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Thousands of Dental Professionals to Arrive in Honolulu for ADA's 150th Annual Session

More than 24,000 attendees expected, including visitors from some 70 countries

HONOLULU, Sept. 30, 2009 –The American Dental Association's (ADA) expects some 7,500 dentists to be among over 24,000 attendees celebrating its 150th birthday during the Association's 150th Annual Session and World Marketplace Exhibition at the Hawaii Convention Center from Sept. 30 through Oct. 4.

ADA's Annual Session, which attracts visitors from around the globe, will bring dental professionals from nearly 70 countries to Hawaii this year.

Sesquicentennial celebration, unique educational offerings

The ADA's sesquicentennial celebration will feature special events such as the Opening General Session and Distinguished Speaker Series on Wednesday evening Sept. 30; "An Evening Under the Stars" on Friday evening, Oct. 2; and unique educational offerings including Education in the Round, the Live Operatory Center, the Competition Hub and, new for 2009, 150 high-tech products on one stage.

"This year's Annual Session promises to be a tremendous event, offering unique educational sessions and an enjoyable location with recreational opportunities to re-energize us," said Dr. John S. Findley, ADA president. "We are very excited to welcome so many dental professionals to one of the best destinations in the world to celebrate our 150th Anniversary and d 150th Annual Session."

Access to innovative learning

The ADA Annual Session offers attendees the choice of more than 180 relevant and topical continuing education courses, and the majority of continuing education course seats are free to registrants. Registration also includes entrance into the World Marketplace Exhibition featuring more than 350 of the leading suppliers of dental products and services, and access to the acclaimed “Distinguished Speaker Series.”

Opening General Session on Sept. 30, features Academy-award winner Sidney Poitier

The ADA’s Opening General Session takes place on Wednesday, September 30 at 5:30 p.m. at the Waikiki Shell and features Sidney Poitier as the 2009 Distinguished Speaker.

Poitier, an Academy Award-winning actor, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in August from President Barack Obama. He also is a writer, director, and diplomat (Bahamas’ ambassador to Japan and UNESCO). He has been a political and artistic trailblazer for more than half a century. The ADA Foundation, through a donation from Johnson & Johnson, underwrites in part the Distinguished Speaker Series.

Attendees to Experience Aloha at “An Evening under the Stars”

Annual Session attendees can join their colleagues in helping the ADA culminate its 150th birthday at “An Evening under the Stars” on Friday, Oct. 2 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Waikiki Shell. Attendees can learn about island culture from natives of the seven island nations that call Hawaii home—Hawaii, Marquesas, Tonga, Tahiti, Samoa, Aotearoa and Fiji—while experiencing hands-on arts and crafts.

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About the American Dental Association

Celebrating its 150th anniversary, the not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing more than 157,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. The monthly *Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)* is the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit the Association's Web site at www.ada.org