A very successful 20th Annual Congress of the DGL in Berlin

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More than 250 participants visited the yearly congress of the DGL, which was held together with the 14th LASER START UP, a symposium specially organized for newcomers in the world of laser dentistry. Many dentists praised again this very nice concept of sharing two congresses in laser dentistry at one location, which was this year the Palace Hotel in the heart of Berlin.

20 years DGL was the jubilee topic of this congress. Prof. Dr. Norbert Gutknecht, president of the DGL, reviewed with happiness the past 20 years of this scientific society, which is fully associated with the German Association of Dentistry—the main scientific dental society in Germany. Prof. Gutknecht stated that the DGL in particular and laser dentistry in total are now definitively accepted in general dentistry. He mentioned further that in the future dental laser research should focus on the integration of laser light with other high-tech therapy methods like CAD/CAM. Gutknecht’s stated his credo: Laser therapy is a profit for dentistry in general.
Gutknecht welcomed in his presidential opening speech many invited national and international guests. Among these guests were Prof Joseph Arnanat (President of the Spanish Dental Laser Society and Organizing Chairman of the WFLD World Congress 2012 in Barcelona), Prof Umberto Romeo (Organizing Chairman of the European Division WFLD Laser Congress 2011 in Rome), Prof Carmen Todea (President of the Romanian Dental Laser Society) as well as Prof Carlos de Paula Eduardo (a long-time Friend of the DGL and Division President of the South American WFLD Division), and last but not least the Honorary President of the DGL, Prof Friedrich Lampert (University Aachen). The DGL President shared not only his vision concerning the past but also concerning the future in his lecture about the future of laser dentistry. Gutknecht stated that there is still a long way to go, and new techniques but also new wavelengths will improve the spectrum of indications in laser dentistry and simplify many dental procedures in daily dental therapy.

Many other well-known lecturers gave their statements of laser dentistry during the two days congress and here we can only mention some of them. Dr Georg Bach (Freiburg/Breisgau) declared the curious situation that on the one side we have very valid and excellent scientific results, on the other side the acceptance within the universities and other scientific societies is still very conservative and critical. Dr Bach observed also an improving number of laser dentists but by far not so fast as it could be. Bach sees the solution in a systematic development of education in laser dentistry and a better cooperation between the DGL and the different other dental societies in Germany.

Interesting were the results from three different lecturers in the field of laser supported endodontics. Dr Michael Hopp (Berlin), Prof Carmen Todea (Timisoara) and Dr Iris Brader, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) were unanimous in their statement that the Nd:YAG laser offers the best wavelength for bacterial reductions in the root canal. Especially Dr Iris Brader showed with a success rate of 91% successfully treated cases an even better clinical result in her private dental clinic then in Gutknecht’s publication from some years ago.

Two lectures in the field of peri-implantitis therapy with lasers showed the success story in this field against classical methods. Prof Dr Herbert Deppe (University Munich) showed the significant advantages of CO₂ laser therapy against conventional therapy methods. Assoc-Prof Dr Sabine Sennhenn-Kirch-
ner (University Göttingen) presented success rates with diode and Er:YAG laser therapy. The field of peri-implantitis therapy is already now the definite domain of laser therapy.

Prof Carlos de Paula Eduardo (University São Paulo) showed again very convincing results out of his preferred scientific research field in esthetic dentistry. Especially the fascinating pictures in his presentation were highly appreciated by the auditorium.

Dr Rene Franzen (AALZ, University Aachen) presented a basic lecture highlighting the importance of understanding the absorption of diode lasers in soft tissues. Dr Jörg Meister (AALZ, University Aachen) gave a lecture about the biophysical understanding of erbium lasers in dentistry. Andreas Querengässer (AALZ, University Aachen) presented interesting results of laser activated rinsing solutions in the root canal with an Er,Cr:YSGG laser. Dr Thorsten Kuypers, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) demonstrated the successful combination of Er:YAG cavity preparation with CAD/CAM manufactured crown inlays. Dr Ralf Borchers, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) compared different diode laser settings in oral surgery. Dr Peter Kleemann, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) showed the exiting possibilities of laser-supported orthodontics and Dr Peter Fahlstedt, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) presented several clinical cases with different wavelengths.

A further absolute domain of laser dentistry is laser supported pediatric dentistry. Dr Gabriele Schindler-Hultsch, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) showed her own Laserkids®-Concept in a Split-Mouth-Design. She showed the very high acceptance of laser dentistry by kids! Also Dr Maziar Mir, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) presented different clinical cases in pediatric dentistry. Another highlight of the congress was the lecture of Prof Dr Dr Siegfried Jänicke (University Osnabrück) about lasers in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He stated that the CO₂-laser as scalpel substitute in oral surgery is definitive. Another profound scientist in this field is Prof Umberto Romeo (University Rome), who showed significantly better results in laser surgery in comparison with conventional methods. Also Dr Stefan Grümer, MSc (AALZ, University Aachen) gave a comprehensive lecture about periodontal surgery with a Nd:YAG laser.

