Lights, camera, action, C.E.!

Annual Winter Clinic takes over cineplex

Continuing education with comfortable seating

This year the Toronto Academy of Dentistry is taking you to the cinema for its annual Winter Clinic, the academy’s 79th annual meeting.

This year’s meeting is being billed as an “unequaled audio/video experience in comfortable theatre seating within spacious auditoriums (with) lots of popcorn.”

The popular single-day meeting on Friday, Nov. 11, is at the Cineplex Cinemas, on the third floor at Empress Walk, 5095 Yonge St., in Toronto. The venue enables the meeting to take advantage of state-of-the-art audio/visual capabilities and provide attendees with unique theatre seating.

Opening this year’s programme is a Remembrance Day address from Dr. Victor Lantcis, retired brigadier-general of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps. This is followed by the keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen DeWitt, a noted sexologist, who also will be offering a full-day programme for attendees who want to delve deeper into the topic. DeWitt promises to turn the topic of sex “upside down and inside out” and explore why people think about sex the way they do. He promises to empower people to become more comfortable with themselves and why they are who they are.

Among the meeting’s continuing education offerings, topics include: recognition and treatment of dental caries, clinical protocols, oral systemic health inter-relations, radiographic interpretation, sleep apnea, medicine for dentistry, unanswered questions in periodontology, endodontic-periodontal interrelationships, marketing and cultural differences in the dental office, and updates on pediatric dentistry from experts at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Additional speakers include: Drs Michael Glick, John Maggio, Peter Judd, Frank Scannapieco, Steven Olmos, Ryan Schure, Richard Speers, Geoffrey L. Sas, Adam Kaplan, and Kristina and Susanne Perschbacher.

Among the many highlights are two sessions from Glick: “A Skeptic’s Guide to Clinical Protocols” and “The Oral-Systemic Health Connection. Where Are We Today?” from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Theatre 5.

Glick’s first session challenges participants to critically evaluate the historic rationale behind protocols and if their application in your clinical practice model meets standards required in today’s world of evidence-based medicine and dentistry.

The second session is designed to help oral-healthcare professionals evaluate studies discussing presumed association between oral and non-oral conditions, and provide guidance on how to address these associations with patients.

Visit the Winter Clinic website at www.tordent.com or just head inside to the venue theatres at Empress Walk for dentistry’s biggest — and now probably the most-comfortable — single-day convention.

(Source: Toronto Academy of Dentistry)
Yankee Dental Congress 2017 will be held from Jan. 25–29, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Meeting organizers describe the Yankee Dental Congress as being New England’s largest dental meeting. The congress is sponsored by the Massachusetts Dental Society in cooperation with the dental societies of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Nearly 28,000 dental health professionals and guests from around the United States are expected to attend the 2017 event.

The theme of the 2017 Yankee is “Focus Fast. Forward.” Meeting organizers say that the theme “emulates how dental professionals can focus on innovative continuing education opportunities for intellectual development in the dental field, to fast-forward the industry for the future.”

New approach to pain management

Among the education highlights for the 2017 meeting, Yankee is providing several programs that are “focused” on working in conjunction with Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker’s efforts to combat addiction in the commonwealth.

This includes the Third Annual Interprofessional Symposium: “CTL-ALT-DELETE: Rebooting the Approach to Pain Management,” as well as the Yankee Fast Track program featuring topics in pain management and prescription monitoring. This track will include a series of six one-hour lectures covering these topics and providing a comprehensive review for the dental practitioner to diagnose and manage patients safely in the dental office while complying with current best practice guidelines and regulations.

Sleep Apnea Pavilion

The Sleep Apnea Pavilion will showcase the latest technologies “Fast” involving the various laboratory providers. Yankee organizers say the congress is among the first dental meetings to provide education on this technology.

The pavilion will educate attendees on oral appliance therapy and laser procedures for treating sleep apnea as well as pediatric dental sleep medicine.

3-D Printing Pavilion

Along with more than 300 continuing education and hands-on courses and events presented by leading experts in the dental profession, Yankee is moving “forward” with its 3-D Printing Pavilion. This pavilion will discuss and demonstrate high-resolution desktop 3-D printing and how it provides affordable access to advanced digital workflows for dental labs and new dental practices, too.

