Dental museum adds exhibit

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

The National Museum of Dentistry, located in Baltimore, has added a new exhibit that will help teach the public about the American College of Dentists, the oldest national honorary organization for dentists.

The gold-plated mace and torch that have been used in American College of Dentists membership ceremonies for nearly 70 years are among the highlights of the new exhibit. The display also features an American college of Dentists’ Fellowship pin, key and rosette. Also on view is the William J. Gies Award, which recognizes college fellows who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the profession.

“The National Museum of Dentistry preserves and celebrates the history of the dental profession,” said Jonathan Landers, executive director of the museum. “This is the perfect place to showcase these fragile and magnificent historic symbols of such a respected organization in dentistry.”

The American College of Dentists is the oldest national honorary organization for dentists. It was founded to elevate the standards of dentistry, encourage graduate study, and grant fellowship to those who have done meritorious work. Membership in the American College of Dentists is by invitation only.

There are more than 7,400 fellows, who are selected based on their contributions to organized dentistry, oral health care, dental research, dental education, the profession and society. Long regarded as the “conscience of dentistry,” its mission is to advance excellence, ethics, professionalism and leadership in dentistry.

“We are honored to have the mace and torch on view at the National Museum of Dentistry,” said Dr. Stephen Ralls, executive director of the American College of Dentists. “They represent an important historical link to key leaders of dentistry from the early 20th century onward.”

About the mace and torch

When the American College of Dentists was founded in 1920, a symbolic light—the torch—was designated to signify the role of the college as a source of enlightenment and guidance. The torch was crafted in 1939 by the Gorham Silver Co. of Providence, R.I., to serve as a symbol of office.

The fluted staff, more than two feet long, is made of gold-plated bronze and decorated with ribbons engraved with the names of the founders of the American College of Dentists. “They represent an important historical link to key leaders of dentistry from the early 20th century onward.”

The mace was also made in 1939 by Gorham. It is more than two feet long and made of gold-plated bronze and silver. The base is adorned with faux amethysts, diamonds and emeralds. Crafted in the form of a caduceus symbolizing the medical professions, it includes the engraved names of 20 of the most eminent contributors to dentistry. The dome, with figures of two Egyptians holding the ends of an open scroll, is supported by depictions of 11 Egyptian scholars and a modern graduate.

To visit the museum

The National Museum of Dentistry is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. Other exhibits include George Washington’s false teeth, vintage toothpaste commercials and hands-on displays that are meant to educate visitors of all ages about the power of a healthy smile.

The museum is located at 51 S. Greene St., not far from Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for seniors and students with ID, $5 for children age 3-19, and free for ages 2 and younger. It is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays.

More information about the museum is available by phone, at (410) 706-0800 or online, at www.smile-experience.org.

(Source: National Museum of Dentistry)

The gold-plated mace of the American College of Dentists, at right, is now on display at the National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore. (Photo/National Museum of Dentistry)
CareCredit®, a patient payment program, continued its support as a founding donor of the American Dental Association Foundation Give Kids A Smile® expansion fund with its fourth consecutive $100,000 donation. The donation was made at the Give Kids A Smile National Advisory Board meeting, Feb. 24 in Chicago.

The American Dental Association’s Give Kids A Smile program has two objectives: first, to enable dental teams to provide free dental care, screening and education to underserved children; and second, to raise public awareness that the children of this country deserve a better health-care system that addresses their dental needs.

In 2009, with the help of CareCredit’s contribution, grants were awarded to the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA), the National Dental Association (NDA) and Oral Health America. The HDA is using its grant to fund local dental student-led oral-health programs in Los Angeles, Dallas and Boston.

The NDA is enhancing the DeaMonte Dental Project and has assembled its Dentists in Action resource directory. Oral Health America’s grant funds have been distributed to Smiles Across America sites in California, Minnesota and Nevada.

“Dental disease among children is a serious issue in the United States. When a child has disease and pain, it makes it difficult for them to eat, sleep and learn,” stated CareCredit board member and Senior Vice President of Marketing Cindy Hearn.

“CareCredit became the founding donor of the American Dental Association Foundation Give Kids A Smile expansion fund to help increase children’s access to treatment throughout the year.”

“Each year we are so impressed with how the grant recipients use the funds to reach out in their community, state and even across the country,” added Hearn.

“CareCredit continues to give benevolently to the Give Kids A Smile fund. Through its generosity, we have truly been able to make a difference in the lives of children who have little to no access to quality dental care,” said Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni, president, ADA Foundation.

Today, CareCredit is at work in more than 80,000 dental practices. CareCredit is exclusively selected for their members by most state and national dental associations, including ADA Business Resources®, AGD, AAOMS and AAP, and is also recommended by leading practice management consultants.

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For more information on CareCredit, call (800) 500-5046, ext. 4519, or visit www.carecredit.com/dental. Information on Give Kids A Smile can be found at www.givekidsasmile.ada.org.

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Global lab revenues to exceed $14.5 billion by 2015

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

Increasing numbers of elderly people and more demand for high-quality dental esthetics are cited among the reasons for an increase in global demand for the services of dental laboratories.

According to a new report, the world market for dental laboratories is projected to exceed $14.5 billion by the year 2015.

The report, by Global Industry Analysts, a publisher of market research, states that dental laboratories are witnessing a significant increase in demand for dental prosthetics as well as other restoratives.

The report also cites the increasing purchasing power of the baby boomer generation as another factor driving the dental laboratory market.

The United States represents the largest market for dental laboratories worldwide, according to the report.

The scarcity of technicians and availability of modern restorative technologies and systems are driving dental laboratories to deliver quality dental restorations to dentists on time.

Outsourcing is a key element in the U.S. dental laboratory industry.

The report, “Dental Laboratories: A Global Strategic Business Report,” provides a comprehensive review of dental laboratories, market trends, recent industry activity and focus on market participants.

The study analyzes market data and analytics in terms of value sales for regions, including the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the rest of the world.

Key players profiled in the report include 1st Dental Laboratories, Attenborough Dental, Champlain Dental Laboratory, Dental Services Group, iDent Dental Lab, Lord’s Dental Studio, Knight Dental Design, National Dentex Corp., Southern Craft Dental Laboratory, Utah Valley Dental Lab and others.

The report is available for purchase from Global Industry Analysts.