

Access Attends the Academy of Laser Dentistry Meeting

By **Christine A. Hovliaras Delozier, RDH, BS, MBA**

I had the wonderful opportunity of being invited to attend the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) Meeting April 9 - 12, 2008, in San Diego, Calif., by Executive Director Gail Siminovsky, CAE, and with the assistance of Angie Mott, RDH, auxiliary chair of the ALD board.

This was a fabulous three-day educational symposium of the leaders in laser dentistry and laser dental hygiene. I attended many interesting presentations that included topics in the areas of caries management, endodontics, periodontology, soft tissue surgery, photobiomodulation, prosthodontics and implantology. Several key moderators included John Featherstone, MSc, PhD; Donald Coluzzi, DDS; Angie Mott, RDH; Joel White, DDS, MS; Constanza Martinez, DDS, MSD; Giuseppe Iaria, DDS, DMD; Peter Rechmann, DDS; Frank Yung, DDS; and Tony Hewlett, DDS. There were many national and international speakers who presented case presentations in laser dentistry to show the benefits of this technology in practice.

Many dental professionals (dentists/dental hygienists) attended this meeting to attain standard and advanced proficiency in lasers. There were student scholarship presentations, hands-on workshops with laser manufacturers and an interactive discussion forum where laser experts addressed leading-edge laser questions.

Dental Hygienists' Role in ALD

Dental hygienists played an important role in this meeting with their dental hygiene hands-on course that was moderated by Angie Mott, RDH; Nora Raffetto, RDH; Teri Gutierrez, RDH; and Mary L. Smith, RDH. Dental hygienists were allowed to use many different types of lasers on pig jaws in an interactive process.

There was also a dental hygiene discussion forum attended by many dental professionals on the last day. Angie Mott, RDH, was the moderator of this forum, which



Dental hygienists attending the ALD Meeting.



Jeanne Godett, RDH discussing locally applied antibiotics.



Nora Raffetto, RDH discussing the periodontal smoking patient.



Angie Mott, RDH and myself



Mary Lynn Smith, RDH, explaining results of laser usage.

included the following presentations by dental hygienists:

Jeanne Godett, RDH – Light Years Ahead: The Use of Locally Applied Antibiotics and 810-nm Diode Lasers

Nora Raffetto, RDH – The Good, Bad and the Ugly – 810-830-nm Diode Laser Therapy for the Perio Patient Who Smokes

Mary Lynn Smith, RDH – Time Efficiency and Results: Active

Phase Periodontal Therapy Using Defocused CO2 Laser

Angie Mott, RDH – Periodontal Laser Therapy – Three-Year Comparison

These four dental hygienists gave outstanding presentations that targeted the use of laser therapy in dental
special feature continued on page 16

Table I. Lasers to Perform Soft Tissue Curettage or Periodontal Therapy

State	Yes	No	No written policy	Policy/Comments
AL		•		Only use lasers for diagnostic purposes. Rule 270-x-3.10(h)
AK	•		•	
AR	•			
AZ	•			R-4-11- 601B
CA	•			1764 (c)
CO		•		1235-124, 1235-125, 12-35-128, 1235-127
CT		•	•	
DC	•		•	
DE	•		•	
FL		•		Chapter 64B5-16.006 Only DDS can do.
GA		•		150-5-.03(6)
HI			•	
IA		•		Position statement 4/17/03
ID	•			IDAPA 19030.03.A
IN	•		•	
IL		•		Section 25 (18)
KY	•		•	
KS			•	
LA		•	•	
MA		•	•	
MD		•	•	
ME	•		•	Must be laser certified.
MI	•		•	
MN		•	•	
MO	•		•	
MS		•	•	
MT	•		•	
NC		•	•	
ND	•		•	
NE	•		•	
NH		•	•	
NJ		•	•	
NM	•		•	
NV	•			NAC 631.033, NAC 631.035
NY	•		•	
OH		•		P. 39 ORC-4715-11-06
OK	•		•	
OR		•	•	
PA		•		Subchapter C 33.201
RI		•	•	
SC		•	•	
SD	•		•	
TN		•	•	
TX		•		22 TAC Sec.115.1
UT		•		R156-69.22
VA		•	•	
VT		•	•	
WA	•		•	
WI		•	•	
WV		•		Position statement 12/4/2004
WY		•	•	

This information was obtained via direct contact with state dental board office personnel by ADHA Governmental Affairs division staff.

www.adha.org April 2008

special feature *continued from page 16*
hygiene practice and using this technology to improve oral health of diseased periodontitis patients.

Team Collaboration

I was very impressed by the professionalism and respect that the dental hygienists who are members of this organization received from the other members of ALD. It was a very collaborative and productive meeting, and everyone worked well together.

Corporate exhibitors were available during this meeting to discuss new products, technology and tools with participants as well as during workshops.

As we continue to work together to expand the scope of dental hygiene practice, laser therapy is another avenue to provide quality technology to treat oral diseases and the oral health of our patients. There are 21 states in the United States that allow dental hygienists to be certified in laser technology in soft-tissue curettage or periodontal therapy. But there are more states where this technology needs to be discussed (see Table I on page 16).

I want to thank the ALD Board for inviting me as a guest to represent one of ADHA's official publications, *Access*, at this meeting. For more information on laser certification, please contact the ALD at www.laserdentistry.org, and for questions about laser usage in your state, contact ADHA at www.adha.org. ■