Clinician monitors oral lesions in 3-D

By Robert Selleck today staff

Samson Ng, DMD, brings his stunning 3-D photography back to the Pacific Dental Conference this year after sharing some of the images from his extensive collection for the first time last year’s conference.

Dental Tribune Canada checked in with Ng for an update on his use of 3-D photography to monitor patients’ oral lesions and help fellow practitioners become more skilled at recognizing lesions that need immediate attention or close monitoring.

Last year’s sessions filled quickly, and this year’s sessions are expected to generate even more interest. The presentation is divided into two parts: Dr. Charles Shuler, dean and professor at the UBC Faculty of Dentistry, will open with an overview on how to approach clinical differential diagnosis of oral lesions. Then, in part two, Ng will project large-screen 3-D images of some of his clinical cases to demonstrate the application of differential diagnosis.

The 3-D portion of the session can run only so long — just like 3-D Hollywood films — to ensure attendees don’t experience motion sickness.

Should people who attended last year step aside and let others attend, or are there good reasons to return?

EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE 3-D SLIDES ARE BRAND NEW. THEY CAPTURE THE CASES THAT I CAME ACROSS OVER THE PAST YEAR. I’VE ALSO ADDED CASES USING 3-D IMAGING WITH CONE-BEAM CT SCANS TO ENHANCE RADIOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION SKILLS. IT WAS QUITE AMAZING THAT EVEN THE CBCT COMPANY DIDN’T REALIZE WE COULD DO 3-D PROJECTION OF CBCT IMAGES. I ALSO HAVE INCLUDED 3-D IMAGES FROM INTRAORAL SCANNING.

Has your photography technique continued to evolve?

The core concept remains the same, as the principles behind 3-D image capturing haven’t really changed. Because the digital cone-beam CT scan is becoming more utilized in dentistry, I expand on this topic in the presentation.

Have you been able to make 3-D presentations at other meetings or incorporate 3-D presentations into the university classroom settings?

So far, PDC remains the only venue where I use 3-D. But in May this year, I will use this learning style when I present at the California Dental Association meeting in Anaheim (but not at a 3-D venue in Disneyland!). 3-D presentations are quiet challenging in a university classroom setting because of the steep equipment costs. Additionally, preparing 3-D presentation is

Here at the PDC

“How Much Do I Know About Lumps and Bumps in the Mouth?” is Friday from 8:30 to 11 a.m., repeating from 1:30–4 p.m., both in Ballroom B in the Vancouver Convention Centre East Building (not West). Seating is limited. You get 3-D glasses at the door.

Samson Ng, BSc, DMD, MSc, FRCD(C), FDSRCS, Dip. ABOM, Dip. ABOMP, is a certified specialist in oral medicine and pathology. He is a clinical assistant professor at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Dentistry and the regional practice leader in the program of oral oncology/dentistry at the British Columbia Cancer Agency. He has private practices in Vancouver and Abbotsford.

Dr. Charles Shuler

Dr. Samson Ng
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In recognition of this year’s 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps (RCDC), the 2015 Pacific Dental Conference includes two presentations by military dental personnel. Both topics should be of interest to a diverse civilian audience of dental professionals.

Lt. Col. Genevieve Bussière will speak on “Military Forensic Identification Operations,” and Maj. Sandeep Dhesi will speak on “Operational Oral and Maxillofacial Trauma Care.”

Additionally, the RCDC will have a booth (No. 1351) in the Exhibit Hall, where visitors can view a multimedia presentation highlighting various aspects of the RCDC’s 100 years of service.

Canada’s military dental services have served in both world wars and peace-keeping, humanitarian and forensic operations while looking after the oral health needs of all of Canada’s troops.