Registration open for GNYDM programs and events

Greater New York Dental Meeting schedules new offerings for 2014 event

Online registration for Greater New York Dental Meeting courses and events is now open at www.gnydm.com. You can browse through details covering more than 300 seminars, hands-on workshops, essays and “live” patient demonstrations.

Additionally, the 2014 printed Program & Exhibit Guide is being mailed and should arrive by Labor Day.

Many new events

A number of new events are on the schedule for 2014. Among the highlights:

• The World Implant Expo, four days of innovations in implantology. This new event will be held simultaneously with the main Greater New York Dental Meeting, from Nov. 28 through Dec. 3.
• An expanded CoLABoration Dental Laboratory Meeting. Bringing together dentists and lab technicians, this meeting, is expected to surpass its inaugural 2013 numbers: 1,183 technicians and technician students and 50 exhibitor booths.
• An expanded exhibit floor with more than 1,700 booths filled by more than 700 companies. The 2014 GNYDM exhibit hall dates are Nov. 30 through Dec. 3.

Again for 2014, the GNYDM, which is sponsored by the New York County Dental Society and Second District Dental Societies, will remain free of any registration fee. Other distinctions that help make the GNYDM stand out include:

• This is the only major annual dental meeting with a four-day exhibit hall.
• The meeting features more than 300 educational programs.
• One C.E. unit can be earned simply by exploring the exhibit floor.
• The live dentistry arena on the exhibit floor features eight live patient demonstrations during the course of the meeting. There is no admission charge.
• Multilingual programs are presented in Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, French and Italian.
• A laser pavilion features a variety of educational sessions focusing on all aspects of laser dentistry.

Tickets are required for all free and paid programs with the exception of the alumni/affiliated group programs and the “live” dentistry arena.

Three airports — Newark Liberty (EWR), Kennedy (JFK) and La Guardia (LGA) — and hotel discounts make it easy to attend the meeting and enjoy New York City during the holiday season.

2014 Winter Clinic in new Toronto location

The 77th Annual Winter Clinic, the largest one-day dental convention in North America, is on the move, with its 2014 meeting set for Friday, Nov. 14, at the Toronto Sheraton Centre.

This year’s clinical program covers a broad spectrum of topics, including an examination of the way digital technology is transforming workflow, demonstrations of cutting-edge tools and equipment, specialized techniques for prosthetic tooth repositioning, the use of lasers in periodontal therapy, a discussion of X-rays as a diagnostic tool, advice on the latest legal requirements for health and safety in the dental office, and how to meet the demands of your modern dental practice through healthy habits and humor.

You can bring the whole team to share the knowledge. The single-day event features 24 separate programs in contemporary dentistry, offering something for all.

(Source: Greater New York Dental Meeting)
A member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention team leads a training session on Ebola infection control in Lagos, Nigeria, on Aug. 11. Health officials say the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is the deadliest ever. Note that the instructor has donned the personal protective equipment needed to avoid viral contamination when in contact with infected patients: head-to-toe white impermeable suit, goggles, filtered breathing mask and blue rubber gloves. Photo/Benjamin Park, provided by CDC

The current outbreak of Ebola virus infection is a perfect storm created by a lethal combination of some of these factors and also including rampant deforestation, poverty and the war-stricken situation in many African countries.

So how does Ebola spread? According to World Health Organization reports, Ebola virus disease (EVD) is introduced into the human population through close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals. Human-to-human transmission is through direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids, such as saliva, of infected people, and indirect contact with environments contaminated with such fluids.

Transmission through the air has not been documented in the natural environment, nor have there been any case reports of transmission through saliva contamination. Infection in health care settings has been due to health care workers treating patients with suspected or confirmed EVD, especially when infection control precautions were not strictly practiced. Reports indicate that those who recovered from the disease could transmit the virus through their semen for up to two months after recovery.

EVD is a severe acute illness characterized by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and both internal and external bleeding in some cases. Oral manifestations, such as acute gingival bleeding, have been reported. The mortality rate of EVD is very high and 50–90 percent of patients die owing to the profound systemic hemorrhage or its complications. The incubation period of EVD is two to 21 days.

Up to now, there have been no reported cases of transmission of EVD in any dental setting. However, the fact that it is transmitted through human secretions, which includes saliva, and that the incubation period could last up to 21 days implies that dental care workers in the endemic areas of the virus, such as West Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, may run the risk of acquiring the disease if strict standard infection control measures are not routinely followed.

In dentistry, we are constantly exposed to these emerging and re-emerging infectious threats, and we cannot afford to let our guard down. Vigilance, awareness and good clinical practice with standard infection control at all times are fundamental to prevention, as-yet-unimagined new diseases surely lie in wait. Although we have made spectacular technical and scientific advances since the release of the original IOM report some two decades ago, it appears that humans are still defenseless in the face of the relentless march of our microbe foes.

Laksman Samararayake, Hon DSc, BDS, DDS (G LaS), FrcPath, FDSrcse (Hon), FrcDS, FCDshk, Fhkc Path, Fhkam, is head and professor of oral microbiomics and infection at the University of Queensland School of Dentistry in Brisbane, Australia. He can be reached at dent.execassistant@uq.edu.au.