More than 450 exhibitors

The Yankee Dental Congress also features a wide range of the latest dental technologies and products from more than 450 exhibitors, along with several education pavilions located on the exhibit floor.

Special presentations this year include “A Conversation with Dr. Lisa Genova,” author of the best-selling novel “Still Alice,” for the identically titled Academy Award-winning film. Another special presentation features Nancy Frates, mother of Pete Frates, who was the inspiration for the “ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.”

For more about Yankee Dental Congress 2017, visit www.yankededental.com or call (877) 357-9071.

(Source: Yankee Dental Congress)
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Isolite Systems delivers dental-isolation technology

By Isolite Systems Staff

Dental isolation is one of the most common and ongoing challenges in dentistry. The mouth is a difficult environment in which to work. It is wet and dark, the tongue is in the way, and there is the added humidity of breath, which all make dentistry more difficult.

Proper dental isolation and moisture control are two often overlooked factors that can affect the longevity of dental work — especially with today’s advanced techniques and materials.

Leading dental isolation methods have long been the rubber dam — or manual suction and retraction with the aid of cotton rolls and dry angles. Both of these methods are time and labor intensive, and not particularly pleasant for the patient.

Enter Isolite Systems. Its dental isolation systems deliver an isolated, humidity- and moisture-free working field as dry as the rubber dam but with significant advantages, including better visibility, greater access, improved patient safety and a leap forward in comfort. Plus, it allows dentists to work in two quadrants at a time.

‘Isolation Mouthpiece’

The key to the technology is the ‘Isolation Mouthpiece.’ Compatible with Isolite’s full line of products, the mouthpiece is the heart of the system. It is specifically designed and engineered around the anatomy and morphology of the mouth to accommodate every patient, from children to the elderly.

The single-use Isolation Mouthpieces are now available in six sizes and position in seconds to provide complete, comfortable tongue and cheek retraction while also shielding the airway to prevent inadvertent foreign body aspiration.

Constructed out of a polymeric material that is softer than gingival tissue, the mouthpieces provide significant safety advantages, and their ease-of-use can boost your practice’s efficiency, results and patient satisfaction.

Isolite, Isodry and Isovac

Isolite Systems provides three state-of-the-art product solutions for every practice, every operatory: Isolite, illuminated dental isolation system, Isodry, a non-illuminated dental isolation; and the new Isovac, dental isolation adapter.

Using the Isolation Mouthpieces, all three dental isolation products isolate upper and lower quadrants simultaneously while providing continuous hands-free suction. This allows a positive experience where the patient no longer has the sensation of drowning in saliva/water during a procedure, and the practitioner can precisely control the amount of suction and humidity in the patient’s mouth. Isolite Systems’ dental isolation is recommended for the majority of dental procedures where oral control and dental isolation in the working field is desired. It has been favorably reviewed by leading independent evaluators and is recommended for procedures where good isolation is critical to quality dental outcomes.

Learn more about the Isolite system online at www.isolitesystem.com.
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Performance through comfort
Do you ever feel like practice efficiency and quality care can’t coexist? Are you frustrated by time spent on tasks that should be solved by technological advancements?

Here’s some good news: Times have changed, and hand-instrument technology has advanced, making it possible to deliver higher quality patient care within an efficient practice. Recently named “The Practice Game Changer of 2015” by readers of RDH Magazine, American Eagle Instruments has developed XP Technology, a metallurgical advancement that eliminates the task of sharpening, which is viewed by many as tedious and often imperfect. Clinicians chose XP Technology by writing in the product or service they felt had the biggest impact on their practice, a testament to the positive effect XP Technology sharpen-free instruments have had for thousands of clinicians.

A proprietary manufacturing process, XP Technology is behind the market’s only line of sharpen-free scalers and curettes. The process enhances metallurgical composition of the instrument’s surface, giving it properties of a much more durable material. It is not a coating that will flake or peel off over time, but an embedded surface akin to a stained piece of wood, unable to flake or be removed. Because XP Technology’s durability renders it sharpen-free, the instruments are manufactured with thinner working ends for greater access to calculus and previously inaccessible pockets. Working ends retain the factory blade angulation that assures proper calculus removal and eliminates the risk of burnished calculus.

