AEEDC opens its doors for 2019 edition

Thousands of visitors flock to major MENASA dental event

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and President of the Dubai Health Authority, His Excellency Humaid Al Qutami, Director-General of the Dubai Health Authority, officially inaugurated the 23rd AEEDC Dubai on 5 February 2019. As at previous editions, thousands of participants from around the world are expected at the annual event, themed “Education and innovation transfer”. The conference and exhibition run until Thursday, 7 February, at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre and feature a number of intensive scientific activities, including pre-conferences, hands-on workshops, competitions, poster presentations and lectures. With its extensive programme, AEEDC 2019 provides opportunities for visitors to learn, grow and take new knowledge back to their practices.

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Dr Yasser Khabbaz is a consultant periododontist and implantologist at Ambulatory Healthcare Services in Abu Dhabi and runs a practice limited to periodontics and dental implants. After graduating from dental school, he completed a postgraduate residency programme in oral surgery at Damascus University in Syria in 2004. He then joined the graduate periodontics programme at Saint Louis University in Missouri in the US, where he obtained his Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Periodontics and a Master of Science in Dentistry in Dental Implants. He practiced in Houston in Texas in the US before relocating to Dubai to join the Boston University School of Dental Research and Education as an assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics. Khabbaz is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology since 2008 and very active in continuing education in the UAE as a speaker in the fields of periodontics and dental implants. Ahead of AEEDC 2019, Dental Tribune International spoke with him to find out more about his lecture at the event.

Dr Khabbaz, at AEEDC 2019, you will be presenting a lecture titled “Implants in the periodontally compromised dentition. I am going to present many clinical situations where poor implant treatment planning was provided to periodontics patients followed by clinical recommendations for proper management when dealing with implants for those patients.”

What is the take-home message for your audience?

I usually classify treatment philosophies among clinicians providing dental implant treatment into two kinds. The first one is: place the implant first or treatment planning. This is alarming as it will cause many problems for the patient. The second treatment philosophy is: consider and incorporate all future potential problems and complications in the treatment planning. I hope the audience following my lecture will embrace this.

What are you personally looking forward to the most at AEEDC 2019?

I am looking forward to the periodontal symposium within the AEEDC scientific programme, which I believe is the first time that it is being presented as a full day dedicated to periodontics at this event. I am hoping for it to be successful and to bring some much-needed awareness of this undervalued topic to dentists in our region. As per my observation, there are no regional periodontics specialty courses or conferences compared to orthodontics, oral surgery, endodontics, implant and aesthetic dentistry; considering it is a discipline that is related to all these disciplines closely. In addition, I am also excited, as always, for the great dental exhibitions like to see the latest materials and dental technologies.

Regarding future editions of AEEDC, is there anything you would like to see included or changed?

I have noticed drastic changes in the scientific programmes of continuing dental education events all over the world in the last two decades. They are now more focused on how to perform treatments such as cosmetic veneers, dental implants and root canal therapy, and I think this may stem from demand from dentists with the support of dental manufacturers. But, unfortunately, we are seeing less and less scientific content in these CE courses regarding diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, oral biology or treatment planning. This is alarming because it is gearing our profession towards experience-based dentistry instead of evidence-based dentistry— which should always be the standard for any treatment administered.

Thank you very much for the interview.