The Academy of General Dentistry brought about 4,000 attendees to San Diego in late June for its 55th Annual Meeting & Exhibits, which included a Convocation Ceremony aboard the flight deck of the USS Midway.

“This is the largest meeting we've ever had,” said Dr. Vincent “Vinny” Mayher, Jr., president-elect of Academy of General Dentistry. “It's setting all kinds of records for us. We'd love to see it get even bigger and better.”

“We had about 1,850 dentists, which is a record for us, 900 dental auxiliaries and in the 3,000-4,000 range for overall attendees.”

The event at the San Diego Convention Center offered a wide variety of lectures and participation courses, with topics ranging from oral cancer diagnosis to treatment planning guidelines to pharmacologic management.

“The AGD has always had an incredible amount of meetings and offerings, but what is the most amazing is the amount of participation courses we offer,” Dr. Mayher said. “We have more participation courses than any other meeting that's out there. And not to demean lecture courses, but our dentists like to see and put their hands on exactly what they're working with, which we can provide with these hands-on courses.”

One of the highlights of the event was the AGD Convocation Ceremony, in which the 2007 class of AGD Fellows and Masters and Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition recipients received their honors.

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The exhibit hall was brimming with a wide variety of sponsors and exhibitors, and the AGD worked especially hard to draw attendees into the hall with Learning Labs (offering CE credits), book signings, raffle drawings, receptions, coupon books and more. An inspired concept was the Kids’ Corner in the Exhibit Hall, which offered a fun and educational spot for attendees to let their children play while they explored the exhibits.

Dr. Mayher said he looks forward to his year as president of AGD and the group has many programs he’ll work on continuing and expanding.
FDI meeting set to be held in Brazil

During its mid-year meeting last month, the World Dental Federation (FDI) Council selected Salvador, Brazil, to host the 2010 FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC).

The Congress, which is still subject to contract, will be held in the Bahia Conference Centre and the Associação Brasileira de Odontologia (ABO) will serve as FDI’s partner in organizing the congress.

There was strong support by member associations for a congress in the region.

The last FDI Congress held in South America was in 1987. The region accounts for about a quarter of the FDI’s individual membership, with 210,000 dentists in Brazil alone.

With the high number of dentists in the region and the excellent support already received, especially by those in South America, the FDI feels confident that there will be a healthy turnout at this congress and of its success.

FDI bids are evaluated on a number of factors, including the population of oral health professionals in the region and the amount and quality of industry activity. Reports on bids to Council are prepared by the FDI Head Office, specifically, the FDI Events Department.

A press release quoted FDI leadership as saying they were “delighted that the 2010 AWDC will be held in the exciting and vibrant city of Salvador, Brazil.”

The South American geographic area is of great importance to the FDI,” the statement continued, “with almost 50 percent of dentists from the FDI Member Associations living and working in that region. The collaboration and tangible support from the FDI’s Member Association in Brazil, the ABO, the Government of Bahia and the owners of the Conference Centre, Bahiatursa, have been outstanding. We look forward to working with them in organizing an unforgettable congress.”