Looking back on AAE15 in Seattle

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AAE15, the annual meeting of the American Association of Endodontists, took place May 6-9 in Seattle. The event, billed by the association as “the most comprehensive endodontic education summit, vendor exhibition and networking opportunity in the world,” was held in the heart of downtown, at the Washington State Convention Center.

Michio Kaku, PhD, offered the keynote address. Consistent with the meeting’s future-looking theme, Kaku, author of “The Future of the Mind,” shared his vision for the future of science and technology.

In his opening remarks, AAE President Robert S. Roda told attendees, “If we’re going to shape the future, we need an organization that can study, that can learn and that can act.” Roda recapped the accomplishments of the association during his term, including environmental-scanning and quality improvement projects that are helping the AAE prepare for the future of the specialty.

The meeting offered more than 100 educational sessions in a variety of tracks, including “Future Directions on Nonsurgical Root Canal Treatment,” “Surgical Endodontics — What Lies Ahead” and “Where Will Biology and Technology Take Endodontics.” Attendees also had the opportunity to partake in hands-on workshops featuring leading experts in microsuturing, cone-beam computed technology and resorption.

AAE15 included the largest endodontic exhibit hall in the world, with nearly 100 vendors offering the latest in endodontic equipment, materials and supplies.

Essential Dental Systems (EDS) showcased its new endodontic system, Tango-Endo. It’s named that way because with Tango-Endo, it only takes two instruments, according to EDS. The instruments have a unique, patented flat along the entire length, designed for faster engagement with less resistance and increased flexibility without sacrificing strength.

CJM Engineering, a first-time exhibitor at AAE, presented its Munce Discovery Burs, which are designed to deal with calcified canals, uncover hidden...
canals, and to trough the isthmus and cement-line dissection around posts. According to the company, the long, narrow yet stiff shafts are designed to provide an excellent view corridor and ensure positive control, with the familiar tactile feedback of round burs. The carbide tips enable post-core out and broken or cross-threaded implant screw drill-out.

Roydent Dental Products offered its wide-ranging armamentarium, including its 2Seal easymiX Root Canal Sealer, an easy-to-use, auto-mix epoxy resin sealer, which was recently re-launched in newly branded packaging. “2Seal easymiX is a safe and ideal way for doctors to achieve one-handed dispensing and precise placement in the canal. It is also extremely radiopaque and biocompatible,” said Nancy Connor, sales and marketing manager.

At its booth, Sonendo conducted more than 200 demonstrations of its GentleWave technology and showed how it can provide what the company calls “unprecedented” root canal cleaning and disinfection when compared to conventional NiTi files and irrigation. Sonendo's GentleWave system features a proprietary technology, known as Multisonic Ultracleaning, which has been tested clinically in hundreds of cases and is shown to clean the entire root canal system regardless of complexity. Sonendo’s GentleWave technology results in the removal of bacteria, biofilm and smear layer in a single visit, which also helps reduce the need for retreatment, according to the company.

In addition to the in-booth presentations, Sonendo sponsored a number of educational presentations. Dr. Joseph Maggio offered “A New Paradigm in Endodontic Therapy: GentleWave,” a corporate workshop presented on the exhibit hall floor. In the lecture halls, Dr. Karine Charara presented “Safety of the Novel GentleWave System Evaluated in a Simulated Apical Environment.” Dr. Brandi L. Molina presented “Histological Evaluation of Root Canal Debridement of the GentleWave System in Root Canal Systems of Human Molars,” and Bettina Basrani of the University of Toronto presented “NSRCT – Irrigation: Past, Present, Future?”

Sonendo held its second 5K Charity Run/Walk, co-sponsored by AAE. Proceeds benefited Fisher House, a home away from home for families of hospitalized active-duty military personnel and veterans. To get participants pumped up for the early morning run, Rachel L. Engler, MS, CRNA, a lieutenant commander in the Navy Nurse Corp Reserve, led a warm-up.

In her first remarks as the new president of AAE, Dr. Terryl A. Propper said she hopes to increase engagement and involvement in the association by the next generation of endodontists. “I want to inspire a process that will yield effective change for our members and our specialty,” she said.

The 2016 AAE meeting will be held April 6-9 in San Francisco.