More to explore

- Time is counting down here at the AAP’s 104th Annual Meeting, but if you haven’t truly explored the exhibit hall yet, it’s not too late.
  In addition to the more than 300 booths showcasing the latest periodontal products, services and technologies, there are a variety of events going on that will further enhance everything you have been learning in the classrooms.

Member Resource Center
Are you an AAP member? You won’t want to skip a visit to the Member Resource Center (booth No. 927). There, you can purchase AAP scrubs and other branded merchandise, hear about the AAP’s strategic priorities and initiatives, network with members from around the globe in the International Lounge and enter a drawings for a chance to win $150 in free AAP merchandise.

Periodontal Career Fair
Are you a new practitioner or recent graduate looking for that perfect job, or an established periodontist looking for a partner or an associate? If so, the Periodontal Career Fair is the place to be. It is a great opportunity for employers and recent graduates to meet, network and get the leads you have been looking for. It’s open today from noon to 2 p.m.

Speaker Studio
Visit the Speaker Studio at booth No. 533 for an opportunity to interact with some of the academy’s expert speakers. Participate in a Q&A session or a group discussion with invited speakers in an intimate setting.
  From 10:15 to 10:35 a.m. today, William V. Giannobile, DDS, MS, DMedSc, will discuss “Emerging Regenerative Approaches to Periodontal Reconstruction” while from 1 to 1:20 p.m., Joseph Y. Kan, DDS, MS, will talk about his live streaming surgery, “Explore Anterior Single Immediate Implant Placement & Pro-visionalization in the Esthetic Zone.”

The exhibit hall closes at 3 p.m., so make sure to take advantage of all these opportunities before it’s too late.

AAP publishes proceedings from best evidence consensus meeting on lasers

Periodontal experts address clinical efficacy of laser usage in patient care

By The American Academy of Periodontology Staff

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) has published its “best evidence consensus” (BEC) panel proceedings on the topic of laser usage. The proceedings are the result of the second BEC meeting, a model of scientific inquiry rooted in the best available published research and expert opinion. The BEC meeting on lasers was held in Chicago in February 2017.

The latest BEC meeting brought together a panel of 10 experts to discuss the efficacy of laser usage, either when used alone or as an adjunct to non-surgical and surgical treatment of periodontitis and peri-implantitis.
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The panel members were selected based on their extensive knowledge of laser therapy and experience in applying lasers to a broad range of clinical situations.

The group found that when laser treatment is used in addition to mechanical treatment, similar or slightly better clinical outcomes are observed when compared with laser usage alone. Current evidence suggests there is no additional benefit to lasers beyond what is seen with traditional periodontal surgery.

“Lasers are a part of a diverse treatment repertoire, and there are countless reported successful outcomes in their use,” said Steven R. Daniel, DDS, of the AAP. “As the profession advances with the adoption and application of these technologies, the academy is committed to using existing evidence and thoughtful expertise to bridge knowledge gaps and provide insight for responsible, real-world use.”

The BEC model of inquiry utilizes current, high-quality published literature and the expert opinion of periodontal thought leaders to provide guidance on innovative topics for which there is insufficient evidence to arrive at definitive conclusions. The complete BEC proceedings appear in the July 2018 issue of the Journal of Periodontology (JOP).

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“I encourage all dental professionals to read the laser BEC proceedings carefully as they underscore how crucial scientific evidence is in influencing clinical recommendations,” Daniel said. “The latest findings are not meant to insinuate that laser usage is more or less beneficial over traditional periodontal therapy or to imply an academy position on its use in patient care. They simply demonstrate that, in the absence of a critical mass of evidence, all practitioners must rely on their judgement and expert training to make the best possible treatment decisions.”

The AAP’s best evidence consensus meeting on lasers was sponsored by J. Morita USA.

For more information
To access the full BEC proceedings, please visit the Journal of Periodontology on the Wiley Online Library.