Hygienists in Phoenix, June 13–19

Exhibitors, C.E., networking highlight 89th ADHA session

A number of sessions have already sold out at the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Center for Lifelong Learning at the 89th Annual Session. But plenty of opportunities remain open as the June 13-19 meeting approaches.

The Phoenix Convention Center’s west building is expected to be filled with more than 2,000 dental professionals representing various dental-profession sectors and career stages. Certainly the focus is on dental hygienists, but the annual session includes educational and networking opportunities of benefit to all members of the dental-practice team.

Highlights include a two-day-long exhibition hall, two plenary sessions designed to get the days started on fun, inspirational notes and, of course, the three days featuring 28 unique C.E. sessions divided into six tracks: clinical practice, public health, education, research, professional development and new hygienist. There also is a separate student track. A total of 24 C.E. hours are available.

This year’s theme is “Navigating through a changing profession and seizing the opportunities of tomorrow.”


On Thursday, June 14, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. there is a selection of 15 different “Lunch & Learn” sessions, with box lunches for all participants. Each topic is limited to nine registered participants per table. Quite a few of the choices already are filled up, but others still have slots open. Among the still-open sessions as of mid May “Calming Dental Anxiety,” “The Role of Inflammation in Periodontal Disease and Rheumatoid Arthritis,” “Minorities in Dental Hygiene,” “Forensic Dentistry: How to Get Involved,” “School-Based Sealant Programs” and “Integrating Preventive Oral Health Measures in Health Care Practice.”

An annual Community Service Day on Wednesday, June 13, provides 50 attendees the opportunity to go to a local senior center to provide oral health and oral cancer screenings, toothbrush prophylaxis, fluoride varnish and oral health education. Preregistration for this event was required and the registration deadline has passed. It’s sponsored by the ADHA, the ADHA Institute for Oral Health and DentalEZ Group.

On the “just-for-fun” side of things, a number of area tours are available through the meeting website, including a visit to the Grand Canyon and a tasting tour of area vineyards. There’s even a night-vision Hummer tour through the pitch-black Sonoran Desert, featuring spectacular views of the night sky and desert wildlife. A barbecue dinner is included, complete with campfire, cowboy guitarist and a country western band. Many of these group tours sell out quickly, so you’re encouraged to sign up soon.

Event registration and details are available via a link on the association’s website, www.adha.org. The association can be contacted at (312) 440-8900.

‘Pros in the Profession’ winner named

Crest Oral-B selects fifth of six recipients to be honored in 2012

Crest® Oral-B® has selected Olga Torres, RDH, of Clewiston, Fla., as the fifth winner of the brand’s second annual Pros in the Profession® award program, which honors registered dental hygienists who go above and beyond the call of duty every day.

Torres has been practicing dental hygiene for five years, holding a dental hygiene degree from Palm Beach Community College. She also works as the sole dental hygienist at the Florida Community Health Center.

Torres frequently works with pediatric patients, sometimes seeing up to 15 children a day for dental cleanings. She has a passion for these patients and dedicates much of her free time to giving presentations to both kids and their parents to teach them about the importance of oral health. She also uses her bilingual skills to communicate with migrant patients facing language barriers in her community.

When Torres is not working or volunteering, she is in school part-time pursuing a bachelor’s degree or spending time with her 16-year-old daughter. She also guest-hosts a local radio show a few times a year, covering a variety of dental health and hygiene topics.

Torres relies on Crest and Oral-B products for maintaining her own oral hygiene, as well as that of her patients. Among her favorite products is the Crest and Oral-B Pro-Health For Me Collection for her pre-teen patients.

Throughout the year, a total of six deserving professionals will be named this year’s Crest Oral-B Pros in the Profession winners.

Winners receive a plaque; a $1,000 monetary award; recognition at an awards cocktail reception at RDH’s “Under One Roof 2012” annual meeting in Las Vegas; tribute in dental trade media news announcements and on www.dentalcare.com; and an exclusive trip to Proctor & Gamble Co. headquarters in Cincinnati.

The Crest Oral-B Pros in the Profession program recognizes registered dental hygienists who go above and beyond the call of duty every day. Throughout the year, Crest Oral-B rewards a selection of deserving professionals, as nominated by their peers, who truly make an impact on patients and the oral health cause.

To learn more about the program, visit www.prosintheprofession.com. For information about Crest Oral-B products and resources, you can visit www.dentalcare.com.

(Source: Crest Oral-B)
RHDS critical in documenting patients’ unique, permanent oral characteristics

By Patricia Walsh, RDH

The Rhode Island fire of 2003 was the fourth deadliest in U.S. nightclub history. Ninety-six people perished on the night of the fire, four more in the hospital later on. The staff of the local medical examiner’s office was completely overwhelmed. The services of many dentists were needed to help bring peace and closure for the families of the victims.

Without a standing local identification team, matching dental records was a call 24/7 and works closely with the Canadian Mounted Police. During lunch I found myself sitting hand-in-hand with the Canadian Mounted Police. During a course entitled “Beyond forensic dentistry,” I noticed that several of his uniform in-uniform, had made the trip for continuing education for the past five annual meetings. ASDIC Odontology meeting is routinely held in Connecticut. The Rhode Island fire of 2003 was the second deadliest in U.S. nightclub history. The Thailand Dental Project, a volunteer program onproviding educational, preventive and restorative dental care to children in a tsunami-affected region of Thailand. She may be contacted at p.witwer@dental-tribune.com.

FDHs can ease the burden of those working long hours, often in a difficult environment. By simply doing their day-to-day job Mass casualty situations are emotionally taxing and difficult times. Response teams should not have to waste precious hours trying to understand chart notations or searching for good radiographs. A decrease in the use of amalgam only augments the need for detailed patient records. Hygienists are ideally suited for assisting authorities with antemortem (predeceased) information on dentures, ortho appliances, or dental photographs. All persons possess an identity during their lifetime, and the dignity of confirming and maintaining this identity after death is a strong compelling societal need. Hygienists, as compassionate health care workers, are ideally suited to play an integral role in forensic organization and record keeping. We are already trained, well-educated observers of the human condition.

Hygienists wishing to learn more about forensics can go to the following sites.

- American Society of Forensic Odontology (www.asfo.org). Continuing education credits, membership open to all dental professionals.

- American Board of Forensic Odontology (www.aho.org). Membership limited to dentists.

- Center for Education and Research in Forensics (www.ariforensic.org) Weeklong training courses.

- Disaster Preparedness Response (www.oaks.org/25010.aspx)

References


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