The weather outside might be dreary, but inside McCormick Place West, there is plenty to be excited about this weekend.

When it comes to innovative new products in the dental industry, the place to be is here at the Chicago Dental Society’s 148th Midwinter Meeting. The exhibit hall is teeming with new technology to help improve patient care, along with products and services to make just about any practice more efficient and more profitable.

Dental Tribune strolled the aisles to see what’s especially exciting at this year’s event. Here is a short list of some of the many highlights we found:

• Dental laser manufacturer and distributor Biolase has turned its booth into a “Total Technology Pavilion,” offering hands-on demonstrations of the company’s laser systems, cone-beam devices and digital oral scanning technology. Visitors to the booth (No. 834) can attend...
Heroes for children

By Fred Michmershuizen
Dental Tribune

For friends and supporters of the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF), America’s ToothFairy, it was time to celebrate Thursday night.

The organization, which is dedicated to the elimination of childhood tooth decay, held its annual “Celebration of Smiles” event at the Hyatt Regency.

Some of the dental industry’s most dedicated and caring individuals were in attendance.

Dr. Gordon Christensen, a member of the NCOHF’s board, served as master of ceremonies. He shared photos and videos highlighting the various NCOHF initiatives. He also encouraged company officials, dental professionals and students to get involved in the organization’s various programs and activities through product and financial donations, volunteer work and outreach initiatives.

Fern Ingber, NCOHF president and CEO, thanked those in attendance for their support. She presented the organization’s Affiliate of the Year award to the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Margaret Snellings, who accepted the award, got into the spirit of the event by appearing on stage dressed as the ToothFairy.

The highlight of the evening came when Savannah Robinson, a 14-year-old girl who has benefited from NCOHF’s work, told her personal story. Savannah was mocked and bullied because of her bad teeth and a crooked smile, but her family lacked the financial resources to do anything to help her. A director of her local Boys & Girls Club recommend Savannah for NCOHF’s “Smiles” program, and now she is receiving life-changing care from Dr. Mario Paz, a volunteer dentist.

Robinson, an aspiring singer, performed the song “Beautiful,” in honor of other children whose lives are impacted by the effects of tooth decay.

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