Stay and play awhile

Companies new and old show off their best products here at the ADHA

By Robin Goodman, Dental Tribune

It’s a warm, fun and friendly atmosphere here in Phoenix at the 89th Annual ADHA Meeting. While Friday’s high reached a mere 102 degrees, it was cool inside the exhibit hall as hygienists visited six aisles of booths catering to their every need and whim. Among the 18 first-time exhibitors is OraHealth (booth No. 328). The company is showing off its XyliMelts for xerostomia, which OraHealth claims is even effective for dry mouth caused by prescription and over-the-counter medications. These double-sided discs are placed between your cheek and gum with the tan adhesive side against the gums.

Educational sessions were in high demand Friday, as many of them were sold out, but their timing couldn’t have been more perfect. The day began bright and early at 8:45 a.m. with the exhibit hall opening ceremony, giving attendees an hour or so to peruse the booths before heading to class.

After expanding their brains, hygienists and students alike returned to the exhibit hall floor for a free lunch from noon to 2 p.m., sponsored by Orbit gum. Today’s educational offerings include two sold-out sessions in the morning: “The Ins and Outs of Polishing: Why, Why Not and What” and “A New Process of Care.” Hit the polishing lecture after lunch, as the second session still had seats available as of press time.

Another afternoon course of interest is “Medical Histories and Medical Emergencies: Vital Signs for the Dental Professional” from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Expand your mind

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Or if you would like some career assistance, seek out the lecture on “Does My Résumé Make Me Look Inexperienced?” from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more details, check out the full course descriptions in the official program.

At right, Casey Hein, BSDH, MBA, was one of three speakers Friday during the Hu-Friedy sponsored lecture on “Put the Power in Your Hands: Effective Periodontics Through Technology and Technique.”

Photo/Roger Goodman, Dental Tribune

Attendees swarm into the exhibit hall shortly after the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday morning. Photo/Roger Goodman, Dental Tribune
ADHA supports Dental Reform Act of 2012

Organization sees benefit of establishing new tiers of licensing to create force of mid-level dental providers

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) has issued a news release commending Sen. Bernard Sanders, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, and Rep. Elijah Cummings, ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for their leadership on oral health issues. The two lawmakers introduced the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012, which seeks to overcome barriers that more than 140 million Americans face in accessing oral health care services — and ensure the public has dental coverage and access to safe and high-quality oral health care.

In addition to expanding dental coverage, the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act seeks to raise the public’s awareness of the importance of oral health and expand the dental workforce to accommodate the millions more Americans who may become eligible for dental coverage in 2014. More than 50 countries have used mid-level dental providers for decades to help deliver much-needed oral health care to patients.

To better recognize the need for mid-level dental providers — and their ability to increase access to care — by passing legislation establishing two new members of the dental team: the dental therapist (DT) and the advanced dental therapist (ADT). The DT functions much like the physician’s assistant, requiring on-site supervision of a dentist for most services provided. The ADT, however, is modeled after the nurse practitioner and collaborates with a dentist in the treatment of patients but does not require on-site supervision. This collaborative relationship allows the ADT to provide services in communities where no dentist is regularly available, creating a pipeline to care for those disenfranchised from the current delivery system.

At a Feb. 29 hearing on access to dental care, Christy Fogarty, RDH, MSOHP, told members of the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging about her experience practicing as a dental hygienist and ADT in the Minneapolis area and the impact she has had on increasing access to care for vulnerable populations. Her patients include children (ages 21 and younger) and pregnant women who currently have limited or no access to oral health care.

“Christy’s testimony spoke to the advantage of [how] being educated first as a dental hygienist and then as an ADT allowed her to provide important preventive care combined with restorative services within the ADT scope of practice,” said ADHA President Pam Quinones, RDH, BS. “Our goal is to improve access to dental care throughout the country and to ensure that the public has access to the best care possible.”

(Source: ADHA)

Dan Nguyen, left, and Jeff Haley at the OraHealth booth (No. 328) can tell you all about XyliMelts for xerostomia. These tablets can be used during the day or even while sleeping thanks to the adhering nature of one side that keeps them discreetly tucked out of the way. Stop by the booth for a free sample!