

## **Spotlight On: Metro Denver Dental Society**

Later this month, over 8,500 dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and laboratory technicians, educators and students will gather at the Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver for the annual Metro Denver Dental Society's annual convention. It is the region's largest continuing education event for dental professionals, offering lectures, hands-on courses and more than 300 exhibits with the latest dental technology, products and services over three days.

MDDS has been serving the metropolitan area since 1897. With more than 1,500 members, it represents approximately 83 percent of the licensed dentists in the area, providing them with continuing education, legislative liaison, peer review and patient relations programs.

In 2005, it created the Metro Denver Dental Foundation to advance education and awareness for improved oral health and enhance access to dental care for all populations.

Community service is another priority of MDDS, with programs ranging from its creation of the first-ever Explorer Post in the country to be developed by organized dentistry to its award-winning Smile-Again Program.

The Smile Again Program is a project that offers cost-free dental care to qualifying disadvantaged survivors of domestic violence in Denver in an effort to restore oral health and assist in recovery. Established in 2002, thus far the program has donated over \$800,000 in donated care by volunteer dentists and specialists.

The current president of MDDS is Michael Schneidt, DDS. Terri Gilpin serves as executive director. For additional information about MDDS, contact 303-488-9700 or visit its website at [www.mddsdentist.com](http://www.mddsdentist.com).