Dear colleagues,

When I walked the exhibition grounds of the IDS two and a half months ago, two aspects of the world’s largest dental exhibition were especially touching to me. Firstly, the number of participants and exhibitors has increased significantly over the years. And secondly, innovations and digital technologies have gained more presence in dentistry. While originally a merely mechanical type of work, the profession of the dentist has turned into handling a command centre surrounded by various technologies, including the latest laser devices. If you thought that you would find hardly more than four or five laser manufacturers at the IDS only a few years ago, a look into this year’s list of exhibitors will have shown otherwise. Not only were there more than 40 laser exhibitors and manufacturers present at the IDS 2017, but the technical development of the laser devices was impressive.

The devices’ performance and efficiency, the increasing variability of the laser applicators and the above-mentioned further development of the software presented by many manufacturers demands a higher level of insight in these technologies from the users when treating patients. The laser industry’s response to a yet palpable knowledge deficit in this regard covers elaborate treatment animations and extensive default settings for special therapies. A sensible balance of high-tech laser and extensive insights into its appropriate handling will make laser-assisted therapies in dentistry even more effective in the future.

Yours,

Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht