Dentistry gets its own 3-D printer

By Robert Selleck, today staff

Planmeca used this year’s Midwinter Meeting to launch its Creo C5 3-D printer, offering demonstrations of the technology in its booth (No. 1020). The 3-D printer is custom-engineered for dental professionals to enable delivery of same-day appliances, including surgical guides and dental models.

The printer, which uses FDA-approved resins, can create surgical guides or dental models in less than 15 minutes, 50-60 temporary crowns in less than 10 minutes or up to five full arch dental models in one print.

“It’s all about creating a more efficient workflow and enabling practices to provide more in-office services,” said Lenny Asuncion in the Planmeca booth Friday morning. Asuncion is Planmeca’s product marketing manager – CAD/CAM.

The Planmeca Creo C5 uses LCD Photomask technology, which projects a uniform light source that virtually eliminates imperfections when printing dental appliances. The printer does not require calibration, features an easy-to-use touch display with pre-programmed settings and uses open STL and PLY files for seamless integration.

The Creo C5 will soon fully integrate with Romexis (Planmeca’s all-in-one suite of dental-practice software), fully linking the printer into treatment processes from start to finish: scanning, designing, creating a model to clearly communicate with the patient, milling and creating surgical guides to ensure successful outcomes.

The resins used by the Planmeca Creo C5 come in proprietary capsules labeled with QR codes that the printer automatically reads to ensure the correct resin is being used for the planned printing. The result is high-quality 3-D printing materials—without any material waste.

The device has garnered quite a bit of attention at its unveiling at the Midwinter meeting, with groups of dentists frequently gathering around it in the Planmeca booth for a demonstration. “It really is a time-saver,” Asuncion said.
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America’s ToothFairy holds Celebration of Smiles

By Fred Michmershuizen, today Staff

Thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors, volunteer treatment provided by individual care providers and organizational support from America’s ToothFairy, National Children’s Oral Health Foundation, countless numbers of children from low-income homes now have healthy smiles.

Since its founding in 2006, America’s ToothFairy has provided treatment and education to nearly 9.7 million children, according to the organization’s annual report. In addition, the NCOHF has distributed $14.4 million in dental products and equipment and has awarded more than $2.4 million in grants to clinics. Last year alone, more than half a million children received clinical and educational services and nearly a quarter-million caregivers received oral health education, the organization reported.

Results like these gave attendees at Celebration of Smiles, the annual event held by America’s ToothFairy, plenty of reasons to cheer. The gathering was held Thursday evening at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, adjacent to the Midwinter Meeting. Jill Malmgren, executive director of America’s ToothFairy, offered a roundup of the organization’s most recent initiatives, which all target underserved children.

Malmgren also announced recipients of two of the association’s most recent grants. Mobile Care Chicago, which provides high-quality services to underserved children in and around Chicago, received a $5,000 grant sponsored by Patterson Dental. Matt Siemer, executive director of Mobile Care Chicago, accepted a check from Tim Rogan, senior vice president and general manager of Patterson Dental.

In addition, the Pediatric Dentistry Clinic of the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, which provides service delivery and caregiver education and reinforces the importance of oral health for the entire family, received a $5,000 grant sponsored by GC America. Dr. Marcio de Fonseca, associate professor and head of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry of University of Illinois, was on hand to receive a check presented by Dr. Mark Heiss, GC America’s director of regulatory and academic affairs.

Celebration of Smiles concluded with a presentation offered by the association’s chair, Ann Bruck, U.S. professional services and industry relations manager of 3M Oral Care, who offered thanks to the many sponsors and volunteers who make the initiatives of America’s ToothFairy so successful.
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Buffering: I have heard of it in lectures, but what is it?

The science behind buffering and providing a more predictable patient experience

By Anutra Medical Staff

Anutra Medical is proud to bring chairside the ability to buffer your anesthetic. This science has been around for more than 50 years in the medical market, and now you can use it in your dental practice.

What is buffering?

In the simplest terms, buffering neutralizes acids with bases. Anutra leverages sodium bicarbonate to buffer with lidocaine. The result transforms a practice’s efficiency and dramatically enhances the patient experience, according to Anutra.

By bringing the local anesthetic to the body’s pH, the sharp sting of the acid is significantly reduced, leading to a more comfortable injection. Additionally, buffered anesthetic leads to the patient becoming numb more predictably, the company asserts.

Buffered anesthetic gets a patient profoundly numb on the first try and most patients in just two to three minutes. Patients with diminished buffering capacity can get numb more readily and predictably with buffered anesthetic.

Anutra is revolutionizing local anesthetic delivery by coupling proven science with groundbreaking innovations. Come see for yourself in booth No. 2144.

Here in Chicago

To learn more about buffering and Anutra Medical, stop by booth No. 2144.

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*(Photo/Provided by Anutra Medical)*
Dentsply Sirona’s Primescan: Taking digital impressions to the next quality level

By Dentsply Sirona Staff

- With Primescan, you can produce scans amazingly fast. You can capture an entire upper jaw in less than 30 seconds and a full arch scan in less than a minute. During the scanning process, the dynamic lens completes more than 10 movements per second, thereby enabling the “Dynamic Depth Scan.” The result is more than 1 million 3-D points per second. This is thanks to Intelligent Processing, which filters, processes and compresses the high volume of data so that models can be calculated faster.