Prof Dr Anton Sculean (University Bern) and Assoc-Prof Dr Andreas Braun (University Bonn) presented in their respective lectures the promising possibilities of photodynamic therapy in the field of periodontology.

A very important part of the congress was also the LASER START UP 2010. Besides the lecturers, which gave introduction lectures for dentists interested in the field of laser dentistry or starting laser dentists, also the leading dental laser companies and distributors are part of the success of the LASER START UP congresses (since 14 years), as already written for the second time now organized together with the DGL congress. Especially the Saturday is the day where introduction workshops and laser demonstrations by the companies are given. The concept of this LASER START UP congress is divided in four fields:

- Laser basics and laser physics
- Presentation of the indications in laser dentistry
- Presentation of all wavelengths in laser dentistry
- Demonstration of legal aspects and invoicing of laser therapy.

The LASER START UP 2010 and the integrated workshops and demonstrations were also this year very well visited. In the main podium at the end of the second congress day the auditorium had also the ultimate chance to discuss their view on laser dentistry with all lecturers of the congress. After an hour of intensive exchange and discussions Prof Gutknecht, DGL president, closed this very informative and successful DGL congress 2010 in Berlin.
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AALZ’s vision is to educate dentists from all over the globe and make them specialists in the field of laser dentistry. The AALZ educational programs are based on fundamental laser physics, neutral and objective information on current laser systems, skill training and evidence based description of dental indications. That is the reason that AALZ has become a synonym of quality educational programs amongst dentists who are willing to buy or already use a laser system in their clinic. As with many other countries that became again clear with Greek colleagues. In 2010 AALZ Greece was established by AALZ and RWTH Aachen University adjunct faculty members Dr Antonis Kallis and Dr Dimitris Strakas. In this first year many Greek dentists have participated in our programs and added their names to the long list of our students over the years.

On January of 2010 the first Laser Safety Course was held in Athens and was followed by one more in June. During the 30th Panhellenic Dental Congress in October 2010, AALZ Greece participated with its own exhibitor booth. Supported by AALZ’s General Manager Mr. Leon Vanweersch, the booth attracted the interest of many Greek colleagues, who were informed in detail about the offered accredited programs and the future scheduled dates of them.

Already in November the first Mastership/Fellowship Status Program of AALZ Greece was ready to ini-
A day before, on November 14 a very professionally organized meeting was held in Kastri, in the northern part of Athens. About 100 dentists gathered from early morning (although an election day for Greece) to enjoy the one-day Congress ‘Improvements and Innovations in Laser Treatments’. Main lecturer and invited speaker of the event was Prof Norbert Gutknecht who captured the audience’s interest with his three lectures on different aspects of laser dentistry, including laser assisted endodontic treatments, cavity preparations with erbium lasers and principles of periodontal therapy using Nd:YAG and diode lasers.

Very interesting lectures were also given on various topics, including marketing management of a modern dental laser office, clinical presentations of laser treatments and aesthetic facial applications with new generation laser systems. One very interesting part of the day was the on-spot live clinical applications on patients, that were taking place in a separated area of the hall and the procedure was projected via camera on screen. The audience could really watch live the treatments and the comfort of the patients during the procedure.

At the end of the day, Prof Norbert Gutknecht gave a welcome speech to the participants of the first Greek Mastership Course, emphasizing the fact that AALZ’s educational programs are still the only accredited by the German Government and the European Union. Investing your professional future in laser dentistry, means that you seek the professional education offered by AALZ and RWTH Aachen University. On Monday and Tuesday, November 15 and 16, the first Module of the Mastership Course took place. Dr Rene Franzen, physicist of RWTH Aachen University, covered many topics in the field of laser physics and laser safety (Laser Safety Officer certification) in two long days. Laser structure, function and handling and laser-tissue interactions were also explained in detail. At the end of the second day Dr Franzen gave also a presentation about the ILIAS system, the extremely helpful e-learning platform that AALZ’s students use throughout their studies. Although tired, the participants were extremely satisfied by the quality of Module I and this was an inspiration for them to expand their level of understanding concerning the fundamentals of laser dentistry in the upcoming Modules.

