The big 150

Chicago's Midwinter Meeting shows how it's grown with three days of education, events and, yes, cake pops

If you were turning 150 years old, you'd probably want to throw a big party to celebrate. The organizers behind the Chicago Midwinter Meeting feel the same way — and they are expecting about 30,000 dental professionals and industry representatives to attend the big shindig.

In a far cry from the first Midwinter Meeting, which consisted of a one-day gathering of local members, this week's event features an array of live patient care presentations, hands-

OHA gala celebrates 25 years

It was a night of “Smiles Under Silver Stars” as dental industry professionals gathered Wednesday night for Oral Health America’s 25th Annual Gala & Benefit, which took place at the Hilton Chicago. In addition to being a major fundraiser for OHA’s programs, which connect communities with resources to drive access to oral health care, this year’s occasion was also in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the gala and the 60th anniversary of OHA itself.

OHA started in 1955 as the American Foundation for Dental Education to expand the pool of qualified dental educators. OHA’s history was celebrated at a reception before the gala and with a presentation during the event.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, followed by a culinary feast. The evening also featured live music and live and silent auctions. The 2015 raffle, sponsored by Aspen Dental, offered a chance to win a 2015 Audi A3 Cabriolet.

Presenting sponsor of the gala was Kavo Kerr Group; technology sponsors were Ivoclar Vivadent and Patterson Dental; diamond sponsors were Colgate Palmolive, DentaQuest Foundation, DENTSPLY International, Henry Schein, Philips Sonicare, Scan and Septodont; platinum sponsors were Darby Dental, DentalEZ and Midmark; and gold sponsors were Belmont Publications, Bisco, Burkhart, DentaPure, Unilever and Planmeca.

Those in attendance represented hundreds of companies, dentists and industry professionals.
on workshops, lectures and social events. There are also more than 600 companies awaiting your presence in Hall F on level three of the McCormick Place West Building.

And because it wouldn’t be a birthday party without cake, you can have that, too. Each day from 1 to 3 p.m., Midwinter Celebration cake pops will be served on the exhibit floor.

Check on your health

The Midwinter Meeting is a great time to learn new tips for caring for your patients, but there are also opportunities to see to your own health.

Pelton & Crane will offer ergonomics evaluations in booth No. 100 (aisle 100, near the Rebate Redemption Center). During these free sessions, physical therapists will consider how individual professionals position themselves around the chair and on their stools in an operatory.

Additional information about areas of pain or discomfort, leisure activities and pain management techniques will help ergonomics professionals analyze each dental professional’s most common practice. These assessments will last 15 to 30 minutes, and participants will leave with advice for simple improvements.

Elsewhere, you can schedule a health screening with BlueApple Health. The company offers more than 31 tests, at prices up to $115, to assess cardiovascular risk.

Exhibit hall changes

This year, there is a little less time to explore the exhibit hall. The hall will close at 4 p.m. on Saturday, so make sure you fit in everything you need to do before then.

Remember, you can earn 1 C.E. credit for time spent on the exhibit floor each day of the meeting. Look for C.E. codes near the Overlook Café at least one hour after the floor opens.

Several food and coffee stations will be located throughout the exhibit hall, and the Hospitality Hub will sell beer, wine and appetizers at the end of each day.