- The high-precision Smart Pixel Sensor captures the data at an extremely high resolution and assesses the contrast in each pixel. For every 3-D image, Primescan consolidates more than 50,000 images per second, thereby offering a level of scanning precision that has never been achieved before, according to Dentsply Sirona.

The new, patent pending technology in the form of optical high frequency analysis is used to calculate the 3-D points, resulting in an increased level of accuracy. This is further supported by an optical design that has been optimized for the measuring principle used and by the mechanical robustness of the optics.

- Primescan enables a flexible, intuitive and very simple scan procedure, enabling faster access to tooth surfaces without the need for significant tilting. The captured images are calculated in a flash and put together without any visible scan interruptions. To monitor the scanning process simply and easily and to be able to assess the model immediately, the accompanying Primescan AC acquisition center has a modern touchscreen that pivots and swivels as needed to ensure it is always set to the most favorable ergonomic position. Dentists acknowledge the intuitive operation and high level of comfort during first-time use, which is also greatly appreciated by patients, the company asserts.

- The new “Acquisition Center” is a workstation designed for modern dentistry and with the dentist in mind. The beautiful, sleek design comes with a touchpad and a 16:9 wide-format movable touchscreen, offering you a highly intuitive and ergonomic work platform, according to the company. The unit also features full mobility with a long-life battery. Simply charge overnight, and you are ready the next morning for hours of cable-free operation.

- Primescan also scores in terms of hygienic safety. Thanks to the smooth surfaces of Primescan and the acquisition center, the hygienically critical areas, which are often difficult to clean, can be reprocessed safely, quickly and easily. The intraoral scanner can be subjected to all necessary hygienic reprocessing (wipe disinfection, autoclaving, hot air sterilization, high-level disinfection). This is made possible by three sleeve concepts (stainless-steel sleeve, stainless-steel sleeve with disposable window and disposable sleeves).

- An excellent choice for outstanding results: Primescan is your perfect starting point into digital dentistry, Dentsply Sirona states. No matter how you would like to design your workflows, Primescan is an enabler for efficient digital workflows – both chairside in your practice and with your preferred partners.

- Digital impressions with Primescan are easier, faster and more accurate than ever before, according to the company. Enjoy the scan with Primescan!

Hit a Bullseye: New alignment device stops the guesswork for handheld X-rays

By Flow Dental Staff

- Take the guesswork out of handheld X-ray positioning with the new Bullseye.

Bullseye mounts onto the acrylic ring around your handheld X-ray device, such as the Nomad or Xray2Go. Once mounted, you simply slide the aiming ring on your positioner along the alignment bar until it nests within the Bullseye. With the Bullseye ring, your X-rays will always be in perfect parallel or bite wing alignment, and you eliminate cone cutting or costly re-takes, according to the company.

Bullseye is re-usable and mounts in seconds. It is available through your local dealer.

Here in Chicago
To learn more about Primescan and other Dentsply Sirona products, stop by booth No. 2011.

Here in Chicago
For more information on the Bullseye, or to order, stop by booth No. 3521, contact your local dealer or visit www.FlowDental.com.
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1. BISCO has, on file, the calcium release data for TheraCal LC.
3. BISCO, Inc. data on file.

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Zirconiaw crown placed with TheraCem

By Alan J. Acierno, DDS

Clinicians are always looking for ways to be more efficient without sacrificing the clinical quality of the products they use on patients. One material that allows practitioners to do this is Bisco’s TheraCem dual-cured, calcium and fluoride-releasing, self-adhesive resin cement.

TheraCem’s (booth No. 4800) strength has been proved with a range of materials: everything from PFM’s to zirconia and lithium disilicate. Having one cement that can be used in a variety of situations and with different materials cuts down on costs and can make procedures easier on the dentist and staff.

The handling and dual-cure feature of the cement also makes cleanup simple and offers ease of use in situations where light curing is difficult.

References

Consider the use of non-surgical laser applications in treatment of facial esthetics

By Harvey S. Shiffman, DDS

- Erbium Yag and Neodymium Yag are two of the most researched wavelengths in medicine and dentistry. Both of these wavelengths are found in our Fotona Lightwalker laser. Smoothlase uses the photothermal capabilities of the Erbium and Neodymium lasers to convert and initiate the formation of new collagen in mucosal tissues and supporting tissues of the face and lips.

**Indications**

For patients with age- and lifestyle-related loss of facial volume, elasticity and dryness all caused by loss of collagen. Also as a preventative therapy to maintain “young collagen.” Patients who do not want surgical intervention or artificial materials injected.

What happens when we hand a mirror to our patients to view the results of our dental restorations? They immediately check their hair, facial wrinkles and sagging.

Facial esthetics are a concern for most of our dental patients. We can provide beautiful, functional dental reconstructions, and the patient still has facial loss of tone, wrinkles, lip imbalances and loss of elasticity.

