, Class II and Class III treatment, esthetics and orthodontic

Report: Not cleaning retainers can be harmful

By Daniel Zimmermann, Dental Tribune International Group Editor

Orthodontic retainers are a potential source of harmful microbes if not properly cleaned, scientists in the U.K. have warned. In a series of tests conducted at the UCL Eastman Dental Institute in London, at least 50 percent of all tested retainers contained species of Candida and Staphylococcus microorganisms, including MRSA, a multidrug-resistant bacterium that can be fatal to patients with a compromised immune system.

The Candida yeast, found universally on human skin and in other areas, can also cause infections. Amongst other conditions, it has been associated with oral candidiasis, a condition often related to ill-fitting dentures.

Both species do not normally occur in the oral cavity. Researchers said the high number of harmful bacteria found in retainers is most likely the result of poor cleaning, allowing microbes to build up a resistant biofilm and spread to other areas of the oral cavity.

They recommend wearers wash their hands thoroughly before and after inserting their retainers. Proper dental hygiene also helps to keep harmful bacteria from entering the mouth.

The 2011 AAO Annual Session is mixing things up this year.

Off to Vegas
OrthoVOICE is mixing things up this year.

Elevating care
How 3-D imaging can change your practice
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Sneak peek
What you can expect in the AAO exhibit hall
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