September meeting will focus on ‘Navigating the Future of Periodontology’

By Sierra Rendon, Managing Editor

Ready to hit Beantown? The American Academy of Periodontology 103rd Annual Meeting will take place in Boston from Sept. 9-12.

According to Terrence J. Griffin, DMD, this year’s theme — “Navigating the Future of Periodontology” — is more than just a slogan. It is an intention that the academy has set for all annual meeting participants.

As the tide continues to change on the periodontal specialty, this meeting will equip you with the knowledge and skills to steer your career in the direction of success,” Griffin asserts in his program welcome letter.

As always, the AAP has a compelling educational program planned, including hands-on workshops, seminars and symposiums created specifically to challenge and inspire attendees.

Griffin notes the AAP is especially excited to welcome New York Times bestselling author Alison Levine, whose climbing expeditions to Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Everest may just motivate you to ascend new heights in your own life and career. Levin, who wrote “On the Edge. The Art of High-Impact Leadership,” will speak as part of the opening session on Sept. 10.

The AAP believes that whether you are a seasoned practitioner, a member of the periodontal practice staff or a clinician who is just starting out in periodontics, you will find courses to suit you at this year’s meeting.

Back by popular demand is the interactive Dental Hygiene Symposium, which offers a hygienist’s perspective on issues such as implant maintenance and endoscopic periodontal debridement.

In addition to the Student/New Periodontist Series (a series designed to help jumpstart new careers in periodontics), the academy will also host its first Periodontal Career Fair for those seeking a new position or those seeking new associates.

Additionally, the new “Perio Park” will serve as a key exhibit hall destination, offering networking opportunities, refreshments and camaraderie with colleagues.

The annual meeting offers plenty of opportunities to go “where everybody knows your name.” From various alumni receptions to the Welcome Reception (Sept. 9), there’s sure to be associates you’ll want to catch up with … or maybe meet for the first time. For practitioners who live or work outside of the United States, the International Reception on Sept. 9 will be an event you won’t want to miss.

While catching up with colleagues is always an important part of meetings, don’t forget about all of the new products and technology you can learn about and purchase while at the AAP. The exhibit hall will provide more than 350 booths full of trusted implant creators, dynamic new technology and maybe even some new products you did not even know you needed!

What else is new at the AAP 103rd Annual Meeting? More than 20 new speakers, a host of fresh periodontal-related topics and VIP registration. To learn more or to register, visit perio.org.

By Dental Tribune International

Helsinki, Finland — In a new study recently carried out by researchers at the University of Helsinki, it was found that the common periodontal pathogen Porphyromonas gingivalis may inhibit conception in young women.

According to the Global Burden of Disease Study, severe chronic periodontitis is the sixth most common medical condition in the world. Up until now, no data on the influence of periodontal bacteria on conception has been available.

The study investigated whether microbiological and serological markers of periodontitis are associated with conception and involved 236 women aged between 19 and 42 who had stopped contraception in order to become pregnant.

The participants were initially interviewed on their medical history, smoking habits, oral hygiene habits, previous dental visits and socioeconomic status.

Oral examinations established the presence of carious lesions and periodontal disease (based on pocket depth, visible plaque, bleeding on probing and clinical periodontal attachment loss). In order to detect periodontal pathogens and the associated antibodies, the researchers analysed collected serum and stimulated saliva. For the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis, gynaecological speculum examinations were performed and
vaginal swabs were taken. Participants were followed for 12 months to see whether they had become pregnant. According to the results, *P. gingivalis* in the saliva was significantly more common among those who did not conceive than among those who did (8.3 percent compared with 2.1 percent). Levels of salivary and serum antibodies against the pathogen were also significantly higher in the women who did not become pregnant. Furthermore, statistical analysis showed the finding was independent of other risk factors contributing to conception, such as age, socio-economic status, previous deliveries or clinical periodontal disease.

“Our study does not answer the question on possible reasons for infertility but it shows that periodontal bacteria may have a systemic effect even in lower amounts, and even before clear clinical signs of gum disease can be seen,” said periodontist and lead author Dr. Susanna Paju.

The study group was fairly homogenous regarding socio-economic status and general health. However, study limitations included a lack of information on the exact discontinuation date of contraception, the length of use of any birth control methods and whether delayed conception was attributable to the participants or to their spouses.

The study, titled “Porphyromonas gingivalis may interfere with conception in women”, was published online in June in the Journal of Oral Microbiology.