

Recent Developments in the Vision Care Industry

The American Academy of Ophthalmology held its 109th annual meeting in Chicago this year. There was plenty of activity in the exhibition hall as many companies took advantage of the occasion to launch new products.

The latest from CZM

Carl Zeiss Meditec announced that it had gained FDA approval for Visante OCT (optical coherence tomography system), the first stand-alone, high-resolution OCT imaging system for the anterior segment. The Visante system is designed to measure corneal thickness to help qualify patients for vision correction surgery, without the need for ocular anaesthesia or water bath. The system provides a full-thickness pachymetry map prior to laser surgery, and can image, measure and document both corneal flap thickness and residual stromal thickness immediately following the procedure. The company also introduced two

new software products during the conference. The HFA-NET PRO software networks the Humphrey Field Analyzer with electronic medical records systems. The SITA SWAP software allows clinicians to perform visual field tests combining SITA and SWAP results.

The company also unveiled a new rendition of its website, www.meditec.zeiss.com. The new site will provide more in-depth product information, as well as broadcasting capabilities for online education. The company plans to add two new sections: the Knowledge Base that will provide information on how to obtain the most value from products; and an e-commerce capability.

New from Lumenis

Laser-maker Lumenis debuted several new products during the conference. The company announced that it has received FDA clearance to market the new Selecta family of lasers. The Selecta 1064 nm

Nd:YAG Base Platform provides capabilities for anterior segment surgeons including the elimination of secondary cataracts and performance of peripheral iridotomies. The company offered several new upgrade options to the Selecta platform.

The Selecta Duo upgrade, for example, adds the S-Link LaserLink to the platform, providing a 532 nm photocoagulator. The Selecta Duet provides a Q-switched frequency-doubled 532 nm laser, allowing selective laser trabeculoplasty. The Selecta Trio combines the Nd:YAG diode-pumped solid-state (DPSS) 532 Photocoagulator and Q-switched frequency-doubled 532nm laser.

Lumenis also introduced the Novus 3000, for which FDA approval is said to be pending. This is a 532 nm operating room photocoagulator with DPSS technology. The unit includes built-in storage for a laser indirect ophthalmoscope, remote control, foot switch and other accessories.

The company also debuted the Lumenis 1000 Integrated Slit Lamp, a fully integrated biomicroscope slit lamp laser delivery system. The system includes built-in LaserLink, parallel optics, magnification changer, micromanipulator and multicolour automatic eye safety filters.

Other introductions included the Lumenis 950 Slit Lamp, a diagnostic slit lamp biomicroscope with parallel optics; and the Coaxial Multicolour laser indirect ophthalmoscope, said to be the first coaxial multicolour instrument of its kind.

CrystaLens off to a good start

Eyeonics, maker of the CrystaLens accommodative intraocular lens, presented an update on the IOL it first launched last year. More than 30,000 CrystaLens IOLs have now been implanted. More than 500 surgeons in the US are now qualified to implant the lenses, an

increase of 40% over last year. In clinical trials, all patients receiving the CrystaLens IOLs were able to read J3 or better, and all but a few were able to pass a driver's test. Moreover, 85% of patients had good distance vision with the lenses. At 12 months, all patients had intermediate vision of 20/25 or better.

AMO on ICE

Advanced Medical Optics (AMO) launched the new WhiteStar ICE technology for use with the Sovereign phacoemulsification system. The ICE technology incorporates a newly redesigned energy system and fluid management component. The company also provided an update on an ongoing rationalization process involving its product lines. AMO plans to put more emphasis on the refractive market, while discontinuing all non-core cataract and eye care products.