Greater New York Dental Meeting or bust!

By Robin Goodman
Group Editor

Get ready to sink your teeth into the Big Apple in a way that only the Greater New York Dental Meeting can provide. With a myriad of new programs on and off the exhibit floor as well as seminars and workshops, you’ll want to plan your time carefully. Here is a taste of what awaits you.

Witness “Live Dentistry” on the exhibition floor where you can watch procedures that showcase the latest in dental technologies and materials. Also on the exhibit floor, in glass-enclosed areas, you can attend workshops that will present a broad spectrum of up-to-date, hands-on procedures. You can even earn one hour of C.E. credit for walking the expanded exhibition floor as well as seminars and workshops, you’ll want to plan your time carefully. Here is a taste of what awaits you.

Also new to the conference this year, Invisalign will host its first Ortho Specialty Programs, please see pages 11 and 12.

Are you a ‘cutting edge dentist’?

By Robin Goodman
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Do you consider yourself a ‘cutting edge dentist’? What is the state of lasers in dentistry today?

Dental lasers are state-of-the-art technologies. Every dentist should own one and use it as an integral part of his or her practice, especially as they are much more affordable than they were 15 years ago when I got my first laser; I had the the Duopulse by Excel Quantronix, which has two separate lasers in one unit: a holmium and neodymium laser. I still have this unit in my office and use it as a backup laser to my newer ones. Lasers can be used by themselves or as an adjunct tool as they are versatile and precise. A simple diode laser can be used to disinfect tooth structure, in crown lengthening, frenectomy, biopsy, periodontal disease and gingival sculpting, etc.

There are lasers like the Periolase MVP-7, which are specifically built around a patented soft-tissue technique for periodontitis — laser assisted new attachment procedure (LANAP). There are hard-tissue (modifies lasers) as well as soft-tissue (modifies lasers) and there are lasers available today that combine both a soft and hard tissue laser in one unit. It all depends on the practice one has, or the one that you want to develop. Bottom line is that you cannot consider yourself a dentist on the cutting edge if you do not have and use a laser as part of your daily regimen regardless of what type of dentistry you practice.

How about lasers and soft tissue such as gum and pulp?

I have developed a direct pulp capping technique involving a laser and the immediate placement of a porcelain restoration [CEREC], which has a great success rate as the laser can reach places that antimicrobials and antimicrobials cannot reach because of their shallow penetra-

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Inside this week

Cosmetic Tribune: gingival health

As dentists, we can directly affect the aesthetics of the teeth and gingiva. However, we can also indirectly affect the lips and face by how we design teeth to sit in the oral cavity.

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Hygiene Tribune: smoking cessation, part 2

About 50 percent of patients in any given practice are current smokers. Although 70 percent of smokers say they are “interested” in quitting, only 10 to 20 percent plan to quit in the next month.

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Don’t miss Randy Donahoo’s lecture at the Dental Tribune Symposium during the Greater N.Y. Dental Meeting at 1:30–2:30 p.m. on Dec. 2.

This course will provide you with an opportunity to see for yourself how the benefits of “heads-up” dentistry can enhance your practice. Experience first hand the Dental Procedure Scope, a life-changing device that provides increased magnification, superior lighting and greater depth of penetration. The instructor will provide an overview of how Dental Procedure Scopes work, their capabilities and the ease of which they can be incorporated into your daily routine. Learn how they can enhance your practice and put the fun back into dentistry. It’s just a wonderful way to spend your day!

Dr. Dan Ward

Minimally invasive dentistry in rapid-fire fashion

Don’t miss Dr. Jesse’s and Dr. Kaminer’s lecture at the Dental Tribune Symposium during the Greater N.Y. Dental Meeting at 3–4 p.m. on Dec. 1.

Topics to be discussed include the following: caries management by risk assessment; current concepts in endodontology; minimally invasive endodontics; bonded fiber posts; dental lasers; minimally invasive periodontics; current advances in tooth whitening; bonding agents; separating the truth from the hype; and much more. This program will introduce concepts that will change the way you practice forever.

