SAVE TEETH, IMPROVE LIVES
The Foundation for Endodontics travels to Jamaica to provide charitable care.
• page 6

STORY BEHIND THE BURS
Dr. C. John Munce shares the moment that eventually led to the creation of the Munce Discovery Burs.
• page 12

RUNNING AND LEARNING
Warm up with a cheerleader, join the 4th Annual 5K and attend some booth presentations.
• page 16

Come in and take a seat

‘This is about humanity and our role as health-care providers’

In an interview, Dr. Anne Koch previews her lectures at AAE17 and offers some first-person insights

By Fred Michmershuizen, Endo Tribune Managing Editor

Dr. Anne Koch, who is presenting two lectures at AAE17, received her DMD and certificate in endodontics from the University of Pennsylvania. She is founder and past director of the Postdoctoral Program in Endodontics at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and she maintains a faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine (endodontics) and is a senior fellow with Penn Medicine. She serves as a member of the Board of Overseers for the University of Pennsylvania and is also the founder, co-developer and past president and CEO of Real World Endo.

Throughout her career spanning more than 40 years, she treated more than 30,000 patients and delivered more than 1,000 lectures worldwide — all before undergoing gender confirmation surgery at the age of 63.

In an interview, Dr. Koch offers a personal perspective on her lectures at AAE17.

“There’s a lot to learn, see and do here at AAE17, and it’s time to get started.”

Bourbon Street isn’t the only crowded place here at AAE17. The classrooms and the exhibit hall are sure to be too as the annual meeting of the American Association of Endodontists gets under way.

“My goal for AAE17 is to offer a highly scientific, evidence-based program and to include speakers new to presenting at the annual meeting,” said AAE President Linda G. Levin, in a press release before the meeting. “I also want attendees to enjoy all that New Orleans has to offer. From the sights, sounds and cuisine, there will be no mistaking we’re in the Big Easy.”

Attendees will be able to visit with nearly 100 vendors in the AAE17 Exhibit Hall to explore the latest in endodontic equipment, materials and supplies as well as gain access to practice manage-
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As part of this presentation, you will also be weaving insights from your own personal journey.

In addition to describing the various aspects of transgender dental care, I will examine the phenomenon of a gender transition through the eyes of a patient, as well as through the eyes of an experienced health-care provider. There will be an extended question-and-answer session at the conclusion of the presentation.

This is a topic that doesn’t seem to have been offered at dental meetings until now. In your view, are transgender patients being underserved?

Transgender patients historically have been a marginalized group of patients. They have been underserved in all aspects of health care. However, as access to care improves for this group, we as dental providers need to know how to act in the most professional manner.

One might imagine you often run into compatriots who might not have seen you before your own transition. Any personal anecdotes you can share?

Yes. I have a very good friend from Penn who is a dentist here in Massachusetts. At one of our local Boston meetings, I went up to him and said, “Hi Arthur!” I quickly realized that he did not recognize me, so I said, “Arthur, you know me.”

He looked at me with a strange look and replied, “Hi!” I said, “Errr, Dr. Koch!” He then responded, “Oh, I got it. You’re Ken Koch’s wife!” To which I replied, “No — not really!”

We had a good laugh afterward. (He’s still a good friend.)

What is something people might be surprised to know about you?

Tennis is a big part of my life. Two years ago, I won the Northeast Regional Senior Women’s Tennis Championship (ages 45 and older). In the semi-finals, I beat the No. 1 player in the country 3 and 1. I did not play last year.

Where can a dental professional learn more about the transgender community?

One can obtain information from some of the medical center websites, such as the Transgender Center at Boston Medical Center (www.bmc.org/center/transgender-medicine-and-surgery) as well as UCSF (transhealth.ucsf.edu). Also, a great source of information is the Fenway Institute in Boston (fenwayhealth.org/care/medical/transgender-health).

Do you have anything you would like to add?

I recently completed a book for Rutgers Press, “It Never Goes Away: Gender Transition at a Mature Age.”

When I transitioned, I had the unique opportunity to view the process through two different prisms. One was that of a patient, and the other was through the eyes of an experienced health-care provider. What I witnessed was at times both exhilarating and concerning.
ment and other business resources to support endodontic practices.

On the educational side, AAE17 is offering more than 100 sessions in a variety of tracks, including “Pulp Fiction,” which will address controversial and misunderstood topics in the specialty; “Saving the Natural Tooth,” which will share the latest evidence and recommended treatments to save patients’ teeth; and “Surgical and Nonsurgical Endodontics.”

The highlight of the “Surgical Endodontics” track is “Endodontic Micromsurgery: 3-D Live Demonstration,” taking place from 10:30 a.m. to noon today, and again from 1 to 2:30 p.m., both times in Exhibit Hall D. During the presentation, two live endodontic surgeries — one mandibular molar, one maxillary molar or premolar — will be transmitted from the exhibition floor in 3-D technique.

Observers in the auditorium will view the procedures in real time exactly as the surgeon does through the microscope. The three-dimensional screening mode will enhance the illusion of depth perception.

AAE17 General Session

This year, the AAE17 General Session, which takes place today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the La Nouvelle Orleans, will feature keynote speakers James Carville and Mary Matalin. These New Orleans residents and one of America’s best-loved political couples will provide an enlightening look at today’s most important political issues.

All registered attendees and their registered guests are welcome to attend. No ticket is required.

Special events

Of course, the special events don’t stop there. Thursday morning features the President’s Breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the La Nouvelle Orleans room. Plan to be a part of this breakfast event featuring AAE President Dr. Linda G. Levin. It’s open to all registered attendees.

Later that day, starting at 4 p.m., the Louis I. Grossman Ceremony will be held in the St. Charles Ballroom at the Hilton Riverside. This ceremony will recognize the newest diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics.

On Friday morning, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., the General Assembly will take place in the La Nouvelle Orleans.

During the General Assembly, the AAE’s annual business meeting, you can hear reports from AAE leaders, vote on important changes to the constitution and bylaws, and see the installation of new officers and board members. The winners of the AAE/DENTSPLY Resident Awards will be announced at this event as well.

All AAE members are encouraged to attend. The event is sponsored by Dentsply Sirona Endodontics.

On Friday night from 8 to 11:30, you can Celebrate New Orleans! at the Grand Salon at the Hilton Riverside. Join in behind a brass band for a parade through the streets of New Orleans. The parade will end at Generations Hall, where there will be a variety of entertainment, including Rebirth Brass Band and Savoy.

Attendees and their registered guests are welcome to attend, though everyone must have a badge for admittance. The evening is sponsored by Dentsply Sirona Endodontics.

Finally, join the Edgar D. Coolidge Jazz Brunch from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday in the La Nouvelle Orleans. Here, you can be part of the ceremonies to acknowledge the winners of the most prestigious AAE honors and awards.

The event is open to all registered attendees, and tickets can be purchased for guests at an additional cost.

(Source: AAE)