A winter wonderland

At 151 years young, the Chicago Midwinter Meeting still keeps things fresh

- It’s cold outside, that is for sure. But inside the McCormick Place West, things are just beginning to heat up, thanks in part to the many new offerings here at the 151st session of the Chicago Midwinter Meeting.

New features on the mobile app

There are plenty of reasons every year to download the Midwinter Meeting mobile app to enhance your meeting experience, but this year there are even more.

- C.E. Certification is available on the app. Look for the “C.E. Certification” button, which links to the website.
- The Virtual Tradeshow Bag, which was emailed to pre-registered attendees, is available on the app. This

OHA honors Dr. Michael Alfano at 26th gala and benefit

- Oral Health America (OHA) recognized Dr. Michael Alfano with the Tribute Award at its 26th annual gala and benefit, held before the Chicago Midwinter Meeting on Wednesday night at the Navy Pier. Alfano, DMD, PhD, serves as professor, dean and executive vice president emeritus at New York University.

Each year, OHA honors an individual whose career significantly impacts oral health on a regional or national level; who has been innovate, creative and pioneering; who is able to demonstrate positive, measurable change during a sustained period; and who has achieved success in overcoming barriers to oral health access, education and advocacy.

“Dr. Alfano more than exemplifies each of these criteria for this award in the most profound ways imaginable,” said Beth Truett, president and CEO of Oral Health America. “Beyond his loyalty to Oral Health America’s mission and work, his belief in health equity and the need for change in prioritizing oral health for all Americans thrives with the Santa Fe Group, the 2016 Global Oral Cancer Forum and so many other important initiatives.”

The tribute award was part of OHA’s annual fundraising benefit. Hosted at Chicago’s historic Navy Pier, the event featured a cocktail reception, dinner and dancing, as well as a silent auction and raffle. The theme, Mardi Gras Redux, also heralded Oral Health America’s return to one of the city’s most spectacular landmarks during its centennial year.

For more information

For more information about Oral Health America and its mission, visit oralhealthamerica.org.

The city of Chicago. (Photo/Provided by City of Chicago/GRC)
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- Make sure to log into the app with your badge number to be eligible for a raffle to win prizes, including an iPad Air 2, an Apple Watch, a GoPro Camera and various Starbucks gift-cards. Names will be drawn twice a day, and winners will be announced at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. via push notification on the app. Their names will also be listed on the CDS blog, Open Wide.

Midwinter BISTRO
Looking for a new place to dine? New this year, the Midwinter BISTRO will be located in the CDS Restaurant located on Level 3 and in the exhibit hall. Reserve your seat for lunch online.

New educational offerings
Have you ever wondered how dentists in other nations practice dentistry? The Midwinter Meeting offers you the opportunity to look behind the curtain and hear how your colleagues in Mexico, Italy, Brazil and other nations address the issues patients present to them daily in their offices. Courses are translated into English.

In addition, three new learning tracks have been added to this year’s meeting. The University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry, Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine and Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine will each have their own C.E. tracks.

Product debuts
Every year at the Chicago Midwinter, companies from across the world debut various new products and technology, giving attendees the first look. This year is no exception.

Over in booth No. 4815, Fotona is launching the new ST PRO Lightwalker Dental Laser, a full-featured, hard- and soft-tissue dental laser.

In booth No. 1411, DEXIS is introducing the DEXIS Eleven, the next-generation of its software, which promises to enhance clinical workflow and increase security and flexibility by leveraging cloud computing.

There are also new products from Crest+Oral-B (the Oral-B Genius brush, booth No. 3002), AMD Lasers (upgraded Picasso+ series, booth No. 2413) and Medidenta (Air Free handpiece, booth No. 2611).

For even more new products, check out the new product section on the 2016 mobile app.
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America’s Toothfairy, The Salvation Army team up to address pediatric dental disease

America’s Toothfairy: National Children’s Oral Health Foundation and The Salvation Army’s National Headquarters announced a new collaborative initiative to address the issue of pediatric dental disease. Joining efforts to maximize resources and impact on the health of underserved children, this partnership will focus on rescuing children from potentially debilitating yet preventable tooth decay through oral-health education, awareness building and the expansion of access to preventive services and treatment.

The Salvation Army is also participating in the America’s ToothFairy Smile Drive, a national campaign held this month, the National Children’s Dental Health Month, to collect toothbrushes, toothpaste and other oral-care products for underserved children.

“The Salvation Army is committed to addressing the most basic human needs, of which health is one of the most important,” said David Jeffrey, national commander of The Salvation Army USA. “We look forward to collaborating with America’s ToothFairy to raise awareness of the devastating impact of pediatric dental disease and to ensure the children and families we serve have access to quality, affordable oral health resources and services.”

“We are very proud to partner with The Salvation Army, recognizing its vital contributions to the health and wellness of families across our nation,” said Fern Ingber, America’s ToothFairy president and CEO. “We can think of no better partner in our effort to serve children and families in need.”

Pediatric dental disease is one of the most prevalent illnesses affecting children in the United States. More than 40 percent of U.S. children have dental cavities by the time they reach kindergarten, and one in five go without dental care. Left untreated, severe tooth decay can lead to malnourishment, anemia, life-threatening secondary infections and even death.

About The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army, established in London in 1865, has been supporting those in need without discrimination for more than 130 years in the United States. Approximately 30 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through a range of social services: food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. The organization reports that 82 cents of every dollar donated goes to support those services in 5,000 communities nationwide. For more information, go to salvationarmyusa.org or follow on Twitter @SalvationArmyUS.