A sharpen-free metal brings another, less-quantifiable benefit. Metallurgical durability of this magnitude allows a modified scaling technique. For the first time ever, clinicians have a hand instrument made with an alloy that is harder than the calculus being removed. Calculus removal with XP Technology is accomplished with a much lighter grasp and shaving stroke vs. the heavy lateral pressure and “popping off” of calculus used with stainless-steel instruments. Hygienists describe XP Technology in action as ‘melting’ calculus off the tooth surface. According to the company, it is a smooth, painless technique that can reduce physical stress for clinicians and promote improved ergonomics and hand health, both big concerns for most clinicians during their careers.

The return on investment with XP Technology is not only evident for the practice, but for the patient as well. The practice wins when team members are spending time with patients rather than wasting time sharpening instruments. That extra patient-contact time can lead to accepted treatment and better overall patient health. Patients win when clinicians use the modified scaling technique, experiencing comfortable appointments that make them want to return.

American Eagle Instruments understands that these are medical devices that require a precise fabrication process to achieve a consistent, reliable product. AEI is an American manufacturer based in Missoula, Mont. It takes 36 steps to fabricate an XP Technology instrument, and each step takes place within the factory under strict quality control standards. This attention to detail has helped AEI earn a reputation for creating some of the world’s most precise and long-lasting instruments, according to the company.

You can visit www.am-eagle.com to see why XP Technology scalers and curettes belong in your practice — and in your hands.

Then you can change your game, too.

XP Technology is a metallurgical advancement that eliminates the task of sharpening, which is viewed by many as tedious and often imperfect.

Photo/Provided by American Eagle Instruments

Game changer: American Eagle Instruments XP Technology

By American Eagle Instruments Staff
Elbow your way to better health

Dentists, hygienists and dental assistants face a daily basis all of the top conditions needed to develop musculoskeletal disorders. Dental work requires precision and control in movement — so static positions can result in fatigue in the muscles of the neck, the back and the shoulders. After a few years or even months, the muscle fatigue may cause ailments, pain or even more severe conditions, such as tendinitis, bursitis, neck pain, disk herniation and others.

If I work with my arms close to my body, can I avoid muscle tension?
Even when your arms seem relaxed along your body, the shoulder and upper back muscles have to be contracted to keep the stability required for the precise work of your hands. These muscle contractions can reduce the blood flow up to 90 percent, which causes fatigue to accumulate and weaken your muscles and articulations.

Why use mobile elbow supports?
The Posiflex mobile elbow support system was developed to diminish the charge to the upper body in order to favor a good bloodstream. A scientific study demonstrated that using the Posiflex system contributes to achieving a more secure and comfortable work posture while significantly reducing muscle contractions in the shoulders, neck and upper body. This unique concept follows body movements. The elbow rests offer an appropriate support of the arms while preserving the freedom of movement.

Precision work requires concentration and effort. We forget ourselves when we are concentrated on a task. The elbow supports enable practitioners to keep a good posture as they keep you in line.

Do I have to always be on the supports to get the benefit?
It is not possible to be on the supports 100 percent of the time. The studies demonstrated that with 50 percent of the time on the support, bloodstream is sufficient to prevent and diminish tension. After a short learning curve, the majority of users are on the supports 80 to 90 percent of the time.

Why invest in a dental stool?
Dental professionals can easily spend eight to 12 hours a day on a stool. In fact, it is the piece of equipment you use the most and, generally, it is also the most neglected. You pay attention to your patient comfort, so what about your comfort and that of your employees?

The investment is modest and quickly profitable compared to costs created by medical treatments or leave from work.

Do you have to plan long procedures early in the week because your body can’t do it on Thursdays?

How should the patient chair be adjusted to keep the practitioner in good posture?
Eyes-to-task distance is the key for good posture. When the patient chair is placed low it forces you to bend your neck, even with loupes, creating tensions. Further, because of lack of leg room, the operator must straddle the chair or, worse, sit on the tip of the seat. This position does not provide lumbar support or a safe position. Many speakers and authors favor a higher position of the patient chair with the patient lying flat. The arms stay close to the body and the forearms are flexed.

To learn more about ergonomics in the dental clinic, you can visit Posiflex online at www.posiflexdesign.com.

(Source: Posiflex Design)
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