So much to learn

- It’s only the second day of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session, but already there are so many educational sessions to attend and exhibit hall aisles to walk down that it’s hard to know where to start.

  Fortunately, we have a few highlights to help you on your journey.

  A good place to start is with the Posture Perfect Workshop, taking place at 6 a.m. this morning on the Great Lawn of the Hawaiian Village. Led by Dr. Uche Odiatu, this gentle series of exercises at the beginning of your day will make you feel revitalized and invigorated. This session was designed to help change your perception of dental care. The organization funds and cultivates community-based initiatives where pediatric dentists and other oral-health professionals can help the underserved. Affiliated with the AAPD, the organization is connected to more pediatric dentists than any other national child oral care charity.

  Here during the AAPD Annual Session, you can help support HSHC by participating in the silent auction. Just go to healthysmiles.auction-bid.org/microsite/ to check out the items and cast your bid. You have until 6 p.m. today to get your bids in.

  Some of the items up for bid include four nights in Napa at Silverado Resort, a stay at the Grand Fiesta Americana in Los Cabos, a stay at the Chicago Hilton Suite for AAPD 2019 and a case of Tesini prosecco.

Silent auction to help underserved children

- Tooth decay is the single most common childhood disease, and hundreds of thousands of children nationwide go untreated each year because of financial hardship. Worse, cavities often are the least of the oral health concerns for many children.

  That’s why Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children (HSHC): The Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry strives to ensure every child has a dental home – a place where they can receive consistent, compassionate dental care. The organization funds and cultivates community-based initiatives where pediatric dentists and other oral-health professionals can help the underserved. Affiliated with the AAPD, the organization is connected to more pediatric dentists than any other national child oral care charity.

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tion of morning exercise. This fusion of gentle yoga poses, Tai Chi and Odiatu’s unique series of mind, body and spirit moves will enliven and refresh you without breaking a sweat.

From there, why not head over to “Session 240: Sedation for the Young Patient — Part 1,” taking place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room Kalakaua B of the Hawaii Convention Center? Christine Quinn, DDS, MS, will be discussing sedation, anesthesia, neurodegeneration and neuroprotection — and what this all means for our young patients.

Sedating a young child is not without risk. This talk will be a discussion on minimizing those risks, especially when it comes to protecting the young child’s developing brain, including the current research on the effects of sedative medications and general anesthesia on the developing brain.

From 1 to 2:30 p.m., you can find the next part — “Session 270: Sedation for the Young Patient — Part 2,” this one led by Sarat Thikkurissy, DDS, MS, the division director and program director of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

Diagnosing caries at earlier ages has led to the discussion/debate as to optimal management strategies for caries in the young child. Pharmacologic management, including both general anesthesia and procedural sedation, are among this armamentarium. Thikkurissy’s presentation will look at the physiologic behavioral and treatment variables that impact procedural sedation in the young child. The presentation will examine the evolution of health conditions associated with early childhood, as well as societal factors that drive how procedural sedation is utilized.

Over in the exhibit hall, there is also a lot going on, and not just with the rows of companies offering the newest and most advanced products. You can also find a variety of educational presentations if you know where to look.

Over at the Tech Bar Theater, you can find such topics as “Using Online Reviews to Help Build Your Practice” (John Carroll, 9:15 a.m.), “The Art of Being Unexpected: How to Manage Fear, Take Action, and Stay Relevant” (Judi Holler, 11 a.m.), “Using Social Media as a Dental Professional” (11:45 a.m.) and “Apps to Improve Your Work/Life Balance” (1:15 p.m.).

For even more information on education sessions and exhibit hall opportunities, download the AAPD 2018 app to your smartphone.