If you have been thinking about joining the dental laser revolution, the GNYDM exhibit hall is a great place to take your first steps. Hands-on opportunities seem to be available from laser companies in almost every aisle—and more times than not, a dentist or hygienist can be seen testing out the technology.

That was the case on Tuesday, with many attendees perhaps inspired by that morning’s live dentistry session: “The laser LANAP Protocol for treatment of periodontitis: A live patient demonstration,” performed by Dr. Yetta G. McCullom and sponsored...
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by Millennium Dental Technologies. The live dentistry area was filled to capacity for the presentation, and the audience peppered McCullom with a wide range of detailed questions following the procedure.

Among the attendees was Nelly Nunez, DDS, who with a partner has a general-dentistry practice on 40th Street in Manhattan; Holland Dental. “It was really interesting,” Nunez said of McCullom’s session. “I liked it. The doctor was very good. She did a great job of taking us through the procedure step by step. It was very informative.”

Later in the day, McCullom was in the Fotona booth (No. 3433), learning about the Lightwalker ATS dual wavelength Nd:YAG and Erbium laser in a 20-minute session on peri-implantitis presented by Dr. Mike Egan. It was the third laser booth of the day for McCullom, following her visits to Millennium in booth No. 3834 (inspired by the live LANAP Protocol procedure) and Biolase in booth No. 418 where she watched the Waterlase being demonstrated.

“We’re planning to get one or maybe even two lasers for the practice this year,” Nunez said, primarily to keep more perio patients with the practice. Nunez said she is attracted to the idea of patients experiencing little if any pain, minimal if any swelling and less stress.

In the Fotona booth, Nunez was impressed with the Lightwalker’s ability to work within two spectrums. “That really adds functionality,” Nunez said. But, she and her partner are still debating what the final choice will be.

In the Biolase booth, numerous demonstration stations are set up to enable attendees to try or watch the recently launched Waterlase Express all-tissue laser system in action. Also available to check out is the company’s recently launched Side Firing Tip, which is designed to be used for moderate to severe peri-implantitis.

In booth No. 4639, Dr. John Graeber will show you how to use the PioneerPro and PioneerElite soft-tissue diode lasers from Pioneer Lasers. The units’ portability and affordability are among their major attractions, along with multiple preset soft-tissue procedures.

Falling a bit outside of the laser camp, but providing similar benefits to patients and practitioners, is the Gentle Wave Procedure, which you can test out in the Sonendo booth, No. 1504. The alternative root canal therapy uses “Multisonic Ultracleaning” to deliver a vortex of procedure fluids and a broad-spectrum acoustic technology to thoroughly clean each canal from crown to apex.

That’s just a few of the wide variety of laser-system offerings available for hands-on testing throughout the exhibit hall. If lasers are on your list, you have until 5 p.m. to see them all in one place.