The Smoothlase group of intraoral laser rejuvenating procedures use both of these same wavelengths to tighten skin, improve elasticity, skin tone and texture in a minimally invasive manner all from inside the mouth. Liplase can rejuvenate, plump, define and balance the lips without injections or artificial materials. These procedures are fully within the scope of dental practice and allow practitioners to give our patients the “finishing” treatments needed and desired.

- Consider using Fotona Smoothlase to convert and initiate the formation of new collagen in mucosal tissues and supporting tissues of the face and lips. (Photos/Provided by Fotona)
COLTENE introduces the new BioSonic UC150 Ultrasonic Cleaner

By COLTENE Staff

COLTENE presents the BioSonic® UC150, the latest product in its award-winning line of ultrasonic cleaning systems. With its sleek, Swiss design, the new BioSonic UC150 is built for versatility, efficiency and convenience, according to the company.

The UC150 offers a stainless-steel tank with a 1.5-gallon use capacity designed with a small footprint while providing generous capacity. The unit can accommodate multiple cleaning configurations, including beakers, baskets and up to four medium-size instrument cassettes.

The UC150 can be used as either a countertop unit or a recessed unit, allowing for flexibility in any sterilization center setting.

A multilingual touchscreen allows full functionality with a gloved hand.

The UC150 touchscreen features customizable temperature settings, run time, solution tracking and data logging. Included with the touchscreen is a USB interface that allows for downloading of cleaning data.

The unique plastic hinged lid minimizes noise and traps vapors, creating a quiet and comfortable working environment. The open/close detection feature encourages protocol compliance and ensures closed operation.

A multilingual touchscreen allows full functionality with a gloved hand.

An optional built-in controlled heating feature (70-140 degrees F) can improve efficiency of the ultrasonic cleaning process by quickly heating the unit to its desired cleaning temperature. Additionally, a built-in high temperature safety feature protects the unit from overheating.

The BioSonic UC150 comes packaged with a cassette basket included, as well as a recess template and gasket. Additional BioSonic accessories and ultrasonic cleaning solutions can be purchased separately.

Here in Chicago

Visit COLTENE at booth No. 4000 to see the new BioSonic UC150 and enter the drawing for your chance to win a unit.

The BioSonic UC150. (Photo/Provided by COLTENE)
“Hi, I’m iTero Element 2 and I bring innovation to visualization”

The modern scanning system enhances your restorative case capabilities with powerful computing and a high-definition widescreen.

Visit us at the Align Booth #5011

“Hi, I’m iTero Element Flex and I go wherever you go”

The portable system offers the convenience of on-the-go scanning and small space operation.

One brand. Two powerful options for bolstering your capabilities in restorative work.
Giving back, one toothbrush at a time

Benco Family Foundation gifts to Chicago schools mark a milestone: More than 1 million toothbrushes donated since 2015

By Benco Dental Staff

Imagine life without a toothbrush. The consequences — disease, pain, tooth loss — are all too real for millions worldwide, many of them right here at home.

In celebration of National Children’s Dental Health Month, the Benco Family Foundation will donate PRO-SYS® toothbrushes to every Chicago Public School elementary student. In addition, a gift of 40,000 toothbrushes will be made to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry community service programs.

According to Patrick D. Smith, DMD, MPH, clinical assistant professor, UIC-College of Dentistry: “The Division of Prevention and Public Health Sciences supports community-based initiatives geared toward increasing access to care and reducing oral disease of underserved populations. Our dental students work with more than 35 community partners across the state to provide dental care and oral health education. This donation from the Benco Family Foundation will further those experiences and support our partners as they promote oral health in their respective communities.”

The gifts mark a milestone for the foundation: More than 1 million toothbrushes donated worldwide. And the foundation already has big plans for next year.

“Through our toothbrush donation, the Benco Family Foundation is excited to build a strong relationship with the Chicago Public Schools and hopes to bring ‘Lessons in a Lunchbox: Healthy Teeth Essentials and Facts About Snacks’ for the second- and third-grade classes next year during the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting,” said Rebecca Binder, executive director. “This national oral health and nutrition program reaches underserved elementary school children with a bright orange lunchbox filled with all the supplies for healthy teeth and smiles.”

Since 2015, the Benco Family Foundation has been helping people across the globe through toothbrush donations with its Buy-One-Give-One program. For every PRO-SYS® brand adult tapered or antimicrobial toothbrush purchased, the philanthropic arm of America’s largest family-owned dental distributor donates a toothbrush to someone in need.

Additionally, the foundation supports Global Smile Foundation’s efforts to bring first-class surgical repair to patients with congenital facial deformities in the developing world from South America to Africa, to the Middle East and India.

Benco Dental’s Chuck Cohen at a ‘Lessons in a Lunchbox: Healthy Teeth Essentials and Facts About Snacks’ session. Underserved elementary school children are gifted a bright orange lunchbox filled with supplies for healthy teeth and smiles (Photo/Provided by Benco Dental).