Dr. Kaminer

Using 3-D X-ray imaging and planning to increase patient treatment acceptance

Don’t miss Dr. Patel’s lecture at the Dental Tribune Symposium during the Greater N.Y. Dental Meeting at 10 a.m.–1 p.m. on Dec. 1.

Dr. Patel will share a practical perspective of cone beam technology and its multiple uses in “real world” private practice. He will shed light on what the future has to offer and give insight into the impact CBCT technology can have from a business standpoint — return on investment (ROI)!

By the end of the presentation, attendees should:

Understand how 3-D technology can benefit the modern dental practice.

Learn how state-of-the-art 3-D digital dentistry is being done today.

Acquire the tools for implementing 3-D X-ray imaging and software in their practice.

Dr. Patel

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Auctions for dental equipment are available for the Dental Tribune Symposium during the Greater N.Y. Dental Meeting.

Online registration for Dental Tribune Symposium during the Greater N.Y. Dental Meeting.

For more information and registration, please contact Julia Wehkamp: j.wehkamp@dtamerica.com.

ARE YOU
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tion into bacterial colonies [biofilms]. Lasers can be used on the delicate tissue of the pulp without causing necrosis by using the correct settings and the right lasers.

Nd:YAG’s and diodes are great for sculpting the gingival tissue in crown lengthening, smile makeovers and gingivectomy. Both can be used in treating gum disease, although the diode is not as ideal as the Nd:YAG laser, as it is hotter, can cut deeper and has a potential greater zone of thermal damage in the wrong hands; it should not be used on pockets deeper than 4 mm. The Nd:YAG laser can be used to pocket depths above 12 mm. Those interested in the Nd:YAG for gum disease should really look at the Periolase MVP-7 by Millennium Dental Technologies as the laser is sold with instruction/training in the laser and LANAP technique.

And for lasers and hard tissue such as tooth and bone?

Erbium lasers are great for dissection of teeth and for cosmetic surgery as they are specifically made for dissecting and cutting hard tissue. They are also ideal for preparing class I and class V restorations and removal of defective composite materials; however, they cannot be used on metal or porcelains, as these cannot be cut by a laser.

Metals and porcelains must first be removed using the drill; however, once they are removed the laser can be used directly to remove any underlying caries. If the caries are very deep, the erbium laser can be used in a direct/indirect pulp-capping technique with the immediate placement of a CEREC 3-D porcelain restoration. An erbium laser like the Waterlase MD by Biolase can also be used in the direct treatment of root canals as it has laser endodontic tips that are used post instrumentation for cleaning and disinfecting the canal.

What are your thoughts on a connection between heart disease and periodontal disease?

I love it when patients tell me that they are fit and in good shape except, of course, for the severe gum disease they have. Unfortunately, we have grown up with faulty medical/dental health models that describe the body as distinct and disconnected units, and this shows up in how we view disease and the body. Serious infection in the body is dangerous as it can spread, especially to vulnerable organs.

Periodontitis is a bi-directional manifestation of disease. It can be seen as a manifestation of systemic disease such as diabetes, cutaneous disease, joint disease and osteoporosis. It can also be seen separately from systemic ones as its own complete disease with the great potential of releasing bacterial emboli into the blood system that can travel to the heart, lungs and other major organs. It has been linked to cardiovascular disease since the late 1990s and rightly so, as oral bacteria are not contained but spread and are particularly dangerous for heart patients who are vulnerable to endocarditis, especially before open-heart surgery.

An Nd:YAG laser can reduce microbial colonies that inhabit periodontal pockets by 97 to 100 percent, as the laser is precise, site specific and does not rely on secondary or tertiary effects to kill microbes. It destroys microbes and their colonies on contact without any side effects.

Editor’s Note: Please see Cosmetic Tribune in this edition for a clinical article by Dr. Cortes and her contact information.

“The article is titled, "High-Tech Pulp Capping Using Laser and CAD/CAM, Dental Economics,” and was published by PenalWill.