Many ways to learn

Despite state-of-the-art advancements in endodontic treatment that make root canal procedures often as straightforward as fillings, Americans still express fear of the procedure. According to a recent survey by the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), 67 percent of Americans say fear of pain most concerns them about having root canal treatment.

In an effort to help dispel these fears, the AAE recently held its 10th anniversary celebration of Root Canal Awareness Week, from March 27 to April 2. As part of the celebration, the organization released two new videos to get patients up-to-speed on the realities of modern root canal treatment.

“Not everyone learns in the same way, so we’re excited to introduce new programming this year to meet the needs of all attendees,” said AAE President Terryl A. Propper. “In addition to traditional lectures, other educational sessions will feature point/counterpoint.

The videos, “Root Canals Aren’t What They Used To Be” and “Get Up To Speed on Today’s Root Canal,” are available on youtube.com by searching for the titles.

In this publicity effort, AAE informs the public that endodontists have at least two years of additional training beyond dental school and are highly skilled specialists in performing root canals and diagnosing and treating tooth pain. Their mix of advanced training, techniques and equipment improve patient comfort, ease anxiety and alleviate pain, AAE emphasizes.

“Endodontists, the root canal specialists, devote their practice to root canal treatment and related procedures,” Propper said. “We use technologies like microscopes, digital and 3-D imaging and ultrasonics to diagnose and treat our patients quickly, comfortably and successfully.”

AAE research shows that dentists refer an average of 43 percent of root canal patients to an endodontist, yet almost all the general dentists surveyed — 94 percent — say they have a positive or very positive perception of endodontists and the care they provide.

“Americans are taking more control of their health care, and that should include oral health,” Propper said. “Patients who need root canal treatment should consider seeing an endodontist.”

(For more information:
More information about the AAE and Root Canal Awareness Week is available online. Follow the AAE on Twitter at @savingyourteeth or search #rootcanal.

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Dispelling myths of root canals through education

I t sometimes feels like there are as many preferred learning styles as there are endodontists, and here at the AAE16, that has never been more clear. Just flipping through the schedule for the meeting shows a broad range of speakers and great variety in program formats.

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AAE names Kenneth J. Widelka as the new executive director

The board of directors of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) has selected Kenneth J. Widelka as its new executive director, effective April 19.

Widelka joins the AAE from the American Association of Diabetes Educators, where he serves as the chief operating officer. Widelka joined AADE in 2010 and also served as its chief administrative officer and chief financial officer.

"After an extensive, nationwide search, the AAE board is pleased to announce Ken as our new executive director," said AAE President Dr. Terryl A. Propper. "The board was very impressed with Ken’s wide range of executive level experience, successful track record in developing and improving programming, strategic and operational expertise, and service as a strong leader and mentor for his staff."

"On behalf of the AAE Board of Directors, we are excited to welcome Ken as our new executive director," said Daniel H. Hansen, chair of the AAE Board of Directors. "Ken’s background in association management and his extensive experience in developing and improving programming, strategic and operational expertise, and service as a strong leader and mentor will prove valuable for the AAE as we grow and advance the mission of the Association.

The board is confident that Ken has the experience and personal qualities needed to lead the AAE."

Widelka will serve as executive director of the American Association of Endodontists, and he will also serve as executive director of the AAE Foundation.

"I am honored to have been named executive director of the American Association of Endodontists, and I am excited to work with the board of directors and other volunteers to grow and advance the mission of the AAE," said Widelka. "The AAE has a vibrant membership, and I am eager to lead the staff to help members serve their current and emerging needs."
debates, talk show-style interviews, panel discussions and some shorter, more focused programs we’re calling ‘CE Express.’

New educational tracks at AAE16 include ‘Interdisciplinary Care and Derailment.’ The interdisciplinary care track will bring together endodontic experts and leaders in orofacial pain, otolaryngology, pharmacology and others to examine cases from different perspectives.

The derailment track — looking at the things that can go wrong each day — addresses challenges such as managing material extrusion, removing broken or separated instruments, repairing failed referring dentist relationships and dealing with staff issues.

Beyond the educational programs, AAE16 also offers an interactive approach — more than 100 vendors offering the latest in endodontic equipment, materials and supplies are available in the exhibit hall, most of them allowing clinicians to the opportunity to see, feel and sometimes even try out the various products.

Special events at here at this year’s AAE16 include the President’s Breakfast, the Louis I. Grossman Ceremony, recognizing the newest diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics, and the Edgar D. Coolidge Luncheon, honoring the AAE’s award winners.

Making the most of the Bay Area, tonight’s Welcome Reception will feature wines and cheeses from the famed Napa Valley and Sonoma County regions, while Friday night’s Celebrate San Francisco! Event will be held at the Exploratorium museum on San Francisco’s Embarcadero.

“I’m so excited about this year’s meeting and all of the innovative approaches we’re taking to make AAE16 memorable,” said Propper in a press release. “I want all of our attendees to return to their practices, schools or residencies with new enthusiasm and ideas to provide the best patient care and support the specialty.”

Here at the AAE

To view the entire meeting schedule, visit www.aae.org/aae16, pick up an on-site guide or download the mobile app to your smartphone.

Corrections

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