Pediatric dentists heading to Waikiki

Add beautiful beaches and perfect weather to the list of items normally attracting attendees to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) annual session. The 2018 meeting will be held from May 24–27 at the Hawaii Convention Center, which is just blocks away from the beaches of exciting Waikiki in the heart of downtown Honolulu.

Online registration was still available at press time via www.aapd.org. You can use AAPD’s online itinerary planner to find details on the scientific program, social events and area attractions.

The event’s headquarters hotel is the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The other official hotels, the Moana Surfrider, the Royal Hawaiian and the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani, have special rates available through the event website for as long as rooms remain available up to the housing deadline of May 9.

(CDAP Presents Board of Managers. "No better way to learn about new exciting procedures than to see them live, step by step.”

Attendees are encouraged to register early for these and other popular workshops and events to secure their spots and for best pricing. For more information, check out the online program at cdapresents.com.

Exhibit hall, continuing education

Occurring biannually in Anaheim in the spring and San Francisco in the fall, CDA Presents is one of the nation’s leading dental conventions, offering continuing education through more than 200 lectures and workshops, free hourly lectures at The Spot Educational Theater and hundreds of innovative dental products and services on the exhibit hall floor.

You can register or learn more about the meeting by visiting cdapresents.com/anaheim2018.

(Source: California Dental Association)
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Horizontal augmentation and steep vertical drops

By Robert Selleck, Managing Editor

What if you mixed an implant study club with a ski club but made it so inclusive that everybody was welcome to join anytime — even those who have never placed an implant or put on a pair of skis?

You would end up with something like Meisinger’s Annual High Altitude Comprehensive Implant Symposium, which put that formula together more than eight years ago and has made it successful every year since. The event has a core group that has never missed a meeting — which along with an attendance cap helps give the event a study-club vibe.

But there’s another contingent of multi-year veterans who come as often as they can, enabling a new batch of attendees to drop in on the fun every year, creating a broad mix of new and veteran participants.

“It has an international feel to it. There are people here from all over the world,” said Richard Robinette, DMD, who is in private practice in Spring Hill, Tenn. “You really see how people are thinking outside of the box. You see case studies of a lot of amazing surgery. I’m a general dentist, so I see surgeries recounted here that I can only imagine.”

Robinette, though, gleams plenty he can use — enough so that he has attended six of the meetings. “You don’t have to be a great skier, either,” he said. This year’s meeting was held in Vail, Colo., host site for the past five years. The event has always been scheduled on the four days leading up to Super Bowl Sunday, enabling U.S. attendees who want to get back home for the game plenty of time to do so. Many, however, tack on extra ski days with their families.

“It’s a great family meeting, especially if you want to do a ski trip,” said Scott Anderson, DDS, FIOCI, of Gunnison, Colo., who was back for his third year in a row. “It’s a real blessing for me because it’s a world-class meeting that’s so close to home. We ski two hours every day, which is perfect.”

Anderson is part of a group of about a half-dozen friends who attend off and on. This year he said he was especially impressed with the sessions covering peri-implantitis issues. “I’ll be able to take a lot of this information back and implement it on Monday,” he said. Anderson said he appreciated the small size of the meeting. “It’s a study-club format. You get to talk to some of the top clinicians in the world, but it’s fun. It’s relaxed. I’ll probably keep coming every year,” he said.

Another Coloradan, Scott Lindsay, DMD, MAGD, who is in practice in the metro-Denver town of Centennial, said, “The instructors are just so willing to sit down and talk with you. I reviewed a case with one of them today. They’re not in a rush to run away from the podium. They’ll sit down and talk with you, hang out with you.”

Meisinger keeps attendance capped at 125 and keeps the hands-on courses, which are optional, at 25-30 attendees to enable quality interaction between instructors and attendees. The presenters are there for the entire meeting, seamlessly switching roles between student and teacher, attending not just the lectures of fellow presenters but even some of the hands-on sessions.

When speakers commented on the meeting, they typically did so from a student perspective. “This is a great meeting. The quality of the speakers has been awesome,” said Farhad Bolchi, DMD, a periodontist in practice in Arlington, Texas, prior to presenting “Digital implant dentistry – the next frontier.”

Before his lecture, “The ultimate digital flow — restoratively driven implant planning and restoration fabrication: Efficient, predictable and repeatable,” Greg Campbell, DDS, a restorative and general dentist in Long Beach, Calif., said: “The surgeries have been amazing. The hands-on courses have been phenomenal.”

The digital workflow and technology sessions resonated with Grant Peterson, DDS, of Parker, Colo., who listed those as meeting highlights along with the lectures and workshops on peri-implantitis, bone augmentation and 3-D printing. Peterson was a first-time attendee. “I got a brochure in the mail and figured I should check it out. I knew of the world-class reputations of many of the speakers, but even with that I’ve been surprised by the caliber of the lectures. They’ve been phenomenal. And the exhibitors, too. I think I’ll come back.” The meeting returns to Vail for 2019. (For its 10th anniversary in 2020, the event is looking at locations in the Swiss or Austrian Alps.)

Learning objectives this year focused on: regenerative surgical treatment of peri-implantitis defects, digital implant dentistry, horizontal augmentation and soft-tissue management around implants.

You can learn more about the symposium under the “Events” drop-down menu at www.meisingerusa.com.