Everyone can be a superhero!

By Fred Michmershuizen, Ortho Tribune Staff

With their ability to create happier, healthier smiles, it can be said that orthodontists are superheroes. Here in Washington, D.C., at the 2018 Annual Session of the American Association of Orthodontists, one company in particular is embracing this particular theme. Representatives from topsOrtho (booth No. 1933) are wearing superhero T-shirts and passing out buttons with heroic sayings on them. They are particularly excited about their new Lightning Cloud high-performance cloud storage system. The company prides itself on its three great super powers — offering practice management that is “fast, easy and reliable.”

Of course no orthodontic practice would be able to deliver super results to patients without the most innovative and technology applications in our field,” said Dr. Nahid Maleki, president of the AAO, in a welcome letter to attendees.

In the classrooms, offerings include lectures and hands-on courses. In the exhibit hall, many companies are offering in-booth presentations led by thought leaders today through Tuesday. Check your program guide or download the AAO app for times and locations.

- See SUPERHERO, page 6

Get your thinking cap on straight

By Fred Michmershuizen, Ortho Tribune Staff

There is plenty of education available to orthodontists here at AAO’s 2018 Annual Session.

“Our meeting will offer you many opportunities to expand your knowledge of the latest science produced by our specialty, and to gain knowledge and insights into the current state of business and technology applications in our field,” said Dr. Nahid Maleki, president of the AAO, in a welcome letter to attendees.

In the classrooms, offerings include lectures and hands-on courses. In the exhibit hall, many companies are offering in-booth presentations led by thought leaders today through Tuesday. Check your program guide or download the AAO app for times and locations.
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Changes in ABO certification: A scenario-based format

Part two of two

By Dennis J. Tartakow, DMD, MED, EdD, PhD, Editor-in-Chief

T
donday, orthodontic education and orthodontics in general as an industry is suspect and may well have lost some of the
unique trust and luster that it has held since the late 1940s. The cries for accountable
ability, affordability and accessibility are the mantra for professional and educationa
reform. Many of our educators, cli
icians and researchers are ill-equipped
deal with such unexpected and unantici
ated challenges. The universal trust that was given by the American public
to medicine and dentistry probably no longer exists; working together, we must
find ways to rebuild that trust.

The ABO’s mission is to establish and
maintain the highest standards of clini
cal excellence in orthodontics. Its mis
sion statement clearly defines four ob
jectives:
1. Evaluate knowledge and clinical competency of graduates from accredited programs;
2. Re-evaluate clinical competency of a diplomate’s career through recertification;
3. Contribute to the development of quality graduate, postgraduate and continuing education programs in orthodontics; and
4. Contribute to certification expertise throughout the world.

In 2007, the ABO certification process went through many significant changes in criteria: (a) the number of cases required for presentation; (b) specific malocclusions; (c) precise time when a case was presented; (d) time to orthodontists graduating in 2007 from a CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) accredited orthodontic program and who have successfully passed the ABO written examination; (e) for current board-eligible orthodontists, the Option 1 and II pathways were to be completed by 2008 but if this was not pos
sible, there would be a transition pathway available; and (f) a recertification process, that was both voluntary and involuntary.

Board certification was based upon the highest standards of knowledge and clinical skill, and all diplomates were ex
pected to maintain and enhance such standards. According to the board, 38 percent (or more than 3,000) of active AAO members from the United States and Canada were board certified. In its 76 years of existence, the ABO has never exceeded 28 percent, averaging approxi
mately 24 percent as board-certified members of all AAO orthodontists.

In 2017, the ABO elected to research and observe other dental and medical specialty boards to ensure adherence to best practices. Currently, clinical exami
nations of four American Dental Association’s dental specialty boards are com
pletely scenario-based. While creating a degree of expertise and proficiency that all orthodontists should aspire to attain, the ABO believed it was essential and imperative to conduct an “up-to-date” certification examination.

