Learning about screening at the Professional Product Review

BY KELLY SODERLUND

This year’s Professional Product Review is focused on prevention and screening. Dentists who visited the PPR, located in Hall D, booth 1857, learned how to screen for diabetes and heart disease by using a few simple machines and processes. Participants went through the screening themselves and learned how to conduct their own screenings in their offices.

Dr. Kevin Kays, of Marion, Ill., visited Thursday to learn more about what he could take back to the public health arena but was initially attracted to the booth after seeing Dr. David Wong, who was there promoting research on saliva diagnostics.

Dr. Wong, a professor and associate dean of research at the University of California-Los Angeles, said he and his colleagues are in the process of developing a chairside diagnostic tool that would determine whether a patient with dry mouth has an autoimmune disease like Sjogren’s Syndrome. Current technology is available for a dentist to test and determine right away whether the patient should be referred to a medical professional or can be treated in the dental office.

“Early detection is the key and having the ability to screen for medical conditions in a noninvasive atmosphere is great,” Dr. Wong said.

Dr. Kays agrees, adding he’s impressed with Dr. Wong’s research and developments.

“I think it’s a significant improvement on diagnostics,” Dr. Kays said.

Talking products: Dr. David Wong, left seated, talks with Dr. Ronald Hull and his wife, Laurie Rant-Hull about saliva diagnostics at the Professional Product Review Thursday.