Lots of smiles in Seattle

- From left, Priya Dixit, DDS, of Atlanta, with husband Rohit Chitre and son, Akehay, 4, ham it up in the TapSnap Phototainment booth at the entry to the exhibit hall. (Photo/Robert Selleck, today Staff)

More than 150 kids treated at Dental Home Day

- A young girl receives care on Wednesday as part of the AAPD annual meeting’s Dental Home Day. (Photo/ Michael Karidas)

By Robert Selleck, today Staff

More than 150 Seattle-area children in households otherwise unable to afford dental care received initial rounds of greatly needed treatment Wednesday thanks to Dental Home Day at this year’s AAPD annual meeting.

The care will continue throughout the coming year, with the children receiving ongoing treatment from the Center for Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Washington (also the host site of Wednesday’s event).

This is the third annual meeting during which AAPD members have donated their time and skills to provide critically needed oral health care to underserved children in the city hosting the annual meeting. The care is funded primarily by AAPD members through care grants and through the support of sponsor Sunstar Americas Inc.

About 60 AAPD dentists volunteered during Dental Home Day, which is a Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children (HSHC) program. HSHC is the charitable giving arm of the AAPD. You can learn more about HSHC and care grants in the AAPD booth, No. 517.

Since 2010, HSHC has donated more than $3 million in support of Access to Care initiatives helping more than 290,000 children in 26 states.

By Robert Selleck, today Staff

It’s been 23 years since Seattle hosted the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry annual meeting. The gathering back then was in a hotel conference center — and it was likely impossible for any of the attendees to imagine what things would look like the next time they got together in the Emerald City.

One of those attendees, Ed Moody, DDS, certainly wasn’t imagining himself as president of the organization today. “It was never even on the radar,” Moody said, while preparing for Friday morning’s opening ceremony and awards presentations.

Twenty-three years ago, Moody had just earned his board certification and was attending his third AAPD annual meeting. This year, he’s preparing to...
Almost a third of our membership is here this year,” Delarosa said, commenting on how involved AAPD’s members are. “We had more than 440 people in the preconference courses. The Joint Academic Day sold out. We’re really encouraged by what we are seeing. It’s going to be an exciting meeting.”

With on-site registrations still climbing on Friday, the number of registrants had exceeded 5,500, including about 3,000 AAPD members. Another sign of the organization’s growing stature: More than 170 companies have booths in the exhibit hall. Included among them is Parker Porter, launching the Silhouette low-profile nasal mask, in booth No. 717. NuSmile is a highly visible presence throughout the meeting, including its exhibit hall booth, No. 405. Prevent-tex, in booth No. 421, can show you how its handpieces and attachments can help fast-paced pediatric practices reduce time spent on infection control, repairs and maintenance.

Beyond the exhibit hall, today’s agenda is packed with educational opportunities and networking events. Keep in mind as you’re conversing with fellow practitioners that the organization’s president 20 years from now is likely among them. Perhaps it’s that perspective that has Delarosa focusing on some of AAPD’s younger members as he prepares for his term as president.

“We want to stay a vibrant and relevant organization,” he said. “We need to look to the future.”

Toward that end, Delarosa is interested in setting up a millennials task force.

“I’m very excited about this upcoming year,” Delarosa said. “We have a strong foundation in place. We have a good and generous group of corporate sponsors who care about us—and care about the children. We’re in a good position with advocacy programs.”

But most important, Delarosa said, commenting again on the strong turnout for this year’s meeting, “The academy is in a very strong position for the future because of our active and involved membership.”