The second Module of the Mastership Course in Greece is set for 27, 28 February & 1 March 2011. Due to the intense demand of many other dentists, AAZ Greece was literally forced to repeat the first Module on 25 and 26 February 2011, thus giving the opportunity to those who apply on time to participate. For those interested please E-mail aalzgreece@gmail.com or visit the website www.aalz.gr.

The immediate success of the Mastership Course in Greece is just one more proof that the high standards and high quality of studies which AALZ offers since 1991, have set AALZ’s brandname not only as pioneer but also as constant leader in laser dentistry education for dentists worldwide.
The WFLD is the membership organization of the specialty of laser used in dentistry worldwide. "The mission of the society is to stimulate the research in the different fields, to coordinate long-term clinical studies using lasers as main instrument during the treatment and to establish an educational foundation for dentists who are intending to use or are already using lasers in their daily treatments", the Past President of WFLD, Prof Norbert Gutknecht said in his welcome message, one of the invited speakers presenting a topic of "Minimal Invasive Caries Treatment".

"The WFLD decided to create five divisions and the European Division demonstrated to be very active. After the successful meetings of 2007 in Nice (France) and 2009 in Istanbul (Turkey), Rome takes in charge this scientific meeting", reported Prof Jean Paul Rocca, President of WFLD, one of the main invited speakers having as topic "Diode laser may combine different wavelengths—a new technical approach" adding that "Italy may be considered an advanced country in terms of laser dentistry" and concluding that the Executive Board of the WFLD look forward the meeting in Rome.

Prof Adam Stabholz, President of the European division and an invited speaker in the Endodontic section, confirmed that "It will be a unique opportunity for researchers and clinicians from many countries worldwide, in the field of laser dentistry, to share their knowledge and to learn more about the latest advancement in this area".

It wasn’t a coincidence that for the Chairperson of the congress was chosen Prof Antonella Polimeni. She is the Director of the Oral Science Department at the Sapienza University. The answer in her welcome message is: "We choose the Oral Science Department of Sapienza University to give an Academic imprint to the congress, to provide the highest quality scientific programs and the most updated information regarding the applications of lasers to our fellow colleagues."

The Chairperson of the scientific program Prof Umberto Romeo is preparing a wide program comprehending lectures, oral presentations and posters to allow everybody to participate actively to this cultural event. The deadline for abstract submission was fixed for 15 February 2011. The program will take place in a day and a half and will be divided in five different sections of dentistry: Laser Research, Endodontics, Periodontology and Implantology, Operative and Paediatric Dentistry, Oral Surgery and LLLT. Each section will have oral presentations and one or two invited speakers. For the first time in the history of WFLD, it has been decided to have an renowned invited speaker, that will present the state of art in field of his specialty followed...
by another renowned invited speaker, that will present the potentiality of laser in that field. For example in the Endodontics Section Prof Giuseppe Cantatore from Italy, one of the most important Endodontists in Europe, will speak about the last innovations in Endodontics followed by Prof Adam Stabholz, the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the Jerusalem University and the Head of the Endodontic Department, that will present the potentiality of Lasers in Endodontics. "Prof Wilder Smith Petra from Beckman Laser Institute of University of California, Prof Yossi Shapira, Head of the Paediatric Dentistry Department at Hadassah University of Jerusalem and Prof Anton Sculean, Chairman of the Department of Periodontology, Dental School at the University of Bern, are among the invited speakers" reported Romeo, concluding that "contextually there will be a series of workshops organized by the leading laser companies that will take place on Thursday morning as well as the Basic Laser Course that will give the opportunity to get the certification of the WFLD"

"But what does the title of the congress say?: Light Time is for us fans of laser also Good Time", added Prof Roly Kornblit, Chairperson of Organizing Committee. So we are preparing a social program that will exalt the beauty and the specialty of the city of Rome, demonstrating also the social and cultural characteristic of this beautiful country, already Thursday evening, after the opening ceremony, during the welcome cocktail, typical Italian food and famous Italian wines will be served. After the cocktail it will be possible to participate to a tour by bus and see Rome by night. The social dinner was fixed for Friday evening in one of the most important monuments of Rome, the "Terrazza Cafarelli at the Museum Capitolini", an informal moment for exchanging different views of laser enjoying a unique view of Rome. For those who will remain in Rome, we are organizing a guide tour to the famous "Villas of Tivoli" and a dinner with music in a tram that goes around the city center of Rome at the end of the congress on saturday afternoon._
During an extraordinary training session in Tel Aviv, Israel, a revolutionary type of dental lasers has been presented to the participants. This new technology seems to resolve most of the main technological hurdles in laser dentistry.

