A bridge to excellence

It’s an exciting day here in Columbus. With more than 1,500 dental hygienists from across the United States gathered around the Greater Columbus Convention Center to check out the latest in cutting-edge education and the best new products in the industry, there is no better place to be if you are looking to enhance your skills in the hygiene profession.

Especially today, when the doors to the exhibit hall will open for the first time, allowing access to all the top exhibitors showcasing the most recent advancements in products and services in dental hygiene and oral health care.

Make sure you head over to the Ansell/Microflex booth (No. 219) to check out the company’s MICRO-TOUCH DENTAL-GLOVE series. These examination gloves were developed specifically for the needs of dental professionals, according to Ansell, are certified for use in oral examinations for patient safety and peace of mind and are tested for biocompatibility and feature inner coatings to promote hand health.

Another can’t miss is Designs for Vision (booth No. 113), which is introducing an advanced photonic design that provides uniform light distribution with maximum intensity. The company’s patent-pending headlights, available in wired or wireless versions, optically focus the light from the LED to provide 45 percent more light with uniform distribution.

Cultural-competency lessons from dueling ‘Lady Liberties’ and candy-preference data

New C.E. requirements for dental professionals prompt range of views on diversity

By Patricia Walsh, RDH
Editor in Chief, Hygiene Tribune

Our office has, in its staff room, what I like to call the “temp-tation table.” During the holidays, it is usually chock-a-block with sugar-laden treats. Some are gifts from grateful patients, some are from local specialists, and some are just a coworker’s leftover Halloween candy. There was a day this past season when a dental assistant brought in a bag of Sour Patch Kids. I stared at the bag thinking, “Who eats these?” I’ve never chomped on a Sour Patch Kid, but I’ve never met a piece of chocolate I didn’t like. The age difference between me and the assistant wasn’t that great, and we seemed to have similar non-confection food tastes. It wasn’t until I went on the internet that I realized how diverse and unexplainable the sweet choices across America have become.

The website www.CandyStore.com came up with a report by analyzing 10 years worth of sales data gathered from the site’s customers, applying a heavier weighting on data from the months leading up to Halloween.

* See LESSONS, page 2