around the world gathered to further their knowledge and expertise. Educational topics ran the gamut from craniofacial growth and tissue engineering to the appropriate use and value of aligners.

In the exhibit hall, many companies brought their own experts who gave presentations right there. Dr. Larry Andrews and his son, Dr. Will Andrews, spoke about their Six Elements of Orthodontic Philosophy at the Ortho Organizers booth while other clinicians taught attendees about such things as treatment of the complex patient, Class II and Class III treatment and orthodontic technology.

Of course, one of the highlights of every AAO annual session is walking the exhibit hall floor. This year, exhibitors went all out to make attendees comfortable. Booths such as Happy Feet offered relief for aching feet while Ormco and DENTSPLY GAC had comfortable couches for attendees to relax upon.

As always, there was no shortage of new products. Ortho Classic launched OrthoVend, a “vending machine” for your practice that offers automated inventory tracking, secure storage and purchasing and standardized organization. The system can hold a month’s worth to a year’s worth of inventory and automatically reorders product once it reaches a pre-designated reorder point that you set. Using touch-screen technology and fail-safe sensors, the pay-as-you-go system is designed to take the headache and expense out of inventory control.

Accutech Orthodontic Lab offered its Orthodontic Appliance Design Manual, which includes diagrams of each appliance, indicating wire, acrylic and component specifications. The manual includes more than 200 full-color photos with multiple views of 70 orthodontic appliances and features a glossary of lab terms, appliance accessories, basic dental anatomy and an “understanding appliance types” section. It can be used as a communication tool with patients, colleagues, laboratories, staff members and lab technicians.

Imaging Sciences International showed off QuickScan, a feature on the i-CAT that lets clinicians capture initial workups and progress scans in 4.8 seconds—a short enough time period that most people, including wriggly children, are able to keep still.

Philips Sonicare debuted a new way to motivate patients to practice effective oral health-care habits at home. The Sonicare AirFloss is a new tool to provide patients with a gentle, easier way to clean between teeth. Philips’ microburst technology removes plaque from in between teeth with a burst of air and micro-water droplets, allowing patients to get rid of the floss for good.

For more from the AAO Annual Session, turn to Page 4.

According to the researchers, specific prior conditions may return without retainers. However, no definitive research has been conducted on the conditions that require ongoing retainer use.

In another study focused on patient compliance, Valiathan and colleagues found that 60 percent of the 1,200 surveyed patients wore retainers more than 10 hours a day in the first three months and 69 percent wore them every night. By the time retainer users reached 19 to 24 months, 19 percent had stopped wearing their retainers, while 81 percent were still wearing them, even if it was only one night a week. About 4 percent never wore their retainers at all. Furthermore, the study indicated that age, gender and the type of retainer did not affect compliance.

A third study examined the ramifications of no retainer use within the first four weeks after braces removal. Researchers measured patients’ teeth before and after for spacing issues, overbites, underbites and tooth crowding. Thirty patients had the wires removed from their braces, but the appliances were kept affixed to the teeth to monitor any changes without a retainer.

Nearly half of the participants showed no movement, and many showed positive settling of the posterior teeth, including the molars. Some, however, required additional orthodontic treatment at the end of the four weeks.

Further studies on a larger study population are necessary, Valiathan concluded.
Scenes from the AAO

A look at some of the happenings from the exhibit hall and beyond during the AAO Annual Session in Chicago

Photographs by Fred Michmershuizen, Ortho Tribune (unless credited otherwise)
Dentaurum, a long-time exhibitor at the AAO, offers a series of TOMAS mini-lectures in its booth. This year marks a special milestone for Dentaurum as it celebrate its 125th anniversary. (Photo/Provided by Dentaurum)

Normand Desforges and Julie E. LeMon at the HuFriedy booth. (Photo/Kristine Colker, Ortho Tribune)

Patrick Hess of Sirona.

Anthony Gianni of Medidenta.com.

Barry Larson of DMG is ready to share the benefits of Icon, a treatment for incipient caries and white-spot lesions that is done without drilling. (Photo/Kristine Colker, Ortho Tribune)
OrthoBanc’s team helps practices “score” during the AAO. OrthoBanc, a payment drafting and management company, set up its booth to look like US Cellular Field, the home of the Chicago White Sox. From left are Amy Evans, Jayme Cross, Jaime Kilgore, Marla Merritt and Carly Russell. (Photo/Provided by OrthoBanc)

Dr. Christy Fortney offers a presentation on treatment mechanics at the Opal Orthodontics by Ultradent booth.

Grover Knight of AMD LASERS holds a Picasso soft-tissue laser.

Meeting attendees learn more about products at the Danville Materials and Engineering booth.

Attendees are never too far from e-mail. Internet access was available at the Cyber Cafe.

Blaine Atwater of Planmeca.

Susan Richardson of ChaseHealthAdvance.

Many imaginative creatures are on display at Imagination Dental Solutions.