In co-operation with NMT Munich, Germany, and Syneron Dental Lasers dentists from Germany and Bulgaria had the chance of getting to know the ground breaking laser technology. The LiteTouch™ Er:YAG-Laser (wavelength 2,940 nm) works with the so called “Laser-in-the-Handpiece™”-technology. Thereby the laser is generated in the handpiece itself and does not need to be transmitted via fibre of a laser engine. This new design is a revolution in itself. The previous fibre technology is too susceptible to failure and thus too expensive in maintenance.

The LiteTouch™ provides the doctor with the security and handling flexibility which is needed for a successful therapy. Ira Prigat, President of Syneron Dental Laser, sums it up: "With a conventional laser with a fibre the dentist cannot concentrate fully on his job. He needs to be concerned about the bulky, susceptible and pricey fibre." – And this is where Syneron comes up with the solution.

In 2007, physicists, engineers and laser specialists came up with a new laser concept: the "Laser-in-the-Handpiece™"-technology. This compression is a milestone in industrial history. Furthermore the LiteTouch™ can be used for soft and hard tissue therapies and covers a vast spectre of indications: implantology, restorative dentistry, periodontics, paediatric dentistry and soft and hard tissue surgery etc.

Especially with the possibilities of minimal invasive treatment unnecessary traumata of healthy tissue can be avoided. In addition a new range of dental therapy opens up. The wound healing improves due to
the disinfecting effect of the laser. The patient can anticipate less swelling and bleeding. Obviously, this is not a unique feature of the LiteTouch™—however its flexibility, controllability, indication spectre, its efficiency, reliability and compactness seem to be unparalleled.

Prigat emphasises as well that the outer design has a decisive impact on the daily practice. “Ultimately we treat humans, and if our patients are already intimidated by the enormous size and noise of the laser engine, we cannot use the laser as often as we would like to. And this is not economical.” In contrast the LiteTouch™ is a very small and compact device which weights just about 20 kilos and is just as big as a common computer terminal. One can imagine that in the future this new technology is a fully integrated part of the treatment unit.

Asked how Syneron wants to approach such a conservative market like Germany, Prigat said that a tailor made concept is decisive. “What are the requirements and demands? It is not enough to sell a laser. Long-term support is necessary. You cannot change the work habit of a dentist from one day to the other. That is why we train our customers step-by-step with the help of our German distributors.” This intention was met by the personal training of the German dentists in Israel.

In his seminar, Dr Avi Reyhanian, renowned international laser specialist from Israel, demonstrated the practical advantages of periodontal therapy with the LiteTouch™. Dr Mark Levin, Tel Aviv, addressed the advantages of the D-Touch™ (wavelength 810 nm, 980 nm) that can be used in periodontics, endodontics and soft tissue management. In bio-stimulation and aesthetic therapy the D-Touch™ can be used as well. This was confirmed in Dr Levin’s clinic during the next day, where the participants could follow several laser treatments via live video stream.

The Israel journey was completed by visits to the best restaurants in Tel Aviv in the evening and a historical trip to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. All together, the participants were convinced by this extraordinary event. They will return home with new ideas for their own laser dentistry.
I meet meetings _ events

International events

2011

Start Mastership Course „Lasers in Dentistry”
Scandinavia—Batch 2
Where: Akersberga/Stockholm, Sweden
Date: 7–10 January, 2011

ALD 2011
Where: San Diego, CA, USA
Date: 3–5 March 2011
Website: www.laserdentistry.org

IADR 89th General Session & Exhibition
Where: San Diego, CA, USA
Date: 16–19 March 2011
Website: www.iadr.org

34th International Dental Show
Where: Cologne, Germany
Date: 22–26 March 2011
E-mail: ids@koelnmesse.de
Website: www.ids-cologne.de

33rd Asia Pacific Dental Congress
Where: Manila, Philippines
Date: 3–6 May 2011
Website: www.apdc2011.com

3rd European Congress World Federation for Laser Dentistry (WFLD)
Where: Rome, Italy
Date: 10 & 11 June 2011
Website: www.wfld-org.info

FDI Annual World Dental Congress
Where: Mexico City, Mexico
Date: 14–17 September 2011
Website: www.fdiworldental.org

Annual Congress of DGL
Where: Düsseldorf, Germany
Date: 28–29 October 2011
Website: www.startup-laser.de

Greater New York Dental Meeting
Where: New York, NY, USA
Date: 25–30 November 2011
Website: www.gnydm.org

2012

LaserOptics Berlin
Where: Berlin, Germany
Date: 19–21 March 2012
Website: www.laser-optics-berlin.de

IDEM International Dental Exhibition
Where: Singapore
Date: 20–22 April 2012
Website: www.idem-singapore.com