Drop in for C.E.

More than 150 speakers, 190 sessions await you

By Robert Selleck, Managing Editor

With more educational sessions (190-plus) than Vancouver averages in annual rainy days (162), the Pacific Dental Conference has something for every member of the dental team.

Better still, the meeting’s commitment to keeping lectures and presentations “open” means such sessions are available to all attendees on a first-come, first-seated basis.

The only thing attendees need to do is decide what to head to next. But that’s no small task, with the speaker roster at

The Pacific Dental Conference Exhibit Hall is at capacity this year, with more than 300 companies represented. And the Live Dentistry Stage returns to the exhibit floor with procedures today and Friday. Each session is eligible for C.E. credits. Here is the schedule.

**Thursday, March 6**
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Glenn van As, DMD, BSc, “Laser Dentistry: Removing Porcelain Veneers, Crown Lengthening, Tissue Management,” co-sponsored by BIOLASE.
1–2 p.m., Shannon Pace Brinker, CDA, CDD, “Complete Records Visit.”
2:30–4 p.m., Peter Walford, DDS, FCARDF, with “Restoring Incisal Attrition with Composite Resins,” co-sponsored by 3M ESPE Dental Products.

**Friday, March 7**
8:30–10:30 a.m., Mark Kwon, DMD, FICOI, and Mark Lin, BSc, DDS, MSc (Prosthodontics), FRCD (C) “Teeth in a Day: Implant Dentistry,” co-sponsored by Hiossen Implant Canada Inc.
11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Elliot Mechanic, BSc, DDS, “Anterior Tooth Wear — Restoration,” co-sponsored by Canadian Academy for Esthetic Dentistry.
2:30–4 p.m., Alex Touchton, DDS, “CAD/CAM,” co-sponsored by Henry Schein Dental.

**Check for schedule updates**
Pacific Dental Conference organizers ask attendees to note that demonstration times on the Live Dentistry Stage may be subject to change. You can consult the PDC app or “Conference at a Glance” for the most up-to-date scheduling.

**The Live Dentistry Stage is sponsored by A-dec and Sinclair Dental.**

**Two-day exhibit hall**
The more than 600 exhibit hall booths are at capacity, with more than 300 companies occupying them. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both today and Friday.
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“Avatar”-inspired session shows clinical images on big screen

By Robert Selleck, Managing Editor

When Samson Ng, DMD, went to see the 2009 blockbuster 3-D film “Avatar,” his response was a bit different than that of most other theatre-goers: He started thinking about oral lesions. Or, more accurately, Ng found himself thinking about how he could use similar theatre-quality 3-D imagery to improve the level of care he was providing to his patients. He sees as a certified specialist in oral medicine and pathology in Vancouver. From the clinical perspective,” Ng said, “it’s easier for me to keep track of changes in the lesion with 3-D. It actually helps me to see things better than with only a 2-D view. It’s a much better way to capture the morphology or the topographic appearance of the lesion. When I look at the lesion in 3-D, I’m able to appreciate the fissure much better.”

Five years ago, before his “aha moment” while watching “Avatar” through his movie-house 3-D glasses, Ng had already developed strong photographic skills documenting the many hundreds of cases that have been referred to him over the years. After “Avatar,” Ng started researching 3-D phototography. Information was bountiful, until it came to his specific challenge: applying the technology to clinically capturing 3-D images of lesions in often-difficult-to-access areas of the mouth.

In the beginning, there was a lot of trial and error, especially with the visual effect projection, mathematical equations and biomedical engineering needed to get the “right-eye” and “left-eye” images to correctly capture and then merge into perfectly clear, perfectly focused real-world depictions of lesions. Another big challenge was figuring out exactly how the lighting needed to be set up — and setting it up quickly in the clinic.

But Ng got better fast, always ensuring the process was virtually invisible to his patient in terms of never requiring any greater time or inconvenience than his usual.