According to Chung, Tadlock, Bar
one, Pangrazio-Kulbergh, Sabbot, Foley, Trulove, Park and Dugoni: “The board’s extensive evaluations, combined with research of best practices, support the decision that a new design is needed to give an examination that is fair, valid and reliable, while increasing accessi
bility. To facilitate the development of a new examination design, the ABO con
tracted with Castle Worldwide (Castle), a certification and licensure testing company with 30 years of experience in the science of psychometrics and training development” (2018, p. 322).

The new scenario-based examination format is not intended to make it easier; it’s standards will remain the same high quality. “The ABO believes that in today’s climate a shift is needed to develop an examination that facilitates participa
tion by all, while creating a measure of proficiency and expertise that most spe
cialists should aspire to attain” (Chung, Tadlock, Barone, et al, p. 322).

The new examination will no longer require patient cases but will include four sections: (a) Data gathering and di
dagnosis, (b) Treatment objectives and planning, (c) Treatment implementation and management, and (d) Critical analy
sis and outcomes assessment. It will also continue to examine case outcomes of the scenario-based examination by tak
ing into account cast and radiographic evaluation, case management form, the discrepancy index and cephalometric superimpositions and analysis.

The written examination will not change; it will use the same layout and design of multiple-choice questions based upon clinical and biomedical sci
ences, in addition to orthodontics. Once the examinee has successfully com
pleted a CODA-accredited orthodontic program of at least 18 months duration, he or she will be eligible to take the ABO written examination. The recertification process will remain the same, requiring a commitment to lifelong learning, con
tinued clinical improvement, proficiency and self-evaluation.

Change is never easy; it is, however, vitally important for the survival of our profession and the integrity of each one of us. It is only through education that civilization can be advanced and problems solved. There are no teachers ... we are all learners. Once we begin to compromise our thoughts and become comp
romise our thoughts and become comprom...
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► Visit booth 501 for more information
products and services, which can be found in aisle after aisle of the exhibit hall at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Many companies are launching new products or updating existing offerings.

Ormco Corp. (booth No. 1017) is showcasing an extensive selection of product innovations, including its new Symetri Clear and Insignia twin appliances, the latest developments in the Damon System, advancements in retention technology and more.

At a news conference held in the company’s booth Saturday morning, members of the industry press received an overview, learned about the various thought leaders who are on hand here in Washington to share their expertise with meeting attendees and had the opportunity to take part in hands-on demonstrations.

According to Ormco, Symetri Clear is the next generation of esthetically pleasing twin brackets made with advanced ceramic manufacturing technology. Backed by several years of dedicated research and development, Symetri Clear is made of polycrystalline-alumina and is designed for strength to withstand forces applied during treatment. It features a low profile, and a proprietary laser-etched pad for reliable bonding and easy, non-destructive single-piece removal, the company said.

Also available from Ormco is Insignia, an award-winning platform that allows orthodontists to combine their treatment preferences with the precision of computer-aided smile design. Coming soon to the conventional twin market, Insignia provides improved predictability, precision, efficiency and consistency, the company said.

At Henry Schein Orthodontics (booth No. 1401), meeting attendees can learn about the new Carriere SLX 3D self-ligating bracket system, which was created by a team of engineers and world-renowned practitioners Dr. Luis Carriere, Dr. Lou Chmura, Dr. Dave Paquette and Dr. Jep Paschal. According to the company, the new system offers beauty, comfort and extraordinary performance.

When it comes to optimizing a practice’s performance, OrthoSynetics has a number of teams in place to help with marketing, consulting, procurement, patient insurance and collections, and financial analysis. You can stop by the company’s booth (No. 2137) to pick up a free practice “boost box.”

These are just some of the many offerings available on the show floor. The trade show is open today, tomorrow and Tuesday, so you still have plenty of time.

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Matt Turner, president of Ormco Corp. (booth No. 1017), speaks to members of the industry press Saturday morning during a news conference.

Photo: Courtesy of Ormco Corp.