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Greater again

92nd GNYDM keeps pace with ever-expanding dental profession

By today Staff

North America’s biggest dental meeting has long held that status in part through a commitment to developing timely new learning tracks within its extensive base of educational offerings. This year’s Greater New York Dental Meeting is no exception, with two key additions: a full-day International Diabetes Symposium and a multi-day Sleep Apnea Conference.

Attendees stroll through the Javitz Center during the 2015 Greater New York Dental Meeting. (Photo/today file photo)

Making history

Dr. Lauro Medrano-Saldaña named first Hispanic chairman of the Greater New York Dental Meeting

By Javier de Pisón, Dental Tribune Latin America

Renowned Puerto Rican dentist Dr. Lauro Medrano-Saldaña was elected chairman of the Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM), the largest dental congress and exhibition in the United States with more than 54,000 attendees every year. Medrano-Saldaña will become the first Hispanic chairman in the 92 year-old history of the meeting.

As outreach chairman, Medrano-Saldaña has played a key role in expanding international participation at the meeting, which has resulted in the overall growth of the event. Starting in 2017, Dr. Medrano-Saldaña will be general chairman.
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been scheduled to fill the two full-day, hands-on workshops today through Tuesday and a half-day session on Wednesday. “The Keys to Successful Treatment Coordination and Control” covered: current tests, methods and disease indicators; different treatment options and common side effects of each drug; current research on impact of diet, nutrition and exercise; reasons for non-adherence; and appropriate interventions to improve patient outcomes. The app will enable you to access the scientific programs, handouts and room locations to plan your attendance. You can note favorite sessions to create a personal schedule and add notes to a session in advance or in real time — or map out your day in the exhibit hall by highlighting which sights to visit — always a worthy experience. A highlight is an interactive, futuristic science lab on innovation and research that provides insight into state-of-the-art laboratory technologies and practice. The German show is presented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (both No. 1313). 

The new additions complement a growing list of virtual sub-conferences, including: the third annual World Implant Expo, the second annual Global Orthodontic Conference, the second annual International Oral Cancer Symposium, a four-day Invisalign Expo, a dental laboratory education track, four days of dental hygienist programs and four days of programs for dental assistants. The more than 300 GNYDM scientific seminars, hands-on workshops, essays, scientific poster sessions and “learn and lunch” programs, feature some of the world’s most respected dental educators.

And, perhaps at the heart of it all, the expansive four-day exhibit hall attracts exhibitors and attendees from all over the globe. Exhibit hall hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. today through Tuesday and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday. To figure out your days ahead, be sure to download the GNYDM mobile app. The app’s planning tools include a comprehensive search engine and interactive map to make it easy to find companies, discover products, navigate the show floor and stay up-to-date with meeting-related news and events. 

Lou Graham, DDS, on far left, provides additional details about ceramic restorations as Foroud Hakim, DDS, completes a restorative procedure on the patient during ‘A Practical Approach to Modern Ceramic Restorations – A Live Demonstration’ on the live dentistry stage in the 2015 GNYDM exhibit hall. (Photo/today file photo)
Greater New York Dental Meeting — Nov. 27, 2016

**Background and praise**

**Bernard and raised in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, Medrano-Saldaña moved to New York in 1991 and has been in private practice since 1995 in Brooklyn, where he runs Sunset Pediatric Dentistry. In 1997, he worked as faculty professor at the Metropolitan Hospital and in 1998 was appointed attending doctor of pediatric dentistry at NYU Lutheran Medical Center. A past president of the Second District (Brooklyn) of the NY State Dental Association (NYSDA), he is a delegate of NYSDA as well as of the American Dental Association, where he is a member of the Council on Government Affairs.

At the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Medrano-Saldaña has been a decisive force in reaching to international attendees, especially from Latin American countries. As a result of his efforts, the meeting now offers a five-day program in Spanish, in addition to several days of lectures in Portuguese, French, Russian and Chinese, among other languages.

**Steven Gournaides**, speaker of the house at NYSDA, who has known Medrano for more than 20 years, said: “There is nobody more capable than him to take on the immense responsibilities of the meeting. He is respected all over the country and all over the world. He is effective, sincere and gets things done. I have no doubt that he’s going to take the meeting to the highest levels. He’s an example for anyone to emulate. We will benefit from his experience and expertise.”

Dr. Chad Gehani, ADA trustee and past NYSDA president, said he has known Medrano-Saldaña since he was a dental student in New York in the early ‘90s. “He has always shown the potential to be the leader of the community,” he said. “He also has a desire in him to do something to make a difference in society. I’m not surprised by his election. He will do a wonderful job as chairman, and reach to many communities, not only in New York but globally. He wants to expand the scope of dentistry globally. He is the right man, in the right place and will do the right job.”

**— Dr. Chad Gehani, ADA trustee and past NY State Dental Association president**

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**— Dr. Lauro Medrano-Saldaña, new general chairman**

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Dr. Anthony Di Mango, senior vice president, chief of dentistry, and co-director of oral and maxillofacial surgery at NYU Lutheran, said that Medrano-Saldaña “is a wonderful person, smart, meticulous, and knows what he is doing. He will be a great chairman of GNYDM.”

**“He presents the epitome of a true caring professional, who relentlessly gives much of his time to provide professional work to the needy, volunteers to improve his own association at all levels and always pursues serving the public through access of care. It’s a privilege to have such a friend,” said Dr. Anthony E. Chiluura, director of dental risk management at Allied Protector Plans.**

**Dr. James Sconzo, general practice residency director and trustee, NYSDA, said Medrano-Saldaña has done a fantastic job over the years. “He’s an asset to GNYDM and to New York dentistry. He does it out of his heart, and I want to thank him for what he does for dentistry. He has already changed the diversity makeup at ADA and GNYDM, which is why we now have programs in different languages” at the meeting.**

**Latin America celebrates**

Medrano-Saldaña’s election as GNYDM chairman was praised throughout Latin America as well, where he has become a leader known for helping dental colleges and associations improve ties with American dentistry.

**“There is nobody better than Lauro for the position of chairman,” said Dr. Víctor Guerrero Reynoso, president of the congress of the Mexican Dental Association.**

**“He is a born leader. He has national and international experience, a positive mind and the ability to solve problems.”**

The former president of the Dental College of Peru, Dr. Juan Enrique Bazán, said the election is a recognition that “the great investments made by Dr. Medrano-Saldaña to help Latin America dental associations have paid off in increased attendance to GNYDM.”

Dr. Enrique Jadad, an international speaker and researcher based in Colombia, said that “Lauro is a leader who has worked tirelessly for world dentistry for many years,” and that “his appointment will reinforce the resolve of Latin American dentists to be a part of the Greater New York Dental Meeting.”

The well-known Argentinean researcher and professor, Dr. Eduardo Ceccotti, said from Buenos Aires where the election represents a personal and professional triumph for Medrano-Saldaña, whose long history of accomplishments bodes well for dentistry.

The president of the Argentina-based educational association ROCA, Dr. Melinda González y Rivas, added that “the high professional standards of Dr. Medrano-Saldaña ensures a successful tenure as chairman.”

From Spain, founder and director of the Barcelona-based Advanced School in Implant Dentistry (ESI Barcelona), Dr. Sergio Cacciaccione, who frequently works with AAIID, NYU and Loma Linda University, said he has been “a witness to Dr. Medrano-Saldaña’s hard work, and he has the support of all ESI Schools in Spain and Latin America.”