Interview: "Motivation and team work were the main reasons for the success and continuity of the LOS over the years."

By Kinga Mollov, DTMEA

The Lebanese Orthodontic Society (LOS) is one of the oldest dental societies in the Middle East. Kinga Mollov from Dental Tribune Middle East & Africa had the pleasure to interview Dr Mona Sayegh Chouissoud, President of the Lebanese Orthodontic Society.

Dr Mona, could you please briefly introduce LOS and what the Society does?

Founded in 1965 in Beirut, Lebanon, the Lebanese Orthodontic Society (LOS) is one of the oldest dental scientific societies in the Middle East. The founders of the society were instrumental in its conception. Drs. Pierre Rizkallah, Edgard Debbaneh, Frederic Maalouf and Alexandre Khallah who braved all difficulties to maintain the subsistence of this institution. He was celebrated during the 3rd Francophone Meeting of Arab Orthodontists in November 2013. In Jeddah and was at a high international level. The LOS is active since 1965. Could you please tell us how far has the Society come since then?

Working closely with the Lebanese universities, the LOS supports the development of the specialty in Lebanon by furthering the continuing-education of its members and by encouraging the development of scientific research in orthodontics. In October 2005, the LOS hosted the 5th Arab Orthodontic Meeting in Beirut, during which the first directory of Arab orthodontists was released. The LOS also hosted the first meeting of French-speaking orthodontists in Beirut in February 2009. Most importantly, Beirut was the site of the 14th Arab Orthodontic Meeting and 12th Lebanese Orthodontic Congress in November 2013. In 2016, the Golden Jubilee of the LOS was celebrated during the 3rd Francophone Meeting CBO (Collège Inter Universitaire Francophone en Orthodontie) in Beirut.

The LOS is active since 1965. Could you please tell us how far has the Society come since then? Motivation and team work were the main reasons for the success and continuity of the LOS over the years. A few motivated and experienced orthodontists instigated the Society at the start with the ambition of better structuring the profession and keeping the specialty in Lebanon through the organization of one main meeting per year, as well as many seminars. Since 1993, several renowned orthodontists have participated in LOS meetings and seminars, including Drs. Robert Ricketts, Roberto Justus, Athanasios Althamassios, Ravendra Nanda, in addition to many others.

The LOS has currently 250 affiliated members who are orthodontic specialists and practice orthodontics exclusively. Moreover, it contributes actively to the development and progress of orthodontics in Lebanon through the organization of one main meeting per year, as well as many seminars. Since 1993, several renowned orthodontists have participated in LOS meetings and seminars, including Drs. Robert Ricketts, Roberto Justus, Athanasios Althamassios, Ravendra Nanda, in addition to many others.

Dr Mona, you have joined the Lebanese Orthodontic Society as President in 2018. Could you please share with us your experience so far?

The experience has been rewarding and enriching. My participation as a LOS member at the beginning, then part of the executive board and chair of the scientific committee later helped me greatly in progressing as the President. While progressing in the work at the LOS, not only one but many fundamental goals seemed to be of major importance. If I must choose one, it would be to place the LOS in a leading and front position internationally by enhancing and supporting scientific research and publications. LOS can contribute actively to connect Lebanese orthodontists with other orthodontic organizations and institutions to attain this aim. The LOS is annually organizing many events, could you give us more information about the upcoming one?

The 17th LOS Annual Meeting entitled “Overcoming Challenges in Orthodontics” will take place in June 20-22, 2019 in Beirut, in addition to further programmed events. International distinguished speakers will participate at this event to share their knowledge and experience with the Lebanese orthodontists. As this meeting is planned to be of a high scientific level, not only Lebanese but also orthodontists from other nationalities are invited to join in order to combine efforts and plan for future collaborations. All information concerning LOS activities are regularly displayed and updated in the LOS website (www. leborthosoc.com).

Thank you for the interview and time Dr Mona. Looking forward to welcoming you in Dubai, 12-13 April 2019 for the 14th CAD/CAM & Digital Dentistry Conference.

Motivating orthodontists to subscribe to the LOS was one of the main goals to allow interaction and to keep them within the educational path. Interdisciplinary seminars with eminent speakers are organized on a regular basis confronting different topics in relation with orthodontics.

The goal of the succeeding LOS presidents was to keep on with the progress initiated and build more regional and international connections with other dental and orthodontic societies. The LOS participation in lots of international events all over the world as well as organizing many conventions in Lebanon helped in establishing good relationships with other orthodontists and dental professionals at the